

PLASTIC PACKAGING COMPANIES DISPLAY THEIR COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

During the annual press conference, Françoise Andres, ELIPSO President, underlined the commitments of the plastic packaging sector (rigid and flexible), that fall fully within the scope of circular economy, as well as her expectations regarding the anti-waste and circular economy draft law.

The annual circular economy sector survey¹ quantifies the sector's commitment to the circular economy. Françoise Andres states that "the results of the environmental survey perfectly illustrate the sector's efforts and the ecological shift towards a new plastics economy".

PLASTIC PACKAGING PROFESSIONALS ARE FULLY ENGAGED IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPROACH

For more than twenty years, ELIPSO has been involved in a Circular Economy policy. In 2019, ELIPSO carried out a new study with the objective of quantifying the sector's commitment:

40% of the companies surveyed said that their 2018/2019 sales were affected by the anti-plastic climate (vs. 20% the previous year). Only 5% of companies see their annual turnover increase.

The survey shows an increasing use of recycled plastic and bio-based materials.

In 2019, three sources of raw materials are used to manufacture 2.2 million tons of plastic packagings put on the French market each year²:

Three raw materials used for plastic packaging (French market growth %)	2019	2018
Virgin resin	82%	86%
Recycled plastics	14,5%	12%
Bio-based plastics	3,5%	2%

This trend confirms that, thanks to voluntary incorporation commitments in France³ and Europe⁴, the target of 440,000 tonnes of recycled plastic incorporated into packaging by 2025 is realistic. These tonnages represent the share of plastic packaging in the objective of incorporating one million tonnes of recycled plastic in France by 2025.⁵ For the moment, LDPE films have the highest recycled plastic content, followed by PET packaging (bottles or trays).

¹ Nearly 60% of the members responded to the survey, answering about thirty questions. These companies produce more than one million tonnes of plastic packaging, which represents nearly half of the plastic packaging placed on the French market.

² France produces 2.2 million tonnes of plastic packaging each year: 1.1 million in household packaging and 1.1 million in industrial & commercial packaging.

³ <http://www.elipso.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/CP-ELIPSO-ANIA-modifié-03-07-2018.pdf>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/circular-plastics-alliance_fr

⁵ <http://www.elipso.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-09-20-CP-filiere-Circular-Plastics-Alliance.pdf>



The demand for the incorporation of recycled materials is strong, but the possibility of using recycled plastics meets certain regulatory or normative obstacles that must be removed.

ELIPSO CALLS ON THE LEGISLATOR TO ENSURE GREATER COHERENCE WITHIN THE ANTI-WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY LAW

In order to remove the obstacles that are standing in the way of a successful ecological transition and to allow a real circularity of plastics, ELIPSO issues recommendations regarding the anti-waste and circular economy law.

INCREASED COLLECTION FOR ALL PLASTIC PACKAGING AS A VECTOR OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Only an increase in collection capacity throughout the country can meet the demand for increased incorporation of recycled material for all plastic packaging.

To maximise packaging collection rates, Elipso supports four actions with a positive simultaneous implementation:

1 / Harmonise the sorting scheme at national level to speed up the extension of sorting instructions to the whole country before 31 December 2022.

2 / Deploy a plastic bottle deposit for recycling.

These two systems are complementary in that they reinforce a sorting habit among consumers, limiting leaks into the environment while increasing the quantities of recovered packaging. In addition, these mechanisms must go hand in hand with access for all packaging manufacturers to the source of recycled materials. That way it will meet the growing demand for incorporation.

3 / Set up a separate collection of bio-waste throughout the country as well as industrial composting.

4 / For industrial and commercial packaging, Elipso firmly believes in maintaining the voluntary collection systems already in place (voluntary industrial and commercial EPR), as provided for in the law resulting from the Senate.

PLASTIC PACKAGING BANS ARE A BRAKE TO TRANSITION BY THE INNOVATION

Regarding the risks of new plastic packaging bans, ELIPSO's members call for a calm debate taking in consideration the benefits of plastic packaging and its low impact in terms of CO2 emissions comparing to other materials⁶.

A ban without further investigations would slow down companies competitiveness. It also puts an end to innovations in terms of circular economy.

⁶ <https://fr.scribd.com/document/378124463/Denkstatt-Report-The-Impact-of-Plastic-Packaging-on-Life-Cycle-Energy-Consumption-and-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions-in-Europe-2011-pdf>



About ELIPSO :

ELIPSO is the trade organisation that represents plastic and flexible packaging manufacturers in France. The plastic and flexible packaging industries employ 38,000 employees in 320 companies for annual turnover of €8.1 billion. These industries are active in every sector of industry and distribution (food & agriculture, beauty & health, personal care, cleaning, chemicals, industrial products, construction transport and logistics).

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