



IVCIE

Commission interrégionale de l'Emballage
Interregionale Verpakkingscommissie

2023

ACTIVITY REPORT

CONTENTS

Message from the Chair and the Director	3	6. Additional data on accredited compliance organisations	36
1. Operation of the Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC)	6	6.1. Fost Plus reference costs (for collection and sorting) for 2023 and 2024	37
1.1. Tasks of the IRPC	7	6.2. Payments to unpackers by Valipac in 2023	38
1.2. Composition of the IRPC	8	6.3. Value of the materials:	39
1.3. Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP) and EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement	9	- Reference values Fost Plus 2023	
1.4. 2023 budget of the IRPC	10	- Value of industrial and commercial packaging waste in 2023	
2. Fost Plus	11	6.4. Collection of household packaging waste	41
2.1. New accreditation	12	6.5. Collection cost of household packaging waste	42
2.2. Sorting and recycling	13	6.6. Collection methods for household packaging waste	43
2.2.1. Sorting plants	14	7. Monitoring of reusable packaging	44
2.2.2. Recycling plants	15	7.1. Overall trend in reusable household packaging	46
2.2.3. Recycling situation in 2022	16	7.2. Overall trend in reusable industrial and commercial packaging	47
3. Valipac	18	8. Waste transit	48
3.1. Results of mapping in 2023	19	8.1. Trend in the number of notifications	50
3.2. Audit results	20	8.2. Trend in the number of shipments registered	51
3.3. Overview of final recycling destinations	21		
4. Prevention plans	22		
4.1. Individual prevention plans	24		
4.2. Sectoral prevention plans	24		
5. Key figures	25		
5.1. Fost Plus results for 2022	27		
5.2. Valipac results for 2022	29		
5.3. Results of the individual responsible companies in 2022	31		
5.4. Beverage packaging figures	32		
5.5. Overall results for 2022 – Belgian recycling figures	33		
Recycling trends in Belgium	34		



MESSAGE
FROM THE CHAIR
AND THE DIRECTOR

The Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC) had a challenging year, dealing with a raft of key issues.

The first item on the agenda was to draw up **Fost Plus's new accreditation** covering the period 2024-2028. The aim was to consolidate and improve the management of packaging waste, while placing greater emphasis on prevention and reuse.

Work on the accreditation coincided with a social and political debate on the possible introduction of a deposit for certain one-way beverage packaging. This made it necessary to provide a procedure for amending the accreditation to reflect the final outcome of the debate. The IRPC also eventually added a number of technical elements to the accreditation to help the regional governments in reaching their decision.

The baseline scenarios for the collection of household packaging waste are in line with the previous accreditation, although several issues have been examined in greater depth, such as payment of local "bring" systems. There have also been improvements in the coverage of recycling centre costs, with both their collection costs and their operating costs now covered. For each municipality or intermunicipality, an overall portfolio of up to EUR 0.39 per inhabitant per year is provided for investments in collection containers and infrastructure.

The accreditation also places strong emphasis on prevention and reuse, areas in which Fost Plus has been given an important coordinating role. Together with its members, Fost Plus must propose ambitious action programmes on avoiding and reducing packaging and on eco-design and reuse.

The action programme on avoiding and reducing packaging should aim to reduce the amount of one-way packaging by 5%. The reuse action programme will seek to increase the market share of reusable packaging by 5%. These two action programmes have been given a budget target of 2% of Fost Plus's budget.

Lastly, the accreditation also aims to improve the out-of-home collection of household packaging. Here, too, Fost Plus will have to submit an action plan.

2023 was also marked by intensive preparations on the new **EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement**, which will have a section on extended producer responsibility (EPR) and another on litter. With regard to **EPR**, an interregional approach will be adopted for a number of waste streams, with a common accreditation for the three Belgian Regions, supplementing regional regulations.

This common approach is necessary because, according to the case law of the Constitutional Court, the producer must always be identified at Belgian level and there are no regional submarkets. A charge payable by waste management organisations and producers is also being introduced, based on their market share, to support regional policies on prevention, reuse, combating litter and improving separate collection, as well as to cover the wages of staff responsible for checking, implementing and monitoring EPR in the three Regions.

The **litter** section of the Cooperation Agreement will include an "operational and financial option" and a purely financial option. Both options aim to make producers bear the costs of managing litter, but they are designed differently. The purely financial option essentially consists of a charge, while the "operational and financial option" places greater responsibility on companies and collective bodies.

Since this Cooperation Agreement will have a significant impact on how the waste management organisation Fost Plus operates, the 2024-2028 accreditation includes a procedure for amending the accreditation when the Cooperation Agreement comes into force.

The wording of the Cooperation Agreement was finalised in 2023. Consultations were held with companies at various times, including on the amount of the litter charge. When the Cooperation Agreement comes into effect, the IRPC will take on many additional tasks and will also change its name to the Interregional EPR Commission.

The **Cooperation Agreement on cross-border waste shipments** came into force in mid-2023, formally designating the IRPC as the Belgian waste transit authority, a role it had previously assumed. This Cooperation Agreement also includes administrative fees that notifiers must pay to the IRPC.

The IRPC commissioned an **external study of its staffing requirements**. This once again showed that the Permanent Secretariat of the IRPC is seriously understaffed and that, consequently, the workload is dangerously high. The IRPC does not have enough people to carry out its current and future tasks. The staffing plan drawn up in 1997 envisaged 29 FTEs. By 2023, however, only 16 of the 29 posts had been filled, the main shortfall being in the number of policy officers.

The study proposes a staff complement of 33 FTEs for packaging waste, which is in line with the current theoretical complement, and argues that the additional tasks envisaged in the EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement would require a further 17 FTEs, bringing the total to 50. The Belgian Regions will therefore have to devote sufficient resources to providing the IRPC with an adequate staff complement, even if this means the IRPC hiring its own staff, otherwise the objectives will not be achieved.

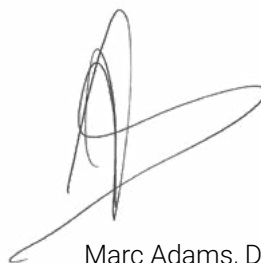
At EU level, the European Commission submitted a proposal to replace Packaging Directive 94/62/EC with a new **Packaging Regulation**. The content of this new text was fairly ambitious, with new targets for prevention, reuse, recycled content, a ban on some packaging formats, etc. Discussions among the Member States focused on the change of instrument (from a Directive to a Regulation, change of legal basis), while maintaining a balance by taking national interests into account.

