

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The corrugated cardboard industry presents its ambition for Climate Neutrality by 2050

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FEFCO (the European Federation of Corrugated Cardboard Manufacturers) is delighted to announce the launch of its Climate Neutrality Roadmap conducted by Climact.

In a context where consumer awareness and expectations around packaging are rising, and where climate change is becoming a major concern, FEFCO is proud to present the corrugated cardboard sector's plan to achieve climate neutrality by the year 2050.

This work responds to the EU Green Deal goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050. The European corrugated cardboard industry is circular by nature and has always been committed to sustainable growth. This impressive new ambition reflects its continuous efforts to preserve the environment and reduce GHG emissions.

Building on past achievements and thorough analytical work, the roadmap describes how the corrugated cardboard sector is committed to achieving climate neutrality. It lays out key milestones, the most plausible scenarios, the required investments, and the necessary policy measures to reach this goal.

The key findings show that the corrugated cardboard industry can reduce its carbon footprint emissions through actions directly within its control by 2050 compared to business as usual (BAU):

- Improvements in material efficiency and circularity that would reduce the footprint by 3,3 Mt CO₂eq. (or 19%) by 2050 compared to BAU; and
- Further improvements in energy efficiency and decarbonisation of the energy mix would reduce the footprint by an additional 2,8 Mt CO₂eq. (or 16%) by 2050 compared to BAU.

Looking beyond direct action, collective engagement of the wider value chain will enable corrugated cardboard to become carbon neutral and even carbon negative. Notably, the bulk of the reductions must be achieved upstream, and, in particular, by reducing the climate footprint of paper production. Reduction of the paper sector (fossil) carbon footprint by 80% by 2050 (in line with the current paper industry roadmap) will allow the corrugated cardboard sector to achieve climate neutrality.

Furthermore, if the paper sector fully phases out its fossil emissions, the corrugated cardboard sector would become a climate negative packaging material.

The ambitions of the corrugated cardboard sector's Climate Neutrality Roadmap can only be achieved if the following enabling conditions are met:

- A predictable and stable regulatory framework to steer investments
- The availability and affordability of climate-friendly energy carriers

- An adequate and robust energy infrastructure
- Policies and measures to enable the decarbonisation of the paper sector
- Policies and measures to enable the decarbonisation of the transport sector
- Recycling policies to improve quality of waste streams

Alex Manisty, Chairman of the FEFCO Climate Neutrality Roadmap Steering Committee, highlighted that *“The roadmap reflects a credible plan that can be implemented in the required timeframe, and shows the strong will of the industry to build a climate neutral future for corrugated cardboard. Already the most recycled packaging material, with 88% recycled content, climate neutral corrugated cardboard will enable sustainable global supply chains for the long-term.”*

“Climate neutrality by 2050 is the way that the European Commission foresees its future growth strategy. The FEFCO Secretariat considers it a duty to guide and assist the corrugated cardboard industry to enable climate neutrality in its manufacturing operations” said Eleni Despotou, Director General of FEFCO.

For further details click [here](#).

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For additional information, please contact:

Nathalie Schneegans, Communications Director: nathalie.schneegans@fefco.org, +32 2 650 08 32

Note to the editors

FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) represents the interests of the European Corrugated Board Manufacturers. Headquartered in Brussels, FEFCO has 17 Association members, all European national corrugated packaging organisations. The role of the Federation is to investigate economic, financial, technical and policy issues of interest to the corrugated packaging Industry, to analyse all factors which may influence the industry, and to promote and develop its reputation.

Europe's corrugated industry in Europe makes about 50 billion square metres of board per year, enough to cover Denmark. It has 373 companies, 646 plants and accounts for around 100,000 jobs. Corrugated cardboard packaging is circular by nature: it is based on a renewable resource; it is recyclable and recycled in reality. The average box weight decreased by 9% between 1996 and 2018 and contains on average 88% recycled material.