



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Brussels, 12 September 2013

"ERPA welcomes the progress of the Council Regulation setting environmental and quality criteria for waste paper to cease to be waste in the EU"

Brussels, 11 September 2013 – In accordance with the legislative procedure, the Council of Ministers passed the proposal for the Council Regulation on defining criteria determining when recovered paper ceases to be waste¹.

The hundreds of European Companies that may use the provisions of the Regulation to improve and increase recycling in the EU look forward to its progress through the European Parliament towards publication in the Official Journal of the European Union in early 2014.

The Council decision yesterday is a positive and wise step in the EU democratic process towards the adoption of a Regulation on end of waste for paper.

¹ [COM \(2013\) 502 final](#): Council Regulation on defining criteria determining when recovered paper ceases to be waste pursuant to Article 6 (1) of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste

Why is this legislation important to the whole recycling sector?

1. Defining binding criterias creates legal certainty at EU level

- An EU Regulation applies across the EU, providing Internal Market advantages ;
- Uncertainty on the point at which waste ceases to be waste creates market access hindrance to market access and fluidity.

2. Defining end-of-waste at processing level has environmental benefits

- It encourages higher quality recycling ;
- It discourages contaminated recyclables.
- Improve and promote the whole « recycling » system
- Remove unnecessary barriers to a « Recycling society » which is good for the environment

3. There are commercial advantages to be found in « End-of-Waste »

- When the economic savings in determining end-of-waste at the exit of the processing / recycling plant offset the costs of meeting the End-of-Waste criteria ;
- In alleviating the Intra-EU shipments administrative costs and fees ;
- Companies that sort wastes to the set quality criteria place on the market materials as pure and clean as original raw materials ;
- Companies that process waste into product are in legal terms recyclers –sorters may then be recyclers – depending on their infeed pulp mills may also be recyclers.

ERPA is the European Recovered Paper Association. Its members are the national recovered paper federations of the different European Union countries. www.erpa.info

Created in the early nineties under the name of WAPAC, ERPA aims at promoting the use and international trade of recovered paper for further production of recycled paper and cardboard. ERPA is a daughter federation of the international federation BIR, ERPA strictly focuses on European Union topics.