



Press Release

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ENVI Committee vote: one step closer towards a truly circular economy *in and for* Europe

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) welcomes today's vote in Environment Committee (ENVI) strengthening the foundation of a truly circular economy in Europe.

"MEPs are now one step closer to building a truly circular economy" says Sylvain Lhôte, CEPI Director General. *"The package needs to be kept on the right track in order to deliver the circular economy in and for Europe."*

CEPI welcomes ENVI's call to measure real recycling rates at the input to the final recycling process. To truly drive circularity in Europe, it is essential that *material is only considered recycled once it enters the final production process and is actually reprocessed.*

CEPI also supports ENVI's call for quality standards and traceability in the paper recycling chain that will enhance targeted investments and serve the efficient functioning of the secondary raw material market in Europe.

The reinforcement of separate collection will also drive quality recycling and boost circularity of Europe's economy. In the past, authorities have used a loophole in the separate collection obligation to collect paper in co-mingled streams, undermining high quality recycling. CEPI is therefore concerned that the proposal to exempt scarcely populated areas from this obligation may unnecessarily open up a gap.

CEPI will further assess the extremely high gap between recycling targets of competing packaging materials, envisioned by MEPs.

Finally, CEPI is also encouraged by ENVI's call on Member States to promote the use of bio-based recyclable packaging. *"Leveraging on nature's cycles for the circular economy is a welcome complement to the ambition of the Commission's proposal"* says Ulrich Leberle, CEPI Raw Materials Director.

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