

European Declaration on Paper Recovery



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Paper and board products are a part of everyday life for every citizen in Europe. In most countries, even very young children know that paper can be collected for recycling. Paper and board can even be seen as prompting environmental consciousness, since it is the first industrial material to engage consumers in wide-scale collecting and recycling, thereby avoiding recyclable paper and board products from ending up on landfill sites. In this way, paper recycling also contributes positively to climate change.

Paper recycling in Europe has increased markedly throughout the 1990s. The amount of paper collected and recycled at the end of the decade is roughly two thirds more than at the beginning. This means that the recycling rate (percentage of recovered paper use compared to total paper consumption) was 48.7% in 1999, compared to 38.8% in 1990.

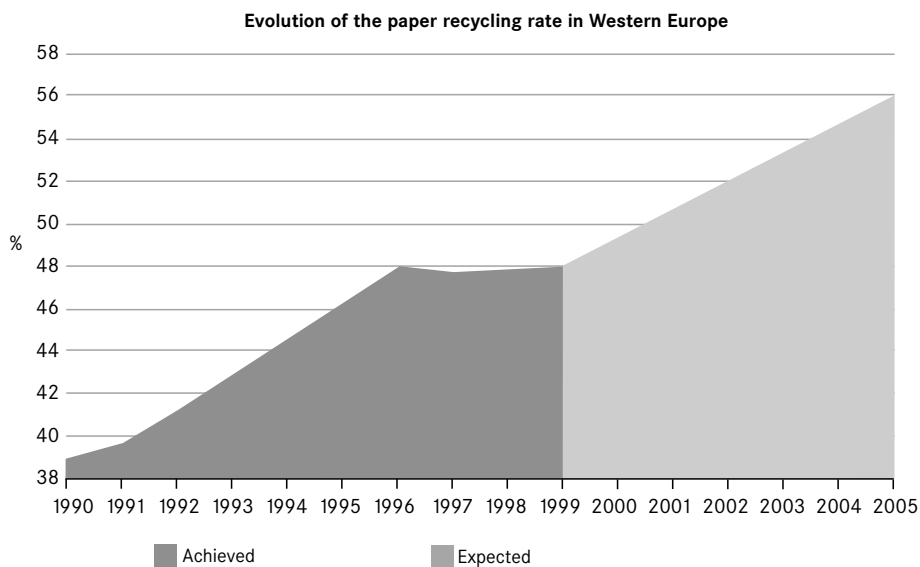
The European Paper and Board Industry and Recovered Paper Collectors/Merchants, however, strongly believe that even better results can be achieved. The above-mentioned members of the European Paper Chain have agreed to commit themselves to improving their efforts to protect the environment in the long term. The result is the **European Declaration on Paper Recovery**.

Products from the forest, including paper, form part of an integrated carbon cycle based on the photosynthetic conversion of water, carbon dioxide, nutrients and solar energy into renewable woody biomass. After paper products have been consumed, they can start a new life when separately collected as a secondary raw material. This cyclical process means that the forest is a renewable source of raw material and that the eco-cycle is closed and balanced.

Based on the idea of this closed loop, the European Declaration on Paper Recovery deals with important aspects of the paper and board life-cycle, from raw materials, auxiliary materials, processes and production, through to collection and recycling.

The Signatories to the European Declaration on Paper Recovery are committed to achieving the following:

- Further reducing the production of waste during all processes in the paper and board life-cycle.
- Further improving the efficient use of raw and auxiliary materials.
- Optimising collection systems by sharing their expertise with those responsible for collecting recovered paper for recycling purposes.



- Better technical and operational as well as environmentally benign solutions by stimulating and supporting research and development.
- Better awareness of paper recycling by informing consumers about their role in closing the paper loop.
- Finally, the *Signatories* agree to take the necessary measures to ensure that by the year 2005 at least 56% of paper and board products consumed in Europe are recycled.

Even though situations vary a great deal between countries, the European Paper and Board Industry, Recovered Paper Collectors/Merchants and the whole Paper Chain firmly believe that, compared to today, higher levels of recycling at the European level can be achieved. Taking into account the expected increases in paper and board consumption, the ambitious target of a 56% recycling rate for the year 2005 would mean that the amount of paper and board recycled would be at least 25% higher than it is today. In real terms, an additional 10 million tonnes or more of recovered paper will be voluntarily recycled by the European Paper and Board Industry by the year 2005, increasing the total amount of paper collected and recycled per year from 38 million tonnes to approximately 48 million.

