



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Two out of Three Aluminium Beverage Cans Recycled in Europe!**

**The overall recycling rate for aluminium beverage cans in the EU 27 including EFTA countries and Turkey increased by 2.4% to 66.7% in 2010. After the difficult economic situation in the previous years the consumption of aluminium beverage cans increased by a further 2 billion units to a total of 36 billion cans in 2010. This means that at least 24 billion aluminium beverage cans were recycled, resulting in a total greenhouse gas saving of 2.5 million tonnes – the equivalent of taking 1 million passenger cars off the roads for a whole year!**

EAA has now reported for 20 consecutive years about the recycling results for the aluminium beverage in Europe. Back in the early Nineties, only 30% of all beverage cans were recycled. This figure rose to 52% in 2005, meaning that we are confident that we should be able to recycle 3 out of 4 cans by 2015 or thereabouts, with further growth potential for the years up to 2020 (see annex – historical overview).

Several countries are already close to or even above this result, due to their highly efficient and well-established collection and sorting infrastructures (see annex – details per country). Countries with well-managed 'Green Dot' systems usually collect aluminium beverage cans together with other metal packaging, and can easily sort out the aluminium fraction afterwards, for remelting by the aluminium recycling industry. This is even truer of deposit systems, which generate a clean fraction of used aluminium beverage cans that are immediately ready for recycling back into new cans or other valuable aluminium products such as window frames, bicycles or engine blocks, with an energy saving of 95% compared to primary production.

In order to capture the remaining cans, the aluminium industry, together with the beverage can makers, is focusing on cans that are consumed 'outside the home', for example at the workplace or at events and festivals. For this purpose we have developed the 'Every Can Counts' concept, which originally started in the United Kingdom and has meanwhile been introduced in France, Austria, Romania, and Hungary, and in the near future also in Ireland. 'Every Can Counts' points out the importance of recycling each and every beverage can, regardless of where its contents are actually consumed.

EAA continues to encourage the local authorities and waste management companies to improve existing collection and sorting facilities by using the latest available sorting technologies such as eddy currents and high-tech recognition systems, which can separate the aluminium packaging items from other packaging in a split second.

In this respect, EAA is very happy with the recent European Parliament report on 'Resource Efficiency', which calls on the Member States to encourage the use of such technologies. Additionally, the European Parliament recognized for the first time materials such as metals as 'permanent materials'. Due to their characteristics, aluminium and other metals are infinitely recyclable, and are thus from an environmental point of view at an equal level with existing categories such as renewable and biodegradable materials.

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## Annex: detailed overview per country

<b>Used Aluminium Beverage Can Recycling Results, Europe 2010</b>		
<b>COUNTRIES - Recycling Rate %</b>		<b>Comments on the Recycling Results</b>
<b>EU 27, EFTA &amp; Turkey</b>		
Austria	65	Green dot scheme (metal packaging)
Belgium (+Luxembourg)	91	Green dot scheme (average for all beverage containers)
Bulgaria	50	Eurostat (metal packaging)
Cyprus	70	Eurostat (estimate, metal packaging)
Czech Rep. & Slovakia	52	Eurostat (combined average results all metal packaging)
Denmark	89	Deposit system (all beverage containers)
Estonia	61	Deposit system (cans only)
Finland	95	Deposit system (cans only)
France	57	Green dot scheme and others (rigid aluminium packaging)
Germany	96	Deposit scheme (cans only)
Greece	38	Eurostat (aluminium packaging only)
Hungary	50	Eurostat (metal packaging)
Ireland	45	Green dot scheme (extrapolations for cans)
Italy	72	Green dot scheme (aluminium packaging)
Latvia	30	Green dot scheme + industry report for cans only
Lithuania	40	Green dot scheme + industry report for cans only
Malta	59	Eurostat (metal packaging)
Netherlands	88	Industry reports (metal packaging)
Poland	72	Incentive based collection, combined industry reports
Portugal	45	Green dot scheme (metal packaging)
Romania	20	Incentive based collection, industry reports
Slovenia	27	Eurostat (metal packaging)
Spain	61	Green dot scheme + data industry study
Sweden	87	Deposit system (cans only)
United Kingdom	54	Packaging Recovery Notes (PRN) trading only
Switzerland	91	Levy based system
Norway	93	Deposit system (cans only)
Iceland	85	Deposit system (cans only)
Turkey	75	Incentive based collection, incl. unregistered collection & recycling
<b>Total recycling rate</b>	<b>67</b>	
Russia + other C&E Europe	75	Incentive based collection, incl. unregistered collection & recycling

### Notes to the Editor:

A detailed overview per country is provided above. For the sake of consistency with official EUROSTAT and Green Dot data, the can recycling rate per country is sometimes referred to as the rate for the whole 'metal packaging' fraction or otherwise (see comments), in particular for countries which have mixed packaging collection systems in place and / or report only the recycled 'metal packaging' fraction.

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*Aluminium is all around us. It is light and strong, corrosion resistant and durable, formable and highly conductive; it has natural shine and is 100% infinitely 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 255,000 people.*

**Annex: historical overview of the European aluminium beverage can recycling results over the period 1991-2010 (EU27 + EFTA & Turkey)**