With regard to EPR obligations and recycling targets, several changes were made to the definition of "producer" to clarify its scope. The text was extensively worked on under the Swedish and Spanish Presidencies of the Council of the European Union during 2023, and the Member States reached an agreement in principle just before the Belgian Presidency began. It was then Belgium's turn to chair the trilogue negotiations (European Commission, Parliament and Council) and finalise the text. The Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU took the lead, with technical support provided by IRPC experts. The deadline was particularly tight because of the European elections in June 2024, but the Council and the European Parliament managed to reach a compromise in March 2024.

We hope you enjoy reading our activity report!



Céline Schaar, Chair



Marc Adams, Director

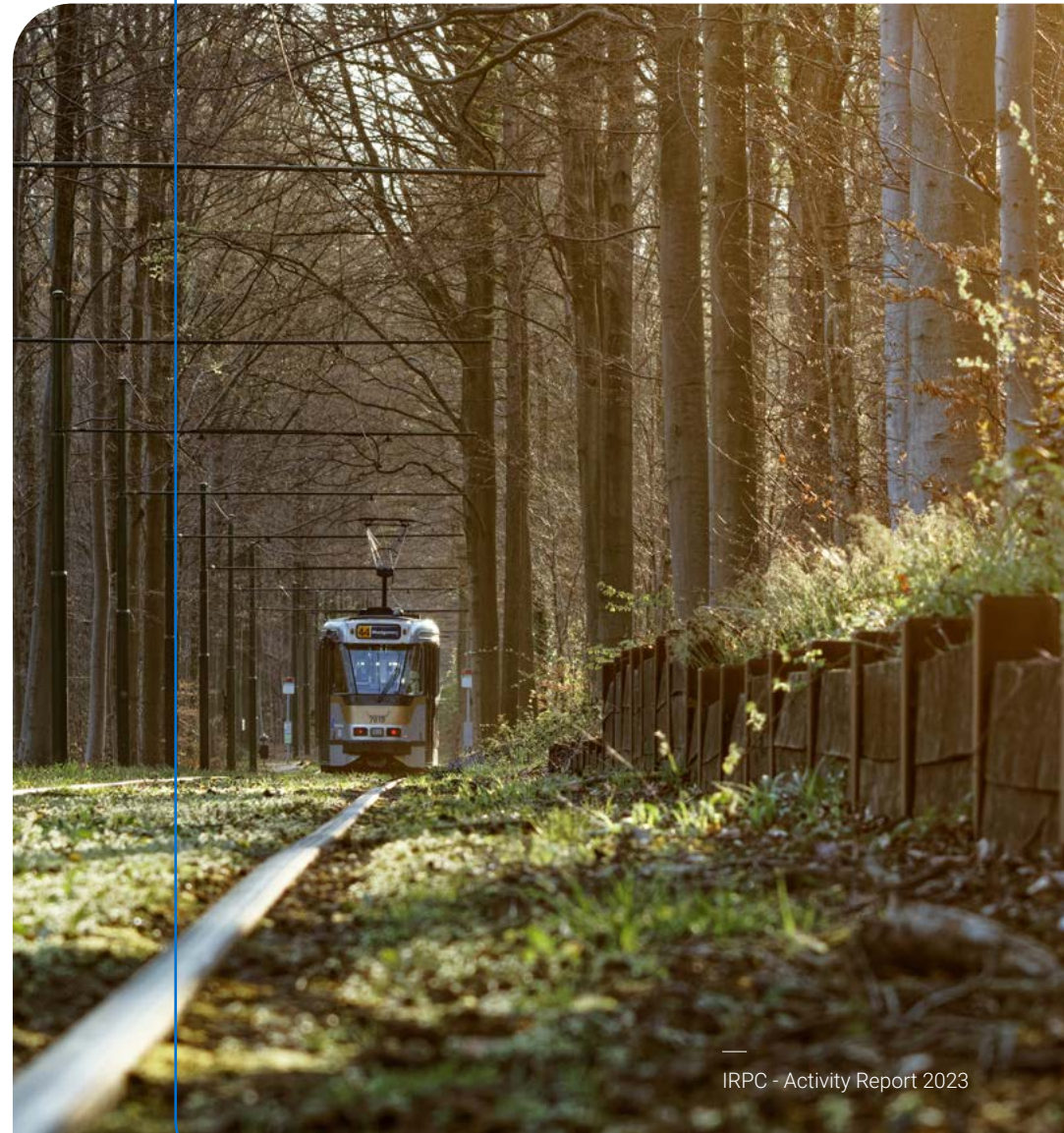


OPERATION OF THE INTERREGIONAL PACKAGING COMMISSION

1.1. Tasks of the IRPC

The tasks of the IRPC include the following:

- ✓ Monitoring whether companies (parties responsible for packaging, aka “responsible companies”) and accredited compliance organisations are fulfilling their reporting and take-back (i.e. recycling and recovery) obligations.
- ✓ Checking the way in which the responsible companies and accredited compliance organisations meet their statutory recycling and recovery targets.
- ✓ Approving or rejecting prevention plans of companies (responsible companies).
- ✓ Granting or refusing accreditation to the organisations responsible for promoting, coordinating and financing the selective collection, recycling and recovery of packaging waste.
- ✓ Assisting and advising the regional governments, for example by creating consultative forums, providing logistical support or proposing legislative amendments.
- ✓ Conducting or commissioning studies and research into the management and prevention of packaging waste.
- ✓ Processing notifications in order to issue approval for planned shipments of waste that does not originate from Belgium and will not be treated there either. Additionally, processing individual shipment notifications relating to an approved notification.



