

PET Sheet Europe (PSE) is a group of PET film and sheet manufacturers that have production facilities in the EU and EFTA. PSE was launched in 2016 as a sector group of EuPC (European Plastics Converters).

The main objective of PSE is to study and discuss scientific, technical, economic, regulatory and institutional matters that are of common interest to the members of the sector group and contribute to the creation of a good trading and investment environment for PET sheet producers. The most essential activities of PSE are setting technical and quality standards, dialoguing with standardisation authorities, lobbying for technical standards as well as research and development activities.

PET Sheet – an ideal material with high recyclability potential

Trays made out of PET sheet are ideal for numerous applications:

- fresh food and dairy (fresh and sliced meats, cheese, fresh pasta, ...)
- blister packaging (lamps, tools, stationary, body care, ...)
- medical packaging (tablets, scalpels, catheters, ...)

Today, PET sheet can be considered a great performer in terms of recyclability and actual recycling, with a growing trend in collection in specific recycling activities. Nonetheless, more work can and must be done. Separate collection of trays and other PET sheet-based products (eg trays, cups, lids) is currently hampered by non-binding targets. Accordingly, increasing the collection rate is of utmost importance. If trays are properly designed, collected and sorted, they can be circular.

PSE & the Plastics Strategy

Against the background of the European Commission's Call for pledging¹, having in mind the plastics industry Voluntary Commitments² signed by, among others, Petcore Europe, EuPC and Plastics Recyclers Europe, PSE is committed to play its role in the Circular Economy.

Separate collection can ensure great recycling and circularity of these types of single use products, allowing materials to be fully collected, sorted and recycled. Thus, only collection and dedicated targets can lead to good quality and quantity that can be recycled by PSE Members.

¹ European Commission Plastics Strategy COM(2018) 28 final, Annex III Pledging Campaign that *"calls on stakeholders to come forward with voluntary pledges to boost the uptake of recycled plastics. The objective is to ensure that by 2025 ten million tonnes of recycled plastics find their way into new products on the EU market"*.

² European Industry Voluntary Commitments signed on January 16th, 2018 available [here](#).

Therefore, PSE commits to increase the average recycled content of its products to 70% by 2025, resulting in 312.000 tonnes of recycled plastics, provided the following conditions will be met:

- 1. A full implementation of all EU waste directives in the European Union;**
- 2. Separate collection and recycling of PET trays followed by specific targets;**
- 3. PET trays to be from Part A on consumption reduction (Article 4 of the Proposal) and Part E on extended producer responsibility (Art. 8) to Part F on separate collection (Art. 9) in the recent proposed Directive on the reduction of single use plastics³;**
- 4. Full implementation of the Food Contact Regulation 282/2008;**
- 5. Development of European standards and incentives that ensure best practice and industrial uniformity, allowing market acceptance.**

PSE is not able to achieve these ambitious targets on its own. To truly develop a more circular plastics result, the support and collaboration of the EU authorities become necessary.

PSE calls upon the European Commission to prioritise these mentioned EU regulatory measures to help us and other industry organisations to reach more recycling.

³ *Proposal for a Directive of the European Union and the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain types of plastic products in the environment, COM(2018) 340 Final.*