Press Release

Brussels, 29 June 2011

Five Years of Raising the Bar in Paper Recycling
European Paper Recycling in 2010 at 68.9%

The European paper recycling rate reached an impressive 68.9% as announced today by the ERPC (European Recovered Paper Council) in their final monitoring report. The report shows that since 2004 the recycling rate has increased by 10% points due in part to the excellent work of the European Recovered Paper Council (ERPC).

The 2010 European paper recycling rate of 68.9% is higher than the target set by the European paper industry for the ERPC commitment period of the 2nd European Paper Recycling Declaration 2006-2010. The council is proud to report on impressive work completed, following the pledge it first made in 2000 to increase paper recycling in Europe. In the mean time, a new ambitious commitment for 2011-2015 is being prepared, keeping the industry on its path to meet ambitious targets of recycling paper at a steadily increasing rate in Europe.

For the commitment period of 2006 to 2010, PricewaterhouseCoopers has independently verified the calculation of the recycling rate using the International Standard on assurance Engagements ISAE 3000.

In addition to the quantitative progress, a lot of qualitative work was done to establish an eco-design towards improved recyclability and in the area of waste prevention. The past five years gave the ERPC an opportunity to learn how to work better together, growing stronger as a value chain.

The results include pioneering work to give recycling a solid and scientific support, such as the adoption of the de-inkability scorecard. The efforts of the ERPC also complement EU policy, for instance the new Waste Directive adopted in 2008.

For more information and pictures, please contact the ERPC Secretariat, Jori Ringman, at +32 2 627 49 19, +32 478 255070 (mobile), erpc@cepi.org or visit www.paperrecovery.eu
Notes to Editor:


- The European Recovered Paper Council (ERPC) was set up after the successful launch of the first ‘European Declaration on Paper Recovery’ as an industry own-initiative in November 2000 with the aim to monitor the progress made towards meeting the targets set out in the European Declaration. In 2006 the industry committed itself to meet a voluntary recycling rate target of 66% in EU 27 plus Switzerland and Norway by 2010, which is higher than in any other region in the world, and qualitative targets in areas such as waste prevention, eco-design, and research and development.

ERPC monitors the progress of the European Declaration openly and transparently and co-ordinates the joint work to achieve the set targets. Additionally, ERPC

  o coordinates the commitments of all the Signatories and Supporters.
  o takes steps to improve the quality of the information available.
  o discusses all relevant matters regarding the successful operation of the European Declaration.
  o coordinates public information on the achievements of the European Declaration
  o produces annual reports.

- Members of ERPC are [CEPI, CITPA, ERPA, ETS, INGEDE, INTERGRAF, FEPE]. Supporters include the [EADP ENPA, EuPIA, FAEP, FEICA, FINAT, RADTECH Europe]. The European Commission, DG Environment and DG Enterprise, are permanent observers to the ERPC.