1.2. Composition of the IRPC

The composition of the decision-making body in 2023:

Flemish Region

Full members:

- Ann De Boeck
- Nick Vliegen
- Anneleen De Wachter *(Chair until 04/03/2023)*

Alternate members:

- Luc Goeteyn
- Roeland Bracke
- Christof Delatter

Brussels-Capital Region

Full members:

- Marion Courtois
- Céline Schaar *(Chair since 05/03/2023)*
- Stéphanie Uny

Alternate members:

- Valérie Verbrugge
- Stéphanie Thomaes
- Milan Jousten

Walloon Region

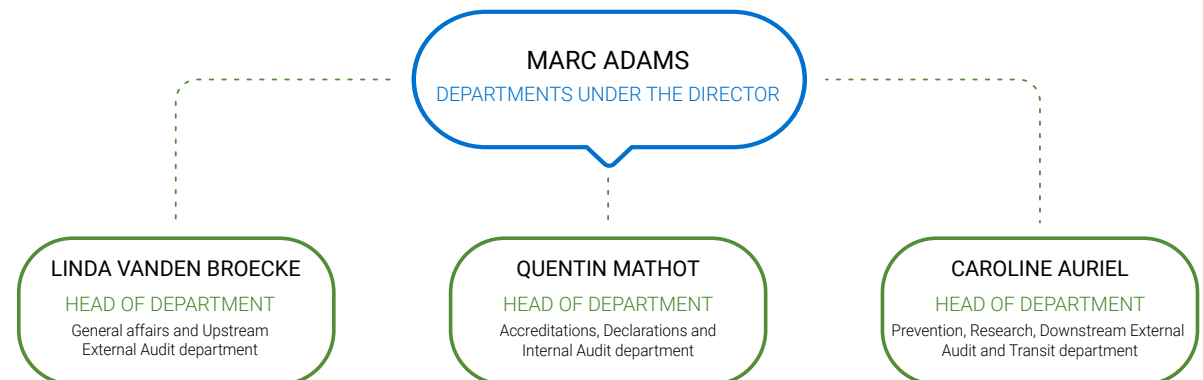
Full members:

- Lara Hotyat
- Vincent Brahy
- Martine Gillet

Alternate members:

- Guillaume Lepère
- Marie-Hélène Lahaye
- Jean-Yves Mercier

The organisational structure of the Permanent Secretariat in 2023:



At the end of 2023, the Permanent Secretariat had a total of 16 members of staff.

1.3. Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform (EPRIP) and EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement

The IRPC acts as secretariat for the Extended Producer Responsibility Interregional Platform, which was created in 2009 with the aim of developing a common understanding on extended producer responsibility (EPR).



The EPRIP is working hard on preparing a new EPR and Litter Cooperation Agreement. On the one hand, this agreement aims to create an interregional framework for dealing with streams other than packaging waste that are subject to the principle of EPR. On the other hand, it seeks to pass on the costs of litter to those who cause these waste streams.

This new Cooperation Agreement will incorporate the EPRIP into the IRPC, creating the new "Interregional EPR Commission", which will comprise two sections: the "Packaging decision-making body" and the "EPR decision-making body".

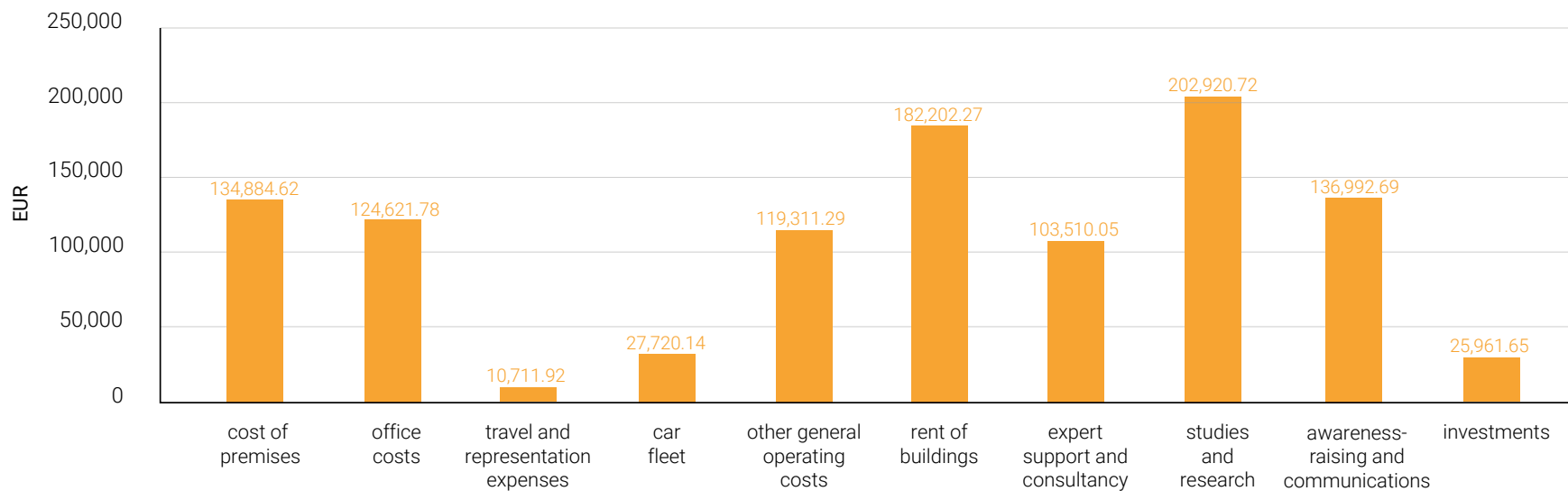
As well as finalising the Cooperation Agreement, work has already begun on preparing the implementing cooperation agreements required to apply the EPR part of the aforementioned Cooperation Agreement. The Belgian Regions have held discussions on the following streams: WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment), mattresses, textiles and used oils.

1.4. 2023 budget of the IRPC

The actual income and expenditure of the IRPC in 2023:

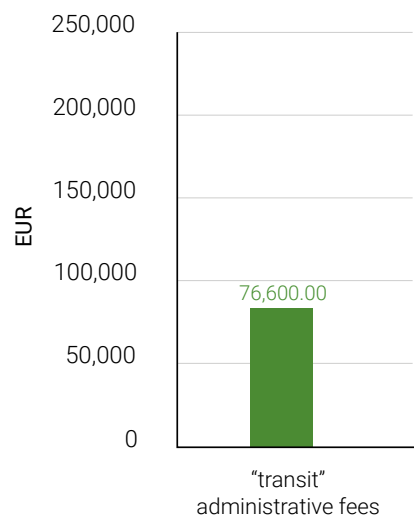
EXPENDITURE

Total: 1,068,837.13 EUR



INCOME

Total: 76,600.00 EUR





2. FOST PLUS

2.1. New accreditation

On 2 February 2024, with a slight delay, the IRPC granted a new accreditation to Fost Plus as a compliance organisation for the management of household packaging waste. This accreditation is valid from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2028 and covers the following main points:

