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New EU Customs Codes for PET Flakes from January 2027

An Important Achievement for the PET Value Chain driven by PETCORE EUROPE

Brussels, 4 November 2026; PETCORE EUROPE is pleased to announce the introduction of dedicated EU customs codes for PET flakes, effective from 1 January 2027, under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/2163.

This marks an important milestone for the European PET recycling industry as up until now, PET flakes and PET pellets were classified under the same customs codes, making it difficult to distinguish their respective trade flows. PETCORE EUROPE played a key role in advocating for this evolution, bringing together industry expertise and representing the need for more accurate customs classifications at European level. The achievement illustrates the importance of coordinated industry action and constructive dialogue with policymakers.

"Over recent years, PETCORE EUROPE has increased its interface with the EU Commission by creating an Advocacy Working Group, aiming to better and faster represent the needs of the PET Value Chain with the EU Institutions", **declared Antonello Ciotti, Chairman of PETCORE EUROPE.** ***This achievement reflects our sustained engagement in advocating for greater transparency and recognition of recycled PET materials in European trade statistics."***

While the new codes distinguish flakes from other PET forms, they do not differentiate virgin from recycled PET or food-contact from non-food-contact materials. PETCORE EUROPE is continuing its efforts for a code for rPET, which we expect once procedures are in place.

From January 2027, the EU Combined Nomenclature will introduce dedicated codes:

Previous CN code	New CN code	Description
39076100	**39076110**	PET flakes, viscosity number ≥78 ml/g
39076100	**39076190**	Other PET forms, viscosity number ≥78 ml/g
39076900	**39076910**	PET flakes, viscosity number below 78 ml/g
39076900	**39076990**	Other PET forms, viscosity number below 78 ml/g

This development represents a significant step forward for the PET value chain, enabling:

- **Greater market transparency:** improved visibility of PET flake imports and exports, particularly from non-EU countries.
- **More reliable market intelligence:** better monitoring of trade flows and competitive pressures affecting European recyclers.
- **Evidence-based policymaking:** more precise data to support discussions with European institutions on circularity, competitiveness and recycled content.
- **Stronger industry representation:** improved capacity to demonstrate market developments and identify potential distortions.

PETCORE EUROPE will also continue working with members to ensure that these new codes translate into meaningful market intelligence, supporting fair competition, European recycling investments and the transition towards a more circular PET economy.

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