



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 16 June 2009

### **Aluminium Beverage Can Recycling in Western Europe increases to 62%**

**The overall recycling rate for aluminium beverage cans in Western Europe further improved in 2007 and stands now at 61.8%, an increase by 10% compared to the year 2005. This 10% increase represents an impressive saving of 300,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas equivalents.**

**The total number of aluminium beverage cans consumed in Europe rose from 28.3 (2006) to 32.0 billion units in 2007, resulting in an overall aluminium share of nearly 70% in Europe. In Western-Europe consumers use on average 40 aluminium cans per capita. The consumption of aluminium cans in Central & Eastern Europe grew by 2.5 billion units to a total number 12.5 billion cans, an increase of 25% compared to the year 2006.**

The aluminium beverage can market grew in particular in Northern and Eastern-Europe, while several Western-European countries such as France, Spain, Greece and Germany demonstrated solid growth rates. The total market including Central & Eastern Europe grew by 14% to more than 37 billion aluminium cans produced. This includes also exports to non-European countries.

While the Northern-European deposit schemes maintained or even increased their high recycling levels, countries with mixed waste and separate metal packaging waste collection schemes further improved as well due to better collection and innovative sorting and recycling techniques. Countries such as the Netherlands, which rely heavily on the incineration of unsorted household waste, have invested in aluminium collection from bottom ashes and booked considerable progress.

EAA strongly recommends authorities and waste management operators to invest more in the latest available sorting and recycling technologies as pay-back times are relatively short given the high scrap value of well sorted aluminium, even in difficult economic times.

EAA is confident that due to the high scrap value of aluminium and the environmental advantages of recycling – a can made of recycled aluminium saves up to 95% energy compared with cans entirely made of primary aluminium – recycling rates in Europe will further increase. End-of-life recycling of used aluminium beverage cans back into new cans or other highly valuable aluminium products such as bicycles, window frames or engine blocks helps our partners such as the can-makers and the beverage producers to lower their carbon footprint. It also fits very well within the overall European policy to move towards a 'recycling society' in which material resources are used in a more sustainable way.

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**Annex: detailed overview per country**

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## Aluminium Beverage Can Market Shares and Recycling Results 2007

(Estimated, for EU 27, EFTA countries, Turkey and other Central & Eastern European countries, incl. tax free trade on airports, ferries, etc.)

Country	Market Share (%)	Recycling Rate (%)	Comments on the recycling results (based on final consumption)
Austria	87	50	Green dot scheme (whole metal packaging stream)
Belgium (+Lux.)	41	91	Green dot scheme (average for all packaging)
Denmark	100	87	Deposit scheme (all beverage containers)
Finland	100	89	Deposit scheme (cans only)
France	32	40	Green dot scheme (est. whole metal packaging)
Germany	60	91	Deposit scheme (cans only)
Greece	91	36	Green dot scheme + industry collection data
Ireland	82	50	Green dot scheme (extrapolations for cans)
Italy	92	53	Whole aluminium packaging stream
Netherlands	21	85	Voluntary collection + from bottom ashes at incinerators (industry report)
Norway (+Iceland)	100	92	Deposit scheme (cans only)
Portugal	28	31	Green dot scheme (whole metal packaging)
Spain	17	57	Green dot scheme + data industry study
Sweden	100	91	Deposit scheme (cans only)
Switzerland	100	90	Levy based system
United Kingdom	78	52	Packaging Recovery Notes (PRN) trading only
Turkey	100	75	Incentive based collection, including unregistered collection & recycling
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>61.8 (62)</b>	<b>(52% in 2005, respectively 57.7% (58%) in 2006)</b>
Poland	97	67	Incentive based collection, combined industry reports
Hungary	97	42	Incentive based collection, reports local scrap dealers + green dot scheme
Estonia	100	65	Deposit scheme, exports excluded
Russia	100	75	Incentive based collection, incl. unregistered collection & recycling
Other Central & Eastern Europe	98	75	
<b>Central &amp; Eastern Europe</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>75</b>	Extrapolated, including incentive based collection and unregistered collection & recycling
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>It can be safely assumed that 7 out of 10 cans are collected and recycled for the whole of Europe</b>

### Notes to the Editor:

A detailed overview per country is provided above. For the sake of consistency with official data, the UBC recycling rates per country is sometimes referred to as the rate for the "whole metal fraction" or otherwise (see comments).

*Aluminium is all around us. It is light and strong, corrosion resistant and durable, formable and highly conductive; it has natural shine and is recyclable. Aluminium provides intelligent solutions for present and future generations.*

*The European Aluminium Association, founded in 1981, represents the European aluminium industry from alumina and primary production to semi-finished and end-use products, through to recycling.*

*The European aluminium industry directly employs about 236,000 people.*