- Baseline scenarios for the collection of household packaging waste (article 6)
- Collection and operating costs at recycling centres
- Payment of the costs of KGA/DSM/DCM-HCA collected
- “Other” waste streams collected at recycling centres
- Method for calculating recycling targets
- Sorting message
- “Materials” working group
- “Ad hoc” working group for self-management costs
- Allocation keys for paper/cardboard
- Local “bring” systems
- Overall budget for investments in collection containers and infrastructure
- Alternative collection of single-use gas cylinders
- Project monitoring costs
- Local communication costs
- Purchase and distribution of blue bags
- Sorting bonus for PMD
- Prevention and reuse
- “Overpackaging” contact point
- Out-of-home strategy
- Deposit return scheme
- Cooperation Agreement on EPR for certain waste streams and litter



PDF-DOWNLOAD

THE MAIN POINTS OF THIS NEW ACCREDITATION



2.2. Sorting and recycling

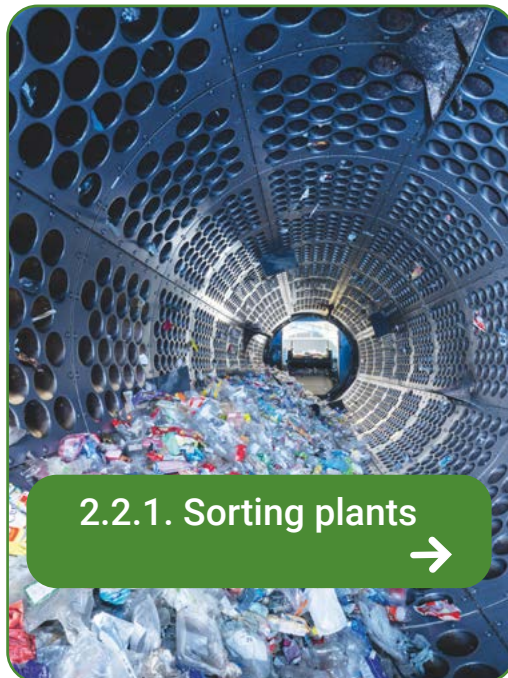
The expanded blue bag has been used throughout Belgium since the end of 2021. Since 2023 this bag has been sorted into a minimum of 16 fractions in brand-new sorting plants, with the aim of ensuring recycling of the highest possible quality. The new sorting facilities came into operation in 2021 and 2022.

The fractions concerned are:

transparent PET bottles colourless, transparent PET bottles blue, transparent PET bottles other colours, opaque PET (bottles), PET trays, HDPE, PP, PS, mixed PO, PE films, other films, drink cartons, ferrous metals, aluminium, small aluminium, residual waste.

The high-quality fractions that come out of the new sorting plants must also be recycled to the highest possible standards.

Fost Plus has therefore arranged new recycling contracts for plastics to ensure that recycling is as circular as possible. At the same time, steps have been taken to maximise the amount of recycling carried out in Belgium. This will be made possible by the construction of new recycling plants, which are either already up and running or are due to start up in 2024.



2.2.1. Sorting plants

The expanded PMD stream will be sorted entirely in Belgium. Five new sorting plants have been built for this purpose, spread across the country.

Prezero

- Evergem
- Operational since January 2021
- Annual tonnage: 78,000 tonnes

Val'Up

- Ghlin (Bergen)
- Operational since fourth quarter of 2021
- Annual tonnage: 50,000 tonnes

Valtris

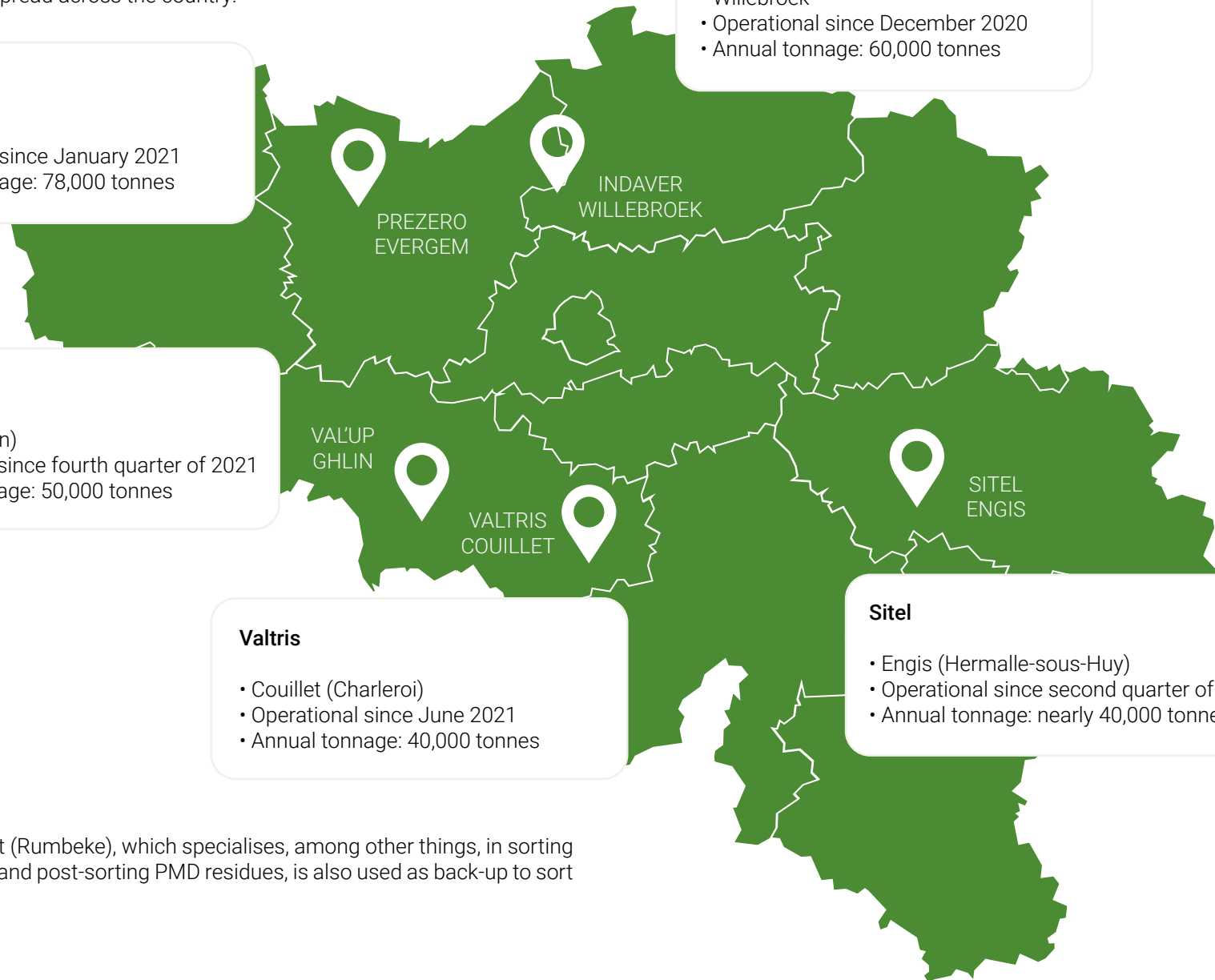
- Couillet (Charleroi)
- Operational since June 2021
- Annual tonnage: 40,000 tonnes

