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Management of plastic packaging and SUPs in Croatia: current status and outlook
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Content

- About CCE
- SUP in Croatia - current status
- Activities taken by industry within CCE
- Conclusion



Croatian Chamber of Economy - CCE

- 170 years of experiences, central office in Zagreb and 20 county chambers
- Has 19 Sectors, 63 professional associations and affiliations
- CCE professional associations are members of 33 european professional associations
- Enterprise Europe Network-EEN, also work within CCE
- CCE has representative office in:
Bruxelles, Moscow, Shanghai, Mostar, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Wiena
Additional representative office will be open also in:
Munich, Milan and Istanbul
- Sector for industry and sustainable development
Association for plastics and rubber industry
Association of Chemical industry



SUP in Croatia - current status (1)

The Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive was transposed to Croatia legislation through Waste Management Law (WML) which came into force at July 2021.

According to the article 17th of the WML the placing on the market in the Republic of Croatia of single-use plastic products listed in List B of Appendix III is prohibited.

Since then the 9 single use plastic products are prohibited and also all products made from oxo-degradable plastic.

The placing on the market of light plastic bags is additionally prohibited from January 1th 2022.

The ban does not apply on very light plastic bags.

SUP in Croatia - current status (2)

According to the new WML the Croatian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development are preparing two new ordinance:

1. Ordinance on packaging and packaging waste, single-use plastic products and fishing gear containing plastic
2. Ordinance on waste management

Those ordinance will transposed all deatails which are not fully covered by the Act.

The ordinances shell soon be published on eConsultation for public consultation purpose.

Activities taken by industry within CCE

The SUP Directive but also other legislation significantly affects the plastic industry.

The Croatian Association of plastics and rubber industry thanks to our membership in EU associations: PlasticsEurope and EuPC informed our member companies on time about upcoming changes.

We started to educate our member companies about new legislation since 2014. We start with Action plan for circular economy.

Our plastics industry is aware of the problem and supports the Plastics Strategy for circular economy.

Plastics Industry wants to help realize the set goals of resource efficient and circular plastics industry and increase recycling as well as the use of reciclate

Circular Economy is shared responsibility

It's important to emphasise that circular economy means **shared responsibility** and therefore plastic industry cannot solve this problem alone!

In the interest to achieve the circular economy targets, we propose to establish responsibility and obligations also for all other participants within value chain.

At 2019. Association established the Croatian Platform for Plastic Waste as a tool to help industry to close the loop.

The platforms should encourage the cooperation of all representatives in the value chain (industry, utilities companies, recyclers, science, state institutions, local governments, traders, consumers, NGOs, etc.) in order to reach joint agreements, cooperation and actions needed to create a circular economy. Solutions should be search by individual product groups.

The tasks of all stakeholders in the Plastic Waste Platform

1. Information about available quantities of sorted waste, by type of polymer (collectors)
2. Define the quality of plastics waste and recyclate and to establish standards and monitoring process (plastics converters, recyclers, faculties)
3. Agreement about product design (eco) and use of recycling in new products (brand owners, product designers, industry, recyclers,..)
4. Creating a market for recycling materials (industry, faculties)
5. Ensure visibility of products which comes from circular economy for consumers (introduction of a new label)

Plan for future activities to close the loop to establish circular economy

Packaging:

- cooperation of stakeholders in the value chain gathered around detergent packaging to incorporate recycling into new detergent packaging
- stakeholder cooperation in the value chain on returning plastic foils back to production
- cooperation of stakeholders in the value chain gathered around a certain type of packaging from food items that can be separated and returned to the production of non-food products (Not bottles for drinks and beverages. It's already works as a good example of circular economy in practice thanks to the refundable fee in Croatia)

Problems which preventing more recycling

The plastics converters has interes to use recyclables into new products but needs a guarantee for a continuous supply of quality secondary raw materials. For its realization, it is necessary to improve separate collection and purchase a modern sorting plant.

Problems which preventing more recycling:

- waste that is not separated by type of polymer
- difficult / impossible separation
- difficult to distinguish material types
- a certain part of the collected plastic is subsequently sorted, increases costs

Proposed future activities

1. Official waste application forms should offer different types of polymers instead of the collective name *plastics* as it exist now.
2. There is need to add new key numbers for some plastic waste like fishing gears, boats and others
3. Support of the competent ministries and institutions in order to stimulate the cooperation of other stakeholders in the value chain within Platforms
4. Acquisition of modern sorting facilities is necessary
5. Reserve substantial financial resources on the EU and national levels exclusively for the transformation of the plastic sector. Create the separate Transition Pathway project for the plastic sector (the whole value chains)
6. Define the role of the European national plastic associations in boosting recycling and their cooperation with Circular Plastics Alliance

Conclusion

National plastics associations can catalyze the process towards the circular economy transition and bring together whole value chain but they need support of the institutions.

Plastic industry has strong motivation to reach the defined recycling targets and therefore is willing to be engaged more and motivated to involve other stakeholders and institutions to work together.

Despite of proactive reaction and good initiative come from plastics industry, so far experiences didn't give the results. The reason are the lackage of data by type of plastics waste but also because of not sufficient interes for cooperation of other stakeholders.

There is no time to waste let's go together to more circular future!