Since paper recycling has been normal business practice in Europe for many years, with a well-established and functioning market, it is possible to collect data on recovered paper markets in Europe in a reliable way. Nevertheless, the industry believes that there is always room for improvement. Therefore, a **European Recovered Paper Council** (ERPC) will be established in order to follow the progress and fulfilment of the European Declaration in an open and transparent way. Representatives of the EU institutions and other members of the Paper Chain will be invited to follow the work of the ERPC.

The following members of the European Paper Chain are *Signatories* to the European Declaration on Paper Recovery:

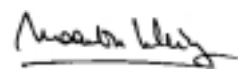
- CEPI – Confederation of European Paper Industries;
- ERPA – European Recovered Paper Association.

The *Signatories* firmly believe that the European Declaration will not only help to stimulate the European Paper and Board Industry and Recovered Paper Collectors/Merchants to pay even more attention to environmental interests, but also to encourage other members of the Paper Chain as well as consumers to actively contribute to the achievement of higher collection and recycling levels. Indeed, the European Declaration has been prepared with the broad cooperation of members of the Paper Chain.

This European Declaration is to be seen as a step towards a more general and proactive environmental strategy being developed by the European paper industry. The aim is to show that the paper industry is taking action to contribute to sustainable development on a voluntary basis.



Juha Niemelä
Chairman
**Confederation of European
Paper Industries**



Martin Kleiweg de Zwaan
President
**European Recovered
Paper Association**

9 November 2000

The full text of the European Declaration is available on the CEPI web-site: www.cepi.org

1.1. OBJECTIVE

The European Declaration on Paper Recovery sets out measures which aim to ensure the optimum management of used paper and board products. As *Signatories* to the Declaration, members of the Paper Chain accept on a voluntary basis to undertake a number of complementary actions with the common objective of ensuring a high level of environmental protection in the areas of paper and board manufacturing and the collection, processing and recovery of used paper and board products.

Priority is given to the prevention of waste during the manufacture of paper and board and paper and board products, to the collection and processing of the used products and to the recycling of recovered paper, thus reducing the quantity of paper-based products destined for final disposal.

Due attention is also paid to the improvements of the quality of recovered paper, which enforces its character as a secondary raw material.

1.2. SCOPE

The Declaration shall cover all paper and board products.

It shall apply without prejudice to European Community legislation and relevant national legislation, which currently regulates certain areas of paper and board sectors, such as EU Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste.

1.3. PARTIES TO THE DECLARATION

The following European associations, members of the European Paper Chain, are *Signatories* to the European Declaration on Paper Recovery:

- CEPI – Confederation of European Paper Industries
- ERPA – European Recovered Paper Association

1.4. ACCESSION OF THIRD PARTIES

The Declaration is open to those European associations, which represent members of the Paper Chain and which have a significant stake in the paper loop.

1.5. DEFINITION OF TERMS

To provide a broad and common understanding of this Declaration in Europe, it was deemed necessary to agree upon a terminology which is partly drawn from definitions which already exist in Community legislation, and partly based upon terms used in industrial and commercial activities within the European paper loop. These definitions are listed in a separate Annex.

2.1. PREVENTION OF WASTE

The *Signatories* will, whenever this is technically possible and economically reasonable, reduce the generation of waste during the manufacturing – converting – collecting – sorting and recycling processes to ensure an optimal and environmentally-benign recycling of paper and board products.

2.2. COLLECTION

1. The *Signatories* will provide the relevant operators/legal entities with advice on setting up and optimising collection systems in order to achieve the best combination of cost, quality and availability parameters, leading to an optimal recovered fibre supply management. A system will be established to allow an exchange of information at European level of national initiatives and experiences.
2. The *Signatories* will determine – as a complement to the European List of Standard Grades of Recovered Paper and Board – specific sorting quality requirements for used paper and board products collected from various sources (e.g. household or similar, industry, and trade).

2.3. RECOVERY

1. The European Paper & Board Manufacturing Industry as a whole – with the support of other *Signatories* of the Declaration and subject to the development of the international market – will take measures to ensure that by the year 2005, at least 56% of the paper and board products consumed in Europe will be recycled.
A margin of $\pm 1.5\%$ has to be taken into consideration to adjust to the fluctuations of the international paper market.
2. The Recovered Paper Collectors/Merchants will actively support the paper industry in its effort to reach the recycling rate referred to in paragraph 2.3.1.

2.4. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The *Signatories* will stimulate and support the research and development of

- production processes as well as raw and auxiliary materials,
- recovered paper processing technology,
- measures to reduce the environmental effects of raw and auxiliary materials

in order to improve the recyclability of paper products.

