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## **Petcore Europe 2025 Pledge for the PET value chain to increase circularity and recycling**

**PETCORE EUROPE (PET Containers REcycling) has been a unique voluntary value chain model for recycling since 1993.**

Since 1993, PETCORE EUROPE is committed to recycling for a better environment. It has remained unique among all plastic polymers. We have been accompanying, promoting, pushing and pulling the collection, sorting and recycling of national post-consumer PET bottles schemes across Europe. This cooperation within the value chain remains aligned with today's EU pledge.

PETCORE EUROPE is composed of all the PET European producers, the major PET European converters and recyclers, compounders and chemists (DUPONT, BASF, BP, SUKANO, COLORMATRIX, CLARIANT...), brand owners (P&G, L'ORÉAL, DANONE, NESTLÉ...), waste management firms (CITEO, SUEZ...), most European label manufacturers (UPM RAFLATAC, AVERY DENNISON, SLEEVE INTERNATIONAL...) and, last but not least, machine manufacturers (HUSKY, SIDEL, EREMA, STARLINGER, SESOTEC, TOMRA, NGR...).

**A Technical committee, workshops, forums and working groups to address environmental issues and recycling.**

Since the PET recycling industry was in its infancy, the newly formed PETCORE EUROPE and its Technical Committee encouraged reclamation by initiating the first specification sheets and guidelines for recycling, yearly industry monitoring and recycling conferences, advising the stakeholders, assisting and networking with most European national member states, EPR collection and recycling schemes.

PETCORE EUROPE Technical Committee, workshops, forums and working groups composed of specialists across the value chain have been developing the industry awareness on all aspects of environmental issues. Assessing and testing recyclability of new products and chemicals in packaging, elaborating appropriate protocols, new sorting methods, setting guidelines, evaluating collection schemes such as deposit (RDS), advising on recycling technologies and anticipating the future.

Also, PETCORE EUROPE and its members introduced industrial innovations such as the "closed loop" concept by developing the bottle to bottle and food contact applications.

However, the developments are being slowed down after 9 years of waiting for the EU Commission EFSA's approvals publication. Without a clear legal frame, the PET industry lacks visibility for future investments. It needs to be published to secure the customers of this key sector of our development.

**Today's results: 58,2 % recycling rate.**

All PET water and beverage bottles are eco-designed to be recycled mechanically and more than 50% of trays as well. However, only 58 % are collected in Europe at the moment.

According to the ICIS Annual Survey on the European PET Recycle Industry out of 3.308.300 tons introduced to the market, 1.923.100 tons (58.2 %) are collected while the European nameplate mechanical recycling capacity is 2.103.400 tons. It is unreachd in the plastic packaging industry *but PET recyclers still have unexploited capacities for recycling.*

**Chemical Recycling programs for the future are on the way for difficult to recycle PET.**

It is known that some PET applications are more difficult to recycle than others. Our goal is to always improve mechanical recycling but to also develop and establish complimentary options such as alternative feedstocks where the PET is chemically "destructured" then restructured to be exploited by a virgin PET production plant.

These new chemical "close material loop" evolutions (revolutions) count five different well financed pilot schemes in Europe. Many PET producers, major brand owners are encouraging or backing them up and another one is part of a European project in the Horizon 2020 program.

- Carbios partnerting with L'Oreal
- Cumapol with Morssinkhof
- Demeto (EU H2020 project)
- Ioniqa with the major European PET producer Indorama
- Loop Industries with Indorama, Coca-Cola, Danone

As a conclusion, PETCORE EUROPE will persist to pull and push for recycling by having all the PET STAKEHOLDERS cooperating across the value chain towards a sustainable packaging future. We intend to continue being the model to follow for the public and the European institutions for the European Plastic Strategy. Therefore, the PET industry will, as in the past, keep on going without afterthoughts and hidden agenda, to be committed in its numerous recycling programs for the New Circular Economy.

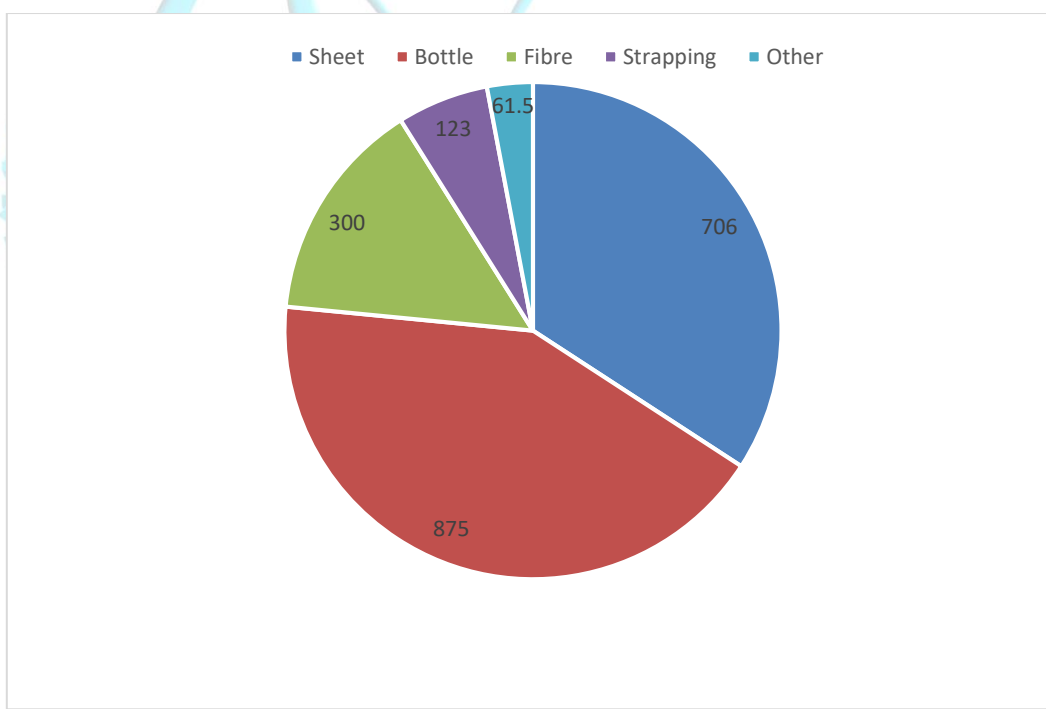
### Conditioned to:

- Appropriate European, regional and national legal frames.
- Converters and brand owners sticking to the PETCORE EUROPE long existing eco-design guidelines.
- Compliance agencies being in a position to provide suitably sorted and recyclable PET waste stream.

### PETCORE EUROPE pledges for 2025...

- for beverage bottles a major increase of the collection rate to 90% of the PET introduced to the market and target more recyclates in final circular/close loop applications up to 25% content
- for sheet and trays an average use of recycled PET of 70 %

...resulting in an annual use of recycled PET of approx. 2.07 Mio tonnes by 2025 (compared to approx. 1.23 Mio tonnes in 2017). The below graph breaks down the end applications in 1.000 tonnes:



*PS: The European production of PET, collection and recycling rates are monitored on a yearly basis via surveys conducted by independent experts (PCI, ICIS). Additionally, EuCertPlast a European-wide certification of recycling facilities will allow a monitoring of PET recycling capacities in Europe. This two-side approach, will allow to relate the virgin PET and rPET yearly used in the EU.*

### [Petcore Europe Presentation](#)