Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste

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Why a Community Packaging Directive?

- Discussion since the 1980s
- Little effect of 1985 Directive on Liquid Beverage Containers
- Introduction of ambitious legislation in some Member States
- Internal Market problems with large flows of secondary material
Objectives

(Article 1)

1. High level of environmental protection

2. Functioning of the internal market
Scope
(Article 2)

All packaging placed on the market of the Community and all packaging waste.
Prevention

- **Essential requirements (Art. 9 and Annex II)**
  - All packaging put on the market must comply with the essential requirements of Annex II:
    - quantitative and qualitative prevention
    - packaging must be reusable or recoverable

- **Heavy metal limits for packaging (Art. 11)**
  - 100 ppm for the sum of Pb, Cd, Hg and CrVI
    - Exemptions for recycled plastic crates and pallets (Decision 1999/177/EC)
    - Exemptions for recycled glass (Decision 2001/171/EC)

- **National measures (Art. 4)**
Harmonized standards


- Compliance with the standards gives an automatic presumption of conformity with the essential requirements.
Reuse
(Article 5)

“Member States may encourage reuse systems of packaging, which can be reused in an environmentally sound manner, in conformity with the Treaty.”
2001 targets
(Article 6)

- Recovery or incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery: **50-65%**
- Recycling: **25-45%** (min. 15% per material)
2008 targets (Article 6)

- Recovery or incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery: min. 60%

- Recycling: 55-80%
  - Glass 60%
  - Paper/board 60%
  - Metals 50%
  - Plastics 22.5%
  - Wood 15%
Return, collection and recovery systems
(Article 7)

Member States must ensure that systems are set up for the return and/or collection of used packaging so that it is effectively reused, recovered or recycled.

- Open to participation of economic operators
- Open to participation of the competent authorities
- Non-discriminatory to imported products
- Avoid barriers to trade or distortions of competition
Marking and identification system
(Article 8)

• Currently **no obligatory Community marking system** (earlier Commission proposal was withdrawn)

• Identification system (Decision 97/129/EC)

Voluntary symbols:

“Moebius loop”

“Green Dot”
Information systems
(Article 12)

• Member States shall establish databases on packaging and packaging waste to enable monitoring of the implementation of the objectives of this Directive.

• Information on:
  – magnitude, characteristics, and evolution of packaging and packaging waste flows,
  – toxicity or danger of packaging materials

• Decision 2005/270/EC establishing the format of the database system
Reporting requirements *(Articles 12 and 17)*

- Packaging data within 18 months after each calendar year.

- Reports on the implementation of the Directive according to Directive 91/692/EC and Decision 97/662/EC within 9 months after a three year period.
National waste management plans to include a specific chapter on the management of packaging and packaging waste.
Next Steps

• Commission report on the implementation of the Packaging Directive.

• Any possible changes of the provisions of the Packaging Directive to be discussed in the framework of the Thematic Strategy on Waste Prevention and Recycling.
European Commission
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Sustainable Production and Consumption

Thank you for your attention!