

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corrugated in the Circular Economy: closing the loop

Brussels, 27th February 2018

FEFCO welcomes the final compromise text voted today by the European Parliament's Environmental Committee on the waste package, following the endorsement last week by the Permanent Representative Committee (Part 1) of the Council.

A key element of the package is the recognition that bio-based recyclable products provide an opportunity for the circular economy and that there are clear benefits deriving from packaging made from recyclable materials.

The reinforcement of the requirements for separate collection, together with the progressive reduction of landfilling, is fundamental for obtaining high quality material for recycling and will boost the market for secondary raw materials.

Retaining the internal market as a legal base for the packaging and packaged goods fully supports the free movement of packaged goods within the EU.

Furthermore, inspirational targets for reducing the generation of food waste in retail and distribution are in line with industry ambitions. Angelika Christ, Secretary General of FEFCO said, "*Corrugated packaging is part of the solution and our members already provide fit for purpose packaging to combat food waste*".

Paper & board packaging already achieve high rates of recycling, the new paper recycling targets (85% by 2030) will encourage industry to continue its efforts and further contribute to building the circular economy in Europe.

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Note to the editors

FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) represents the interests of the European Corrugated Board Manufacturers. Headquartered in Brussels, FEFCO has 17 Association members, all European national corrugated packaging organisations. The role of the Federation is to investigate economic, financial, technical and marketing issues of interest to the corrugated packaging Industry, to analyse all factors which may influence the industry, and to promote and develop its image.

Europe's corrugated industry in Europe makes about 43.9 billion square metres of board per year, enough to cover Denmark. It has 401 companies, 672 plants and accounts for 90,000 jobs. Corrugated is already a complete, high-performance material design, and delivery system, with thousands of possible combinations of board types, depth, weight, adhesives, and coatings. The average box today is more than 5% lighter than 15 years ago and contains around 7% more recycled material.