Indaver

- Willebroek
- Operational since December 2020
- Annual tonnage: 60,000 tonnes

Sitel

- Engis (Hermalle-sous-Huy)
- Operational since second quarter of 2023
- Annual tonnage: nearly 40,000 tonnes



Vanheede's existing sorting plant (Rumbeke), which specialises, among other things, in sorting PMD collected from companies and post-sorting PMD residues, is also used as back-up to sort the new PMD fraction.

2.2.2. Recycling plants

The various plastic streams are processed to a high standard thanks to the existence of new (or rebuilt) recycling centres in Belgium and the fact that long-term contracts have been signed. Belgium is thus focusing on recycling within its national borders to ensure optimal quality and control.

Filao

Recycling of PET bottles. Colourless transparent PET bottles and blue transparent PET bottles are transformed into high-quality recycled PET for food-safe applications. The recycled PET, or rPET, is then placed back on the Belgian market, for instance by being used for the bottled water of various Sources Alma brands and the brands of their retail partners.

- Couillet (Charleroi)
- Operational since 2023
- Annual tonnage: 40,000 tonnes

Ecoo Beringen

PE film-to-film recycling. Household packaging films are turned into bin liners and packaging films or used for other film applications.

- Beringen
- Operational since May 2022
- Annual tonnage: 42,000 tonnes

ECOO
BERINGEN

ECOO
HOUTHALEN-
HELCHTEREN

Ecoo Houthalen

Recycling of mixed plastics: MPO (mixed polyolefins) and mixed films (other than PE films). Mixed films and MPO plastics are recycled into MPO regrind (400-2000 microns), MPO agglomerate and regrind for industrial applications, such as compost bins, sustainable garden edging and benches.

- Houthalen-Helchteren
- New line operational since January 2021
- Annual tonnage: 24,000 tonnes (this capacity may be increased by adding a third line)

FILAO
COUILLET

MOPET BELGIQUE
NEUFCHÂTEAU

Mopet Belgique

Recycling of PET trays, blue transparent PET bottles, other colours of transparent PET bottles and opaque PET bottles. The PET trays will become new PET trays, and the bottles will be turned into new bottles. Very high percentages of these products are re-entering the Belgian market.

- Neufchâteau
- Operational in 2024
- Annual tonnage: 28,000 tonnes



A new recycling plant is also being built in Lommel for PP and HDPE and should be operational by mid-2025.

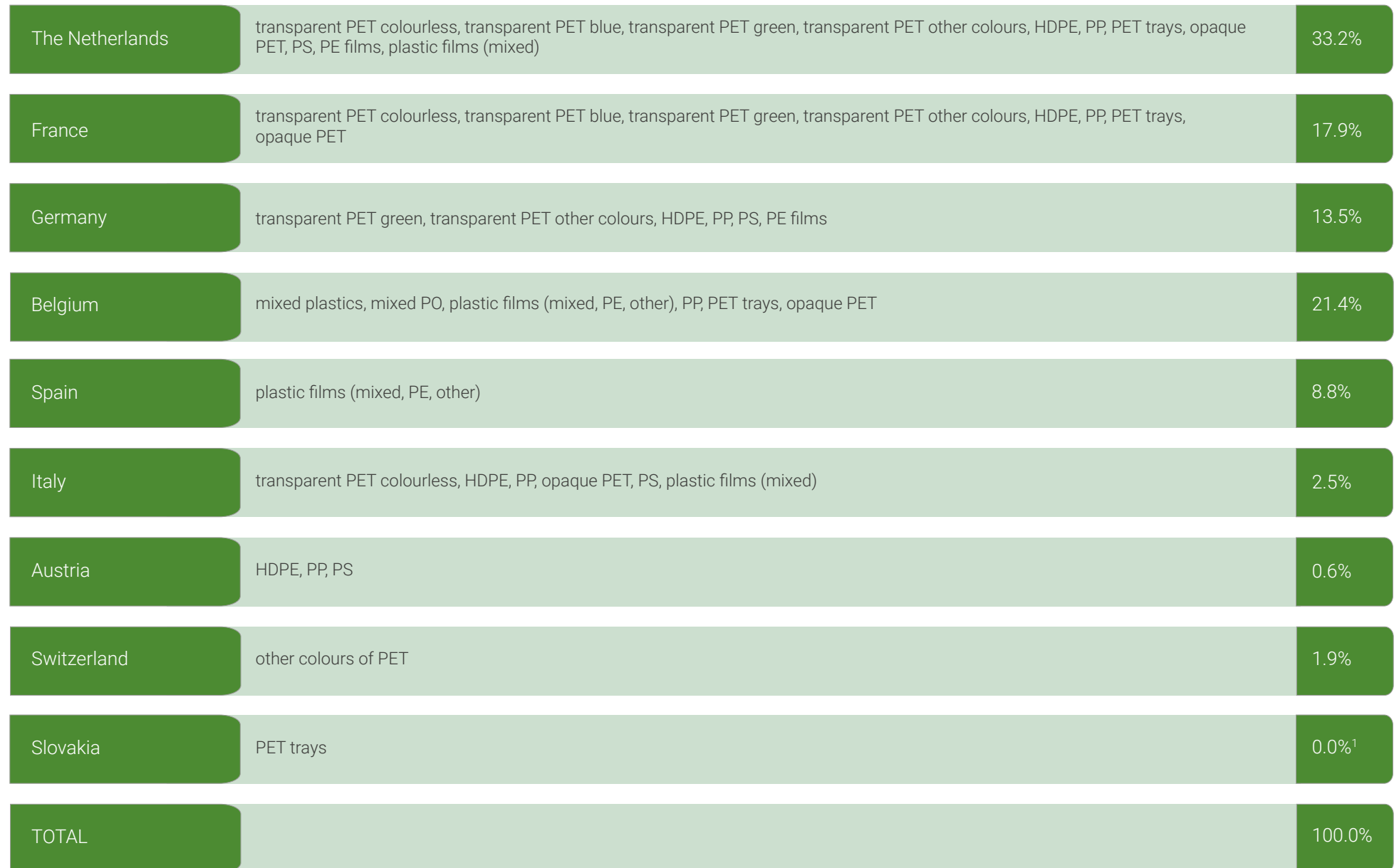
2.2.3. Recycling situation in 2022

Currently, Fost Plus packaging waste is already recycled only in the European Union and 81% is even recycled in Belgium.

