

## EU EXTENDS THE DEROGATION ON THE RECYCLED CRATES & PALLETS CONTAINING HEAVY METAL

The European Commission has decided to extend the derogation on plastic crates and plastic pallets in relation to the heavy metal concentration levels established in Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste. The Commission Decision has been published in the Official Journal on 25 March 2009 (C (2009)1959).



Bernard Merkx,  
EuPR President

This very important derogation has been adopted after two years of joint efforts from the **European Plastics Converters** (EuPC) and the **European Plastics Recyclers** (EuPR). Moreover, the “scientific reports submitted to the Commission recommend that such a derogation should be granted” as the mechanical recycling is the most sustainable path to treat plastic crates and pallets.

Furthermore, the Decision pushes industry to create a “voluntary agreement” in order to monitor the closed loop and report on the progress done.

*We welcome the publication of this derogation for the continuation of recycling old plastic crates and pallets back into new ones. Industry will need to get organized together with the users of the crates (e.g. breweries) in order to monitor the heavy metal content and inform regulators on progress made on a regular basis” according to **Dangis**, EuPC Managing Director.*

*“We have been working very hard as plastics recyclers together with our sister converters’ association in order to ensure this derogation was adopted. Several visits took place at plastics recycling plants and we demonstrated EU politicians and consultants that the best and safest way to handle Cadmium in the plastic is to keep it encapsulated in the polymer matrix and recycling it as such into new plastic crates” according to **Bernard Merkx**, EuPR President.*

*“More save and responsible usage of plastics recyclates should be promoted in Europe by the politicians. Mandatory recycling content in public procurement for certain plastics applications should be envisaged” according to **Merkx**.*

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***EuPC*** is the professional representative body of plastics converters within Europe whose activity embraces all sectors of the plastics converting industry including recycling. The overall objective is to defend and promote the interest of the European plastics converting industry.

***EuPR*** is the professional representative body of plastics recyclers in Europe. ***EuPR*** promotes plastics mechanical recycling and conditions that enable profitable and sustainable business, while offering a service platform to its members. ***EuPR*** members bring together 80% of the European recycling capacity processing more than 5 million tonnes of collected plastics per year.