



IK Industrievereinigung
Kunststoffverpackungen e.V.

Clear environmental policy targets: IK welcomes EU-strategy for plastics products

- Call for design for recycling
- IK supports higher percentages of recycled material, subject to higher quality of recyclates and consumer acceptance

Bad Homburg, 19. January 2018 – IK Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e.V., the German Association for Plastics Packagings and Films, expressly welcomes the initiative of the European Commission to develop a future vision for the European plastics industry. In addition to this press release a detailed IK-position on the EU Plastics Strategy was published on 16th January, highlighting specific aspects. For the plastics packaging industry the design for recycling and the increased percentage of recycled material are the key elements of the far-reaching EU Plastics Strategy. Fighting global littering is of greatest interest to the industry to guarantee the future of sustainable plastics products.

“We especially appreciate the fact that the Commission has drafted a strategy which both includes and engages political decision-makers, the whole supply chain and the consumers”, says IK Managing Director Dr. Jürgen Bruder. “With the voluntary self-commitment of the plastics converting industry the environmental policy targets of the Plastics Strategy can be reached.”

Many of the stated requirements are in accordance with the position of IK. In Germany some of the required measures are already implemented or will soon become reality as part of the new Packaging Law.

Voluntary self-commitment of the plastics converting industry

The Plastics Strategy formulates the political aim that plastics packaging shall be recyclable or returnable by 2030 and requires ambitious and voluntary self-commitments from the industry. As a member of the signatory associations European Plastics Converters (EuPC), Petcore Europe and Polyolefin Circular Economy Platform (PCEP), IK supports the voluntary self-commitment of the plastics industry, also published on 16th January, which sets an important impulse to implement the Plastics

Presse-Kontakt:

Mara Hancker

IK Industrievereinigung
Kunststoffverpackungen e.V.
Bundesverband für
Kunststoffverpackungen und Folien

Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 43
61348 Bad Homburg v. d. H.

Tel. (061 72) 9266-66

m.hancker@
kunststoffverpackungen.de



IK Industrivereinigung
Kunststoffverpackungen e.V.

Strategy. The voluntary self-commitment contains concrete quotas for recyclability and multiple use with respect to the milestones 2020, 2030 and 2040. Of particular interest are polypropylene or polyethylene (polyolefin) packaging, constituting the biggest share of around 70% of the European plastics packaging market.

For comparison: in Germany already three quarters of all plastics packaging are recyclable. More than 50% of the plastics packaging for private consumers put onto the German market is recycled.

Targets of the voluntary self-commitment of the plastics converting industry in Europe*	2020	2030	2040
70% recycling- and reuse rate for collected plastic packaging			X
60% recycling- and reuse rate for collected polyolefin packagings		X	
65% recycling- and reuse rate for collected PET-packagings		X	
Specification of a recycling rate for polyolefin films used in agriculture	X		

*„The European Plastics Industry Circular Economy Voluntary Commitments“ (published on 16.1.2018)

Strategic focus: recycling

In our view the target of the Plastics Strategy to expand recycling represents a chance for Germany and Europe to further strengthen the circular economy under ecological and economical aspects. After all, recycled plastics contribute to resource efficiency; they are cost-saving and widen the supplier base for packaging manufacturers. Accordingly, the industry is investing in research, development and production.

“IK sees possible further applications for recycled material mainly in consumer packaging, in the non-food area and in industrial packaging “, says Dr. Bruder. “Here the application potential is far from being reached”.

However, for the time being poor quality and lack of availability are impeding the increased use of recycled material. Also the consumer himself plays an important role, especially with respect to waste separation.

„Moreover substantial investments in modern sorting plants are needed to manage the required quantities in the best possible way. We are pleased to see that such

Presse-Kontakt:
Mara Hancker
IK Industrivereinigung
Kunststoffverpackungen e.V.
Bundesverband für
Kunststoffverpackungen und Folien
Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 43
61348 Bad Homburg v. d. H.
Tel. (061 72) 9266-66
m.hancker@
kunststoffverpackungen.de



IK Industrievereinigung
Kunststoffverpackungen e.V.

investments have already been started after the adoption of the Packaging Law”, concludes Dr. Bruder.

IK calls for a holistic view of plastics packaging

At the same time we would underline that despite the fact that recycling is an important aspect of the Eco Design, the Eco Design is far more than just recycling. For this reason IK considers that a holistic view of plastics packaging is missing in the Plastics Strategy which is focussing more on the end of life of the packaging and less on its benefit during use. Especially in its use phase plastics packaging contributes largely to resource efficiency and climate protection.

As an industry association, the IK (German Plastics Packaging Industry Association) represents the interests of manufacturers of plastics packaging and films in Germany and Europe. The industry which is characterised by many small and medium-sized businesses has over 90,000 employees and generates an annual turnover of 14 billion Euros. Plastics packaging currently has a 44-percent share of the German packaging market.

The IK is the largest umbrella association in the German Association of Plastics Converters (GKV) and is therefore also involved in matters concerning the entire plastics processing industry.

Presse-Kontakt:

Mara Hancker

IK Industrievereinigung
Kunststoffverpackungen e.V.

Bundesverband für
Kunststoffverpackungen und Folien

Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 43
61348 Bad Homburg v.d.H.

Tel. (0 61 72) 92 66-66

m.hancker@
kunststoffverpackungen.de