



Brussels, 24th October 2007

Petcore publishes PET collection figures for 2006¹ - European PET bottle recycling exceeds expectations

Petcore announced today that European post-consumer PET collection rates reached 944,000 tonnes in 2006, an 18.5% increase over the previous year.

The increase in PET collection continues, by far, to exceed growth in consumption with 38.6% of all PET bottles being collected for recycle. Collection continued to grow steadily in most European countries with the highest increase in rates where national legislation is changing to allow single trip bottles to replace refillable containers. The recorded collection has increased markedly in the UK and Ireland, because the PET component of mixed plastic bales has been counted for the first time.

“I am delighted with the continued increase in PET collection throughout Europe and our high rate of recycle. 21 of the countries surveyed now have a higher PET recovery rate than the 22.5% target rate for plastic recovery by 2008, as set by the Packaging Waste Directive.” said Roberto Bertaglia, Chairman of the Petcore Board.

With a maximum input capacity of in excess of 1 million tonnes of PET bottles spread over more than 80 companies, Europe has the capability to recycle all the PET bottles collected.

Export to the Far East was down to 14% of collected PET in 2006.

The largest share of the collected PET containers was recycled into polyester fibres. The market for polyester sheet rapidly gained share in a range of thermoformed applications where the use of recycled PET increased by 60% over 2005 consumption. Re-use back into PET bottles has also steadily increased and the rate of use in strapping tape has picked up again after a dip in 2005.

Petcore (PET containers recycling Europe) is a non-profit European trade association based in Brussels. Its mission focuses on sustainable growth for post consumer PET collection whilst supporting all PET recycling processes as a key integrated part of European Plastics Waste Management initiatives and by validating and supporting innovative PET solutions from a recycle perspective

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¹ This report “Post Consumer PET recycling in Europe 2006 and Prospects to 2011” was prepared for Petcore by PCI PET Packaging, Resin & Recycling Ltd. To purchase a copy of this report please contact PCI directly at admin@pcipetpackaging.com