Proportion per material as %	Belgium	France	Germany	The Netherlands	Spain	Italy	Switzerland	Austria	Slovakia	Total %
Glass	97.6	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Paper/Cardboard	93.9	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Drink cartons	0.1	54.8	32.9	0.0	12.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Aluminium	84.8	0.0	15.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Ferrous metals	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Plastic	21.4	17.9	13.5	33.2	8.8	2.5	1.9	0.6	0.0 ¹	100.0
Total	81.5	4.0	3.3	8.6	1.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	100.0

¹ Slovakia: 0.02%

In the case of plastic packaging waste, only 21% of recycling took place in Belgium in 2022 (Ecoo). This is because many of our new recycling plants were still under construction.



¹ Slovakia: 0.02%



3. VALIPAC

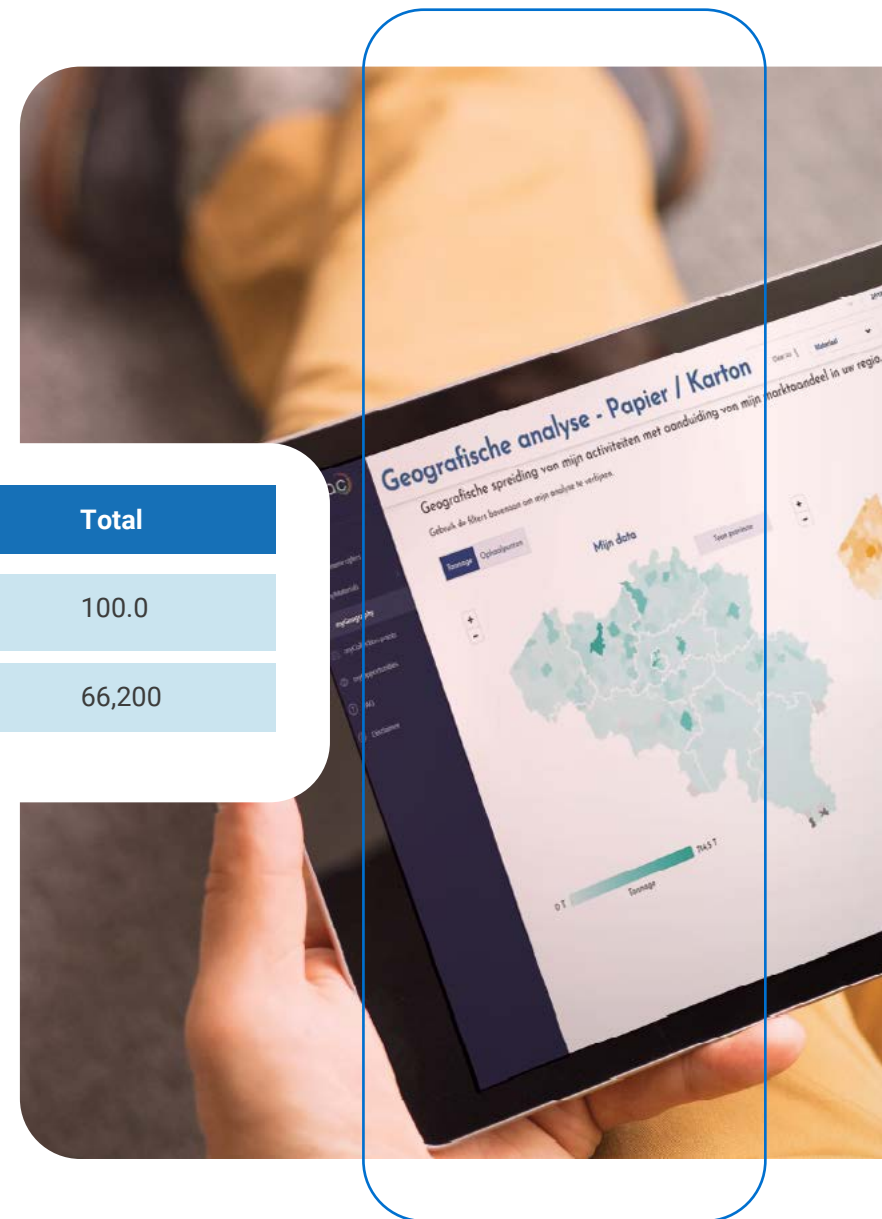
3.1. Results of mapping in 2023

The annual mapping report systematically documents recycling channels, from collectors and traders to final recyclers. In total, the route taken by 66,200 tonnes of industrial and commercial plastic packaging waste was fully mapped in 2023 for the 2022 operating year. This waste was recycled in Europe, the Far East or the Middle East (mainly Turkey). The total quantity recorded increased compared with the mapping reports in 2021 (+9,800 tonnes) and 2022 (+3,100 tonnes). Europe accounted for the increase, while the Far East and Turkey slightly lost ground.

	EU + UK	Far East	Middle East	Total
Market share (%)	50.6	32.3	17.2	100.0
Quantity (tonnes)	33,500	21,350	11,350	66,200

Combined with the quantity of waste (31%) going directly to final processors, trading efforts in 2023 take overall traceability of **plastic** waste for 2022 to more than 98.6%.

In 2022, 78.6% of recycled **cardboard** went directly to a final purchaser, and 7% was sold by traders with whom Valipac has a contract. The accredited compliance organisation ended 2023 with 7 contracts with cardboard traders. This meant that Valipac achieved a traceability level of 95.2% for 2022, and its efforts in this area continue unabated.



3.2. Audit results

Since 2021 the accredited compliance organisation has been arranging audits of recycling companies located outside the EU. This concerns both plastic and paper/cardboard.

