

THE CREAMSTYR PROJECT, A SUCCESSFUL RESPONSE TO POLYSTYRENE RECYCLING: PSE AND XPS

[Paris, 18 July 2023] [Elipso](#) and [EUMEPS](#), the European association of expanded polystyrene manufacturers, with the support of [Léko](#), are developing an effective recycling system for EPS and XPS. This initiative meets the requirements of France's "Climate and Resilience" law, which allows polystyrene-containing packaging to be recycled, provided that it can be integrated into a recycling chain. The latest tests carried out as part of the "CréaStyr" project implemented by representatives of the industry are conclusive in meeting the legal framework.

By 2025, the regulatory framework allows for the development of a high-performance recycling sector for household, industrial and commercial EPS and XPS packaging in France, provided that **recycling takes place on an industrial scale**.

In addition, the position of [COTREP](#) (Technical Committee for the Recycling of Household Plastic Packaging), of which Elipso is a member, also admits the possibility, when it stresses the need for in-depth tests and studies on the sorting behaviour of EPS and XPS packaging. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, for its part, already recognises the worldwide recyclability of EPS insulation and protective packaging on the basis of government analysis reports. Finally, it should be noted that a priority question sent by the European Parliament to the Commission on 6 July this year criticises the French provisions of the "Climate and Resilience" law, which are deemed to be out of step with the draft European regulations (PPWR). It should be remembered that the latter requires all packaging, including EPS, to be recycled by 2030. As a result, the French framework could be declared by the European authorities to be detrimental to the internal market, disadvantageous for consumers and, if necessary, unenforceable by national courts hearing specific cases.

Against this backdrop, **the CréaStyr project aims to organise the recycling of household, industrial and commercial packaging made from XPS/PSE**. It is a major initiative by manufacturers to :

1. Develop efficient collection and sorting of packaging made from EPS and XPS;
2. Increase the recycling rate and guarantee the sustainability of the sector;
3. To support the choices made by those placing packaging on the market and to inform holders of packaging by measuring, raising awareness and communicating on the possibilities for collecting and recycling EPS and XPS packaging.

Collection and sorting solutions already exist at waste collection centres, warehouses, ports and national markets. Solutions for integrating recycled material (rPS) from XPS food packaging or EPS protection are possible and already in place. From collection to recycling, solutions exist and can be developed further!

The CréaStyr project's tests, which are based on protocols that reflect the reality of collection, sorting and recycling processes in industry, have already produced highly satisfactory results in terms of the rate at which EPS and XPS deposits are captured and, more generally, recyclability. To corroborate these results, it should be stressed that the measurements taken by chemical and mechanical recyclers are very reassuring for all XPS/PSE packaging. Au demeurant, des initiatives gouvernementales sont à l'œuvre pour adapter le système de tri français, avec la création d'installations de sur-tri spécialisées qui vont permettre d'optimiser la captation des flux des différentes formes de XPS/PSE et, en conséquence, de favoriser l'émergence d'une filière de recyclage.

This is why ELIPSO is calling on the public authorities and circular economy players not to jeopardise the future of this sector by taking early positions that run counter to the framework provided by law, which offers the conditional possibility of developing such a sector, with a deadline of 2025.

For all stakeholders, it is a question of ensuring the future of XPS/PSE recycling, encouraged by the existence of positive recycling test results.

ELIPSO insists on the fact that any restrictive approach would send a negative signal to the PS recycling sector under construction and would be detrimental to better recovery of household packaging made from XPS/PSE, but also to the industrial and commercial pool. Here again, ELIPSO warns against pre-empting the situation of industrial and commercial packaging (the main source of EPS), which will soon be under the responsibility of an EPR EIC, by adopting restrictive positions on household packaging.

Elipso, EUMEPS and its partners, including the eco-organisation Léko, remain committed to promoting innovative, responsible and efficient management of EPS and XPS. Thanks to their expertise and ongoing commitment, they will continue to support the development of a solid and competitive recycling sector for EPS and XPS packaging, in line with national and European regulatory frameworks.



Compléments Creastyr

=> [Creastyr roadmap](#)

=> [Previous press release : Creastyr launch](#) (11 janvier 2023)

ELIPSO is the professional association representing plastic packaging manufacturers (rigid and flexible) in France. Our companies, which are present throughout France, employ 38,000 people in 320 companies (mostly SMEs) and generate annual sales of €8.1 billion.

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The association for European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene (EUMEPS) is the voice of the Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) industry in Europe. Its members cover the entire EPS value chain from raw material suppliers to EPS converters and

recyclers as well as supporting industries including machinery and additive suppliers. Members include individual companies as well as 23 European national EPS associations.

eumeps.org

Léko is a government-approved eco-organisation responsible for managing the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for household packaging on behalf of companies that produce or import packaged products into France.

Léko's mission is also to support companies in their efforts to prevent packaging waste by reducing the amount of packaging they put on the market, by helping them with issues such as reuse and eco-design.

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