

## **Bulgaria and Malta move towards compliance with EU Packaging Waste rules**

**Brussels, 22. June** - *PRO Europe, the organisation representing the national collection, recovery and recycling schemes in 23 European countries and Canada, welcomes EcoPack Bulgaria and GreenPak Malta. The signing of licensing agreements with the countries brings the number of PRO Europe members to 24<sup>1</sup>, twenty-two of which use the Green Dot.*

**EcoPack Bulgaria**, was established in March 2004 as a joint venture between Bulgarian and international companies. Company stakeholders include Danone-Serdika, Shumensko Pivo, Coca-Cola HBC Bulgaria, Tetra Pack Bulgaria and Unilever. EcoPack is managed by a nine member Board of Directors, chaired by Coca-Cola HBC President, Paul Mulligan, and its principle aim is to create more efficient techniques for the processing and recycling of packaging waste in Bulgaria. The immediate priorities of EcoPack include the setting up and implementation of pilot projects in the Bulgarian municipalities for separate waste collection.

**GreenPak Malta** was formed in November 2003 to manage systems for the collection, recovery and recycling of packaging waste in Malta. GreenPak is currently in the process of issuing licences to companies that carry or wish to carry the Green Dot symbol. Malta's obligations under EU Packaging and Packaging Waste legislation were recently transposed into Maltese law by virtue of LN 98 of 2004.

These two agreements are a key step towards Bulgaria and Malta's progressive compliance with Directive 2004/12/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste.

For further information please contact PRO Europe Secretary General, Joachim Quoden on +49 2203 937 231

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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 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 "waste management fee", which gives the right to affix the Green Dot symbol to the packaging.

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<sup>1</sup> ARA – Altstoff Recycling Austria (Austria); DSD – Duales System Deutschland AG (Germany); Eco Emballages (France), Eco Embalajes Espana (Spain); FOST Plus (Belgium); 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); ÖKOPANNON (Hungary); RekoPol (Poland); SLOPAK (Slovenia); Zaliasis Taskas (Lithuania), GreenPak (Malta), EcoPack (Bulgaria) and the co-operation partners VALPAK (UK) and CSR (Canada).