In 2023 Valipac commissioned 39 audits of companies recycling industrial and commercial plastic waste, thanks to contracts with 20 plastic traders. This took the total number of non-EU companies already audited to 72 (including 8 two-yearly re-audits of previously audited purchasers). The substantial budget allocated by Valipac for this purpose, coupled with the desire of some European EPR organisations to work together, led to a formal collaboration with the Afvalfonds Verpakkingen (waste packaging fund) in the Netherlands in 2023, which will see concrete results in 2024 with 26 planned audits outside the EU. Collectors, traders and final processors will also gradually benefit from more effective auditing of treatment channels. Valipac expects to see significant, but slow, progress in this area.

In its 2023 results, Valipac takes into account the quantities of plastic that recycling companies outside the EU have accepted, but that cannot be included in the recycling results because of minimum criteria and an adverse audit report.

The number of red-flagged companies (i.e. those with an adverse audit opinion) for plastic was seven by the end of 2023. Valipac disseminates this blacklist to traders to make them aware of the problem and encourage them to remedy the situation. Waste operators can log on to a web application and check scores to encourage them to exclude purchasers who trade with blacklisted companies. This also enables operators to guarantee maximum recycling incentives for unpackers.



3.3. Overview of final recycling destinations

The various materials had the following destinations in 2022:

in %	Wood	Paper/Cardboard	Plastic	Ferrous metals
Belgium	82.9	37.2	17.6	65.3
EU	17.1	53.1	33.1	22.6
Non-EU	0.0	9.7	49.3	12.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

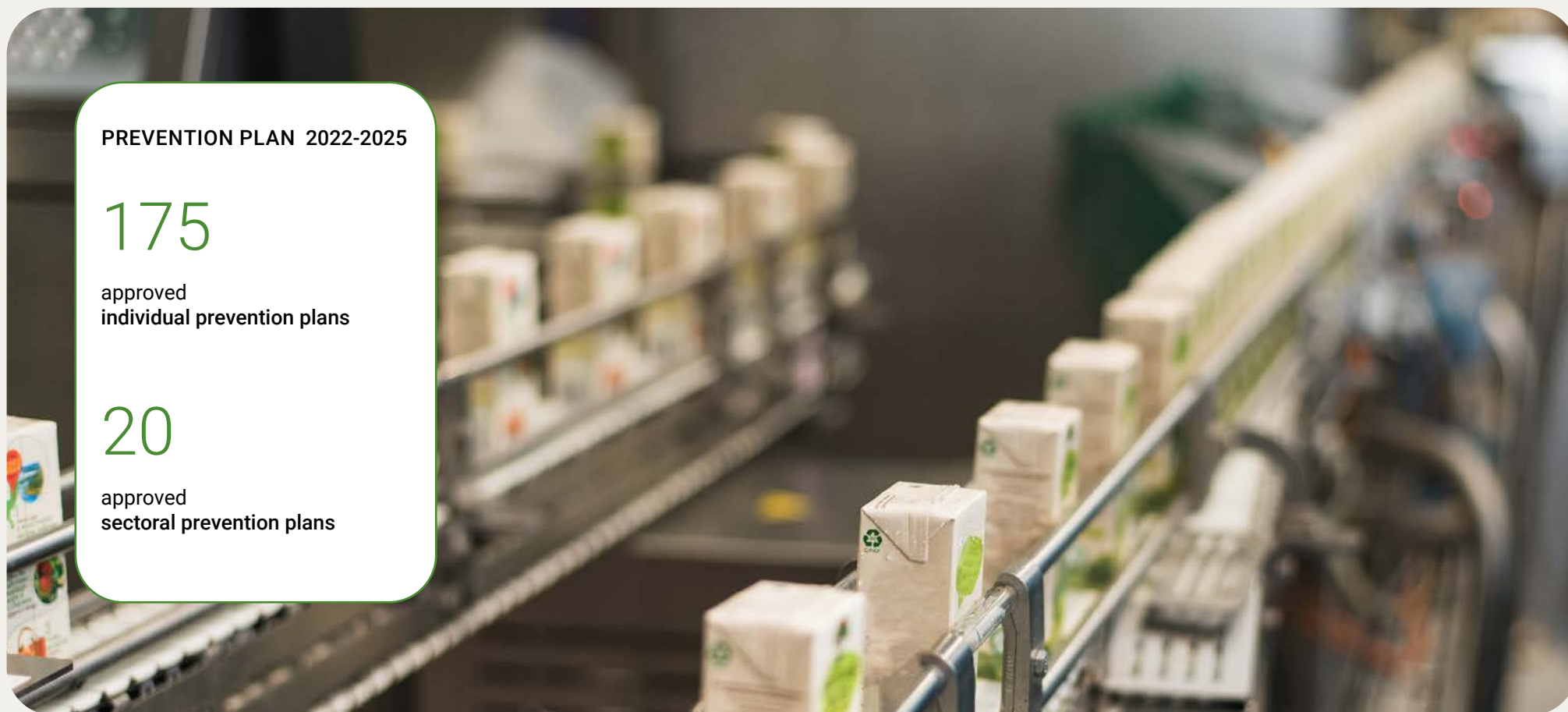




4 • PREVENTION PLANS

The packaging prevention plan is for companies that place at least 300 tonnes of one-way packaging on the Belgian market, or that package goods (or have them packaged) in Belgium for the Belgian market using a minimum of 100 tonnes of one-way packaging. The aim of the prevention plan is to make these companies think systematically about how to prevent and reduce packaging waste. They must draw up a prevention plan every three years, either by submitting it themselves to the IRPC or by being included in a sectoral prevention plan prepared by their sector federation.

Under the 2022-2025 prevention plan, 188 individual prevention plans and 20 sectoral prevention plans have been submitted.



Of the 188 individual prevention plans submitted, 175 were approved. All of the sectoral prevention plans were approved.

4.1. Individual prevention plans

Our analysis of the individual prevention plans submitted indicates that the companies concerned envisage a 6.12% reduction in packaging for the 2022-2025 campaign. Note that only quantitative preventive measures and reuse preventive measures correctly quantified by these companies could be taken into account. In actual fact, we should also factor in the measures that were not correctly quantified and the qualitative preventive measures that the companies have taken. We can therefore state that this 6.12% is an underestimation of the prevention efforts actually envisaged by these companies.

4.2. Sectoral prevention plans

As regards the sectoral prevention plans, the IRPC had set a quantitative prevention target of 5% for the 2022-2025 campaign. Four of the 20 sectoral prevention plans submitted are aiming for a higher target. As with the individual prevention plans, the IRPC could only take quantitative preventive measures and reuse measures into account, insofar as these were quantifiable, when assessing the sectoral plans. The problem of insufficient quantification is much greater for the sectoral prevention plans than for the individual ones, which means that the underestimation of the companies' actual prevention efforts is also larger.

