



UNESDA and NMWE call for a wide deployment of well-designed deposit return systems (DRS) in EU countries in order to meet the targets of the Single Use Plastics Directive

September 2020. NMWE, representing natural mineral and spring waters, and UNESDA, representing soft drinks, are calling for a wide deployment of well-designed deposit return systems in EU countries to meet the collection and rPET targets set in the EU's Single Use Plastics Directive. NMWE and UNESDA propose a set of 6 fundamental design criteria which will improve DRS efficiency when setting them up in EU Member States.



EU beverage sectors lead the way on sustainability and circularity in the packaging field. Our industries aim to deliver products to consumers in fully recyclable packaging materials. PET drink bottles are already the most recycled of all plastic packaging. However, despite the industry's efforts in setting up and financing packaging recovery organisations, the current level of collection of PET beverage bottles varies substantially across the EU.

The EU's Single Use Plastics Directive imposes a 90% collection of plastic beverage bottles by 2029 and a minimum 25% recycled plastic in PET bottles from 2025 (30% from 2030). Unfortunately, with their current collection performance, some Member States are unlikely to achieve these targets.

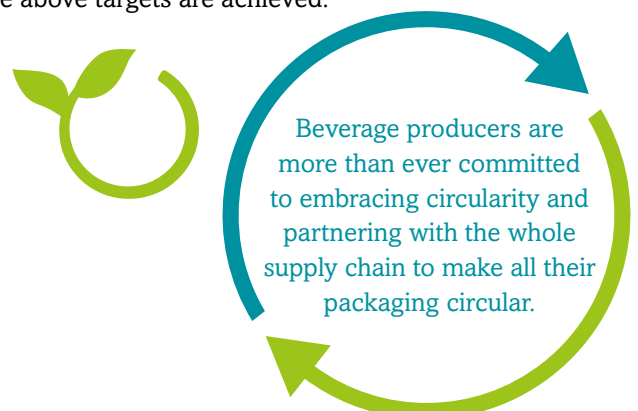
Both UNESDA and NMWE consider well-designed DRS an efficient recovery scheme for reaching the European collection targets for beverage bottles and for safeguarding the quality of recycled PET that our industries need. In addition, it can also contribute towards the EU's climate objectives, for example by requiring less virgin materials to be used thanks to the closed loop recycling which will result in a lower CO₂ footprint. That is why an increasing number of EU member states are currently considering the introduction of DRS.

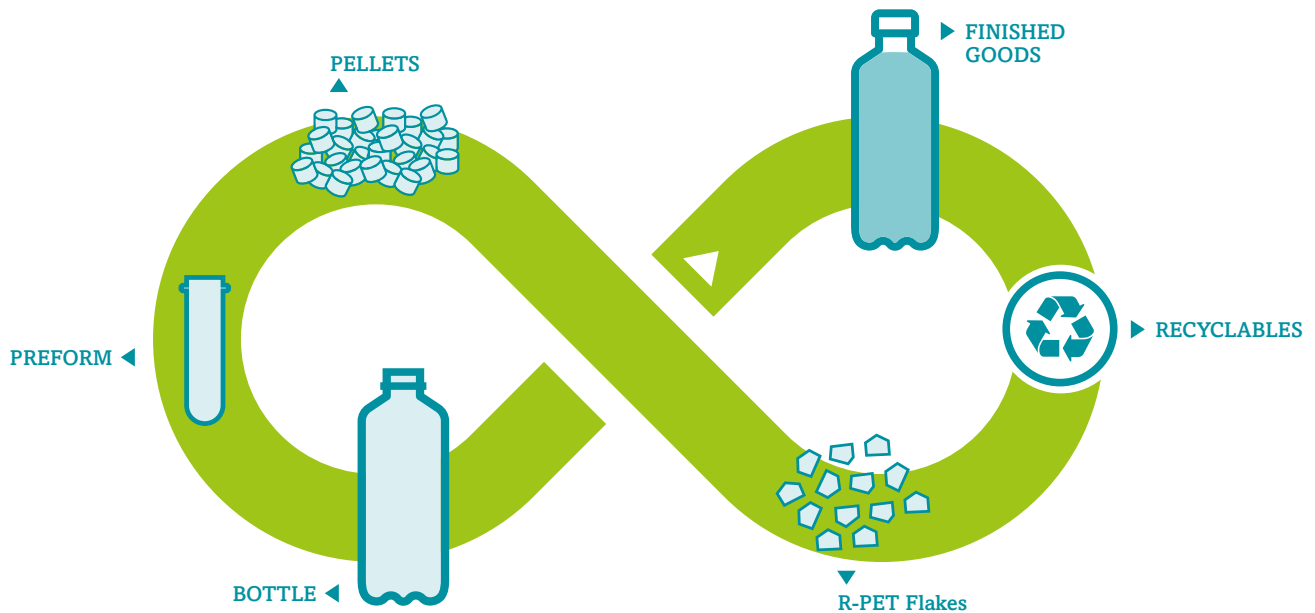
For DRS systems to be efficient, it is important that they meet the following conditions:

1. Have a national geographical scope
2. Apply to all relevant beverage categories and packaging types
3. Be set up and run by the obliged industry in a not-for-profit structure
4. Be convenient for consumers with clear communication on deposit amount, scope and with a substantial number of accessible locations for redemption
5. Include deposit fees that incentivise a bring back culture
6. Allow producers to secure material for closed loop recycling (i.e. bottle to bottle recycling)

We believe the European Commission can play an important role by developing guidelines similar to the minimum requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility schemes adopted in the 2018's revision of the Waste Framework Directive.

Our sectors are committed to collaborating with all relevant local stakeholders in the setting up and running of efficient collection schemes to ensure that the above targets are achieved.





About NMWE:

Natural Mineral Waters Europe (NMWE) is the voice of the bottled water industry, dedicated to promoting the unique qualities of natural mineral and spring water among EU institutions and international organisations. NMWE is a registered international not for profit federation with a membership base of national trade associations and direct member companies. NMWE represents almost 550 natural mineral and spring water producers in Europe.

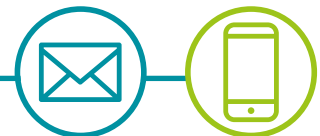
www.naturalmineralwaterseurope.org

About UNESDA:

UNESDA is a Brussels-based association representing the European soft drinks industry. It was established in 1958 and its membership includes both companies and national associations from across the continent. UNESDA is signatory to the EU Transparency Register (No: 25498952296-56). There are 424 soft drinks production sites across Europe and the sector supports over 1.7 million jobs both directly and indirectly.

www.unesda.eu

Contact us:



For media inquiries:

Ms Anna Meusburger
anna.meusburger@nmwe.org
 +32 493 18 32 97

Ms Inês Rebelo
irebelo@unesda.eu
 +32 477 86 09 01