



For immediate release

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PRESS RELEASE

Increased plastics waste collection suggests higher recycling rates

New data on plastics waste management¹ shows an important growth in plastics waste collection.

PRE is welcoming this sudden increase of plastics collection in Europe as this is an essential step towards plastics recycling. This could be proof that higher recycling rates are more achievable and realistic than expected in our latest study suggesting a 60% recycling rate for plastics².

However, the increase in plastics waste collected for recycling did not translate into increased plastics recycling in Europe. In fact, plastics recyclers have not seen an increase in feedstock for their plants. Furthermore, the exports of plastics waste have been globally stable over the last three years. Therefore, it can be questioned where over 1Mt of additionally collected plastics waste (6.6Mt collected for recycling in 2012 to 7.7Mt in 2014) have ended up.

This underlines the fact that quality collection and sorting are essential to drive investments and job creation in Europe. Additionally, the data on waste collection must become more transparent and harmonised across Europe.

Thus, the new Circular Economy Package must structure the vital steps of collection, sorting and data reporting. It goes against the base of a circular economy that sorting is not mentioned in any of the EU legislation.

LINK: <http://www.plasticsrecyclers.eu/news/increased-plastics-waste-collection-suggests-higher-recycling-rates>

About Plastics Recyclers Europe

Plastics Recyclers Europe is the professional representative body of plastics recyclers in Europe. PRE promotes plastics mechanical recycling and conditions that enable profitable and sustainable business, while offering a service platform to its members.

Our members constitute 80% of the European recycling capacity, processing more than 3 million tonnes of collected plastics per year.

¹ Consultic - Plastics - the Facts 2015 - <http://www.plasticseurope.org/>

² Study on an increased mechanical recycling target for plastics, BIOIS

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