If we disregard one large sectoral prevention plan with a definite quantification problem, the sectoral prevention plans for the 2022-2025 campaign forecast an average quantitative reduction of almost 5% (4.41%). However, including this particular sectoral prevention plan gives an estimate of only 2.12% less packaging. So the real impact of the sectoral prevention plans is definitely greater.

The IRPC will continue to stress the importance of correctly quantifying the preventive measures proposed.





5

KEY FIGURES

Overall results for Belgium

The overall results for Belgium are calculated using a European calculation method, which was completely revised as of 2020. The old European method applied up to the end of 2019 and was used to calculate the figures for that year. The new European method has applied to figures reported since the beginning of 2020.

To calculate the overall Belgian figures, only the applicable European calculation method has ever been used, without any adjustment. This explains the deviation in the trend observed in the figures for 2020, particularly for plastics. You will find these figures in Section 5.5 below.



Results of Fost Plus and Valipac

As from 2020, the IRPC chose to adapt the internal Belgian method used to calculate the results of the accredited compliance organisations Fost Plus and Valipac to incorporate some of the principles of the new European method for calculating the European recycling targets. This is the “new” method for calculating the results of Fost Plus and Valipac.

Different objectives

The separate calculations (for the results of the accredited compliance organisations Fost Plus and Valipac, on the one hand, and for the overall Belgian results, on the other) will continue to co-exist, as each has different objectives.



5.1. Fost Plus results for 2022

NEW CALCULATION METHOD

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ Cardboard (excluding drink cartons portion)	190,642	175,768	92.2	580	176,348	92.5
Paper/ Cardboard (including drink cartons portion)	201,670	185,019	91.7	931	185,950	92.2
Glass	285,156	285,156 [348,599]	100.0 [122.2]	0	285,156 [348,599]	100.0 [122.2]
Plastic (excluding drink cartons portion)	202,478	123,155	60.8	10,923	134,078	66.2
Plastic (including drink cartons portion)	206,154	124,033	60.2	12,781	136,814	66.4
Metals: ferrous metals	31,091	31,091 [32,663]	100.0 [105.1]	0	31,091 [32,663]	100.0 [105.1]
Metals: aluminium	34,937	32,791	93.9	0	32,791	93.9
Drink cartons	14,704	10,128	68.9	2,209	12,337	83.9
Other	2,444	84	3.4	0	84	3.4
Total tonnages actually recycled (without capping)	761,452	723,188	95.0	13,712	736,900	96.8

Fields shaded in grey are for information only.

Uncapped quantities and rates are in [square brackets].

The targets are 80% for recycling, and 90% for total recovery.

To enable comparison with previous years, the figures calculated using the old method are also shown below.

OLD CALCULATION METHOD

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ Cardboard (excluding drink cartons portion)	190,642	179,105	93.9	580	179,685	94.3
Paper/ Cardboard (including drink cartons portion)	201,670	191,406	94.9	931	192,337	95.4
Glass	285,156	285,156 [353,990]	100.0 [124.1]	0	285,156 [353,990]	100.0 [124.1]
Plastic (excluding drink cartons portion)	202,478	148,706	73.4	10,923	159,629	78.8
Plastic (including drink cartons portion)	206,154	152,806	74.1	11,040	163,846	79.5
Metals: ferrous metals	31,091	31,091 [32,877]	100.0 [105.7]	0	31,091 [32,877]	100.0 [105.7]
Metals: aluminium	34,937	33,164	94.9	0	33,164	94.9
Drink cartons	14,704	14,704 [16,401]	100.0 [111.5]	468	14,704 [16,869]	100.0 [114.7]
Other	2,444	106	4.3	0	106	4.3
Total tonnages actually recycled (without capping)	761,452	761,452 [764,349]	100.0 [100.4]	11,971	761,452 [776,320]	100.0 [102.0]

Fields shaded in grey are for information only.
Uncapped quantities and rates are in [square brackets].
The targets are 80% for recycling, and 90% for total recovery.

5.2. Valipac results for 2022

NEW CALCULATION METHOD

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ Cardboard	445,370	443,673	99.6	29,903	445,370 [473,576]	100.0 [106.3]
Plastic	101,786	63,217	62.1	43,533	101,786 [106,750]	100.0 [104.9]
Ferrous metals	35,820	33,405	93.3	0	33,405	93.3
Wood	184,323	157,069	85.2	52,688	184,323 [209,757]	100.0 [113.8]
Other	5,428	624	11.5	121	746	13.7
Total	772,726	697,988	90.3	126,246	765,630 [824,234]	99.1 [106.7]

Uncapped quantities and rates are in [square brackets].
The targets are 80% for recycling, and 85% for total recovery.

The new calculation method relates to the results obtained by the accredited compliance organisation under the take-back obligation set out in the Cooperation Agreement and does not include corrections for free-riders. These corrections will be made when calculating the Belgian figures to be reported to Eurostat. The new calculation method does include full corrections for product residues, increase in moisture content (compared with materials placed on the market) and sorting losses at recyclers. The quantities recycled by recyclers are calculated at the start of the recycling process, based on the various reports by and checks on waste collection services, sorting plants, traders and recyclers. In accordance with the new calculation method, ferrous metals recovered from incinerator scrap are limited to the estimated quantities of metal packaging waste in the streams destined for incineration, and to which the average extraction rate of the ferrous metal processing plants (0.85) is then applied. Where necessary, all figures are capped at 100%.

To enable comparison with previous years, the figures calculated using the old method are also shown below.

OLD CALCULATION METHOD

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ Cardboard	445,370	445,370 [456,984]	100.0 [102.6]	29,903	445,370 [486,887]	100.0 [109.3]
Plastic	101,786	63,854	62.7	43,533	101,786 [107,387]	100.0 [105.5]
Ferrous metals	35,820	33,405	93.3	0	33,405	93.3
Wood	184,323	159,368	86.4	52,688	184,323 [212,056]	100.0 [115.0]
Other	5,428	624	11.5	121	746	13.7
Total	772,726	714,235	92.4	126,246	824,234 [840,481]	100.0 [108.8]

Uncapped quantities and rates are in [square brackets].
The targets are 80% for recycling, and 85% for total recovery.

The old calculation method does not include corrections for free-riders, but it does make partial corrections for product residues, increase in moisture content (compared with materials placed on the market) and sorting losses at recyclers. The quantities recycled by recyclers are calculated at