

The Green Dot arrives in Estonia and Romania

Brussels, 25 October - *PRO EUROPE, the organisation representing the schemes for the collection and recovery of packaging waste in Europe and Canada, has welcomed ERO Estonia and Eco-Rom Ambalaje Romania as new members, extending PRO EUROPE's reach to 26¹ countries. The announcement was made during the PRO EUROPE General Meeting held in the UK in October.*

The setting up of collection and recovery schemes will help Estonia and Romania move closer to compliance with the targets of the European Packaging Waste Directive.

ERO Estonia was created following the entry into force of the Packaging Act in June 2004. Its members now include Tetra Pak Estonia, Unilever, Procter & Gamble and Greiner Packaging Estonia. ERO Estonia's work plan and priorities for 2005 include increasing its number of clients from the retail sector, as well as running a series of information campaigns throughout the country.

Eco-Rom Ambalaje Romania was founded in 2003, and began business in April 2004. Its twelve shareholders include major international and Romanian companies. So far in 2004, Eco-Rom Ambalaje has already attracted 40 new client companies which is equivalent to 35 % of the total packaging placed on the Romanian market. In 2005, it plans to increase the number of client companies to 150.

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Note to the editor

The Green Dot ("Der Grüne Punkt") is awarded to authorised national systems on the basis of uniform rules and regulations. The Green Dot is the most widely used trademark in the world, and an international symbol for the implementation of producer responsibility by the companies involved and shows that for such packaging a financial contribution has been paid to a national packaging recovery organisation if distributed in a respective country.

National regulations allow companies to fulfil their responsibility under the EU's Packaging Directive by setting up their own individual take-back and recovery schemes or by joining a "compliance scheme". Companies joining a compliance scheme transfer their obligations to the latter by paying a respective contribution, which also gives the right to affix the Green Dot symbol to the packaging for the respective territory.

¹ ARA - Altstoff Recycling Austria (Austria); DSD - Duales System Deutschland AG (Germany); Eco-Emballages (France), Eco Embalajes Espana (Spain); EcoPack (Bulgaria); Eco-Rom Ambalaje (Romania); ERO (Estonia); FOSTPlus (Belgium); GreenPak (Malta); HE.R.R.CO (Greece); REPA (Sweden); REPAK (Ireland); SPV - Sociedade Ponto Verde (Portugal); VALORLUX (Luxembourg); Materialretur (Norway); CEVKO (Turkey); EKO-KOM (Czech Rep.); EnviPak (Slovak Rep.); Green Dot Cyprus (Cyprus); Latvijas Zalais Punkts (Latvia); ÖKO-PANNON (Hungary); RekoPol (Poland); SLOPAK (Slovenia); Zaliasis Taskas (Lithuania) and the co-operation partners VALPAK (UK) and CSR (Canada).