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PRESS RELEASE

12 billion beverage cartons recycled in 2006 in Europe

313,000 tonnes of beverage cartons were recycled in 2006 or some 12 billion in all. This represents a recycling rate of 30% in Europe (EU-27, Norway and Switzerland). The figures reflect a clear growth trend over the past ten years.

Recycling has an important role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated in landfills. Besides avoiding the waste of resources, avoidance of landfilling means we prevented as much as 280,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases through recycling in 2006.

"This is one of our practical responses to tackling climate change", commented Erika Mink, President of ACE, the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment.

Not only is recycling on the increase, but combined recycling and recovery rates reached 639,000 tonnes (a 61% recovery rate) within the EU, Switzerland and Norway.

Beverage cartons are collected from households across Europe for recycling in paper mills. The new products made from used cartons range from cereal boxes and other packages for consumer goods to office stationery and paper cores. Lengthening the life of the original material in beverage cartons helps to expand the use of fibres as carbon sinks, and also to optimize the use of the renewable resources of the forests. The beverage carton is composed on average 75% of paperboard, made from wood.

Collection: plugging the gap

"Our industry is continuously working to increase recycling levels. We focus on technological innovations to recover the non-fibre components of our products and thereby the economic performance of recycling", said Erika Mink. She added "but equally important for us are efforts to encourage collection in countries where households do not have access to collection schemes".



In order to boost collection, Tetra Pak UK and the carton industry body ACE UK, in conjunction with municipalities are launching several new beverage carton recycling schemes throughout the country. By end-2007, residents in over 70% of municipalities will have enhanced opportunities for recycling household packaging.

In Poland, ACE beverage carton manufacturers are also active in joint efforts to increase collection and recycling of beverage cartons. They are co-signatories of a first-ever voluntary agreement aimed at achieving this, together with the food, juice and dairy associations, the packaging chain (including Eco-Pak, a EUROPEN member) and the Polish Environment Ministry.

The voluntary agreement, to come into force this year, seeks to deliver a 15% recycling rate by 2014.

For further information please visit the ACE webpage at www.beveragecarton.eu or contact:

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