2.5. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

The *Signatories* will take action to provide information to further educate and raise the awareness of consumers about their role in closing the paper loop. They will communicate the terms and achievements of the present Declaration according to the messages developed and provided by a European Recovered Paper Council (ERPC) – to be created as defined below.

2.6. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

1. The *Signatories* will constitute a European Recovered Paper Council with the following tasks:
 - to coordinate the commitments of the *Signatories*,
 - to provide evidence of progress achieved,
 - to discuss all relevant matters regarding the successful operation of the European Declaration,
 - to coordinate public information on the achievements of the European Declaration,
 - to produce annual reports.
2. The *Signatories* will collect the information required and report on an annual basis to the ERPC who will compile and produce a joint report.
The report will include measures taken, progress achieved (with specific quantification when applicable) and verifiable information on the fulfilment of the commitments.
3. Representatives of the EU institutions as well as members of the Paper Chain will be invited to attend the ERPC gatherings.

3. DURATION AND REVISION

The Declaration will be valid for an unlimited time provided that the *Signatories* comply with their commitments.

A first review of this Declaration will be based on the quantified recycling commitment for the year 2005.

The *Signatories* are willing to start negotiations with representatives of the EU institutions to develop this Declaration into a European Environmental Agreement.

Annex - European Declaration on Paper Recovery

TERMINOLOGY	DEFINITION	REFERENCE
Collection (of paper and board)	Separate collection of paper and paper products from industrial and commercial outlets, from households and offices for → Recovery . (Collection includes transport to the sorting/processing or recycling plant/paper mill).	
Consumer	Industrial, commercial or private end-user.	
Consumption (apparent)	Production + imports - exports of paper and board and paper and board products.	
Converter	Processor of paper or board as a raw material (such as packaging, printing).	
Distribution (of paper and board)	Wholesale and retail trade of paper and board material and products ensuring the link between the producer/converter or importer and the final consumer.	
Energy recovery	Incineration of recovered paper (RP) products in power plants with power or heat generation and use.	EU Packaging Directive 94/62/EC
Environmental Agreement	Formal agreement between the paper chain - or part of it - and the EU Commission on the recovery of paper and board products.	
Final disposal	Definitive deposit of waste through landfill or incineration without energy recovery.	Council Directive on waste 75/442/EEC
Incineration	→ Energy recovery	
Manufacturer	Producer of paper and/or board.	
Packer/filler	User of packaging material to put a product into marketable units.	
Paper	Term used to cover all grades of paper and board.	
Paper product	General term used to cover all paper and board-based converted products.	
Paper chain	All parties from paper and board manufacturing to the collector/merchant of paper and board products, including the paper and board producer, converter, printer, packer/filler, publisher, distributor, retailer, consumer and collector/merchant.	

Annex - European Declaration on Paper Recovery

TERMINOLOGY	DEFINITION	REFERENCE
Prevention	Reduction of the quantity and of the harmfulness to the environment of: - paper and substances contained in paper products, - paper products and (its) waste at production process level and at the marketing, distribution, utilisation and elimination stages, to be achieved in particular by developing "clean" products and technology.	EU Packaging Directive 94/62/EC
Printer	Manufacturer of printed products using paper or board as printing surface (➡ Converter).	
Producer responsibility	Producer taking (shared) responsibility for the burden its products impose upon the environment during the products' physical lifecycle.	
Publisher	One who publishes (owns and brings to the market) products which are printed on paper.	
Recovered paper (RP)	Used paper and board separately collected and processed according to the European Standard List of Recovered Paper and Board Grades.	
RP collector	One who separately collects used paper and board; he may also have processing (sorting, handling), transport or trade activities as well.	
RP merchant	One who primarily buys, processes and sells RP – he may be actively involved in its collection.	
RP trader	One who buys and sells RP without any operational collection or processing activity.	
Recovery	Principle of waste management policy including re-use, material recycling, composting and ➡ Energy recovery as well as exports for similar purposes.	According to EU Council Resolution on Community Strategy on Waste Management 09.12.96
Recycling	Reprocessing of RP in a production process for the original purpose or for other purposes, including composting but excluding energy recovery.	EU Packaging Directive 94/62/EC
Recycling rate	The ratio between recovered paper utilised for ➡ Recycling and paper and board consumption.	
Shared responsibility	All economic actors bear their specific share of responsibility as regards the prevention, collection, recovery and disposal of waste.	EU Council Resolution on Community Strategy on Waste Management 09.12.96
Waste	Any substance or object which holder discards or intends or is required to discard. Note: Paper and board products, once they have been collected and processed for further recycling, become a valuable secondary raw material and should no longer be considered to be waste, according to the paper industry and the recovered paper merchants.	EU Council Directive 91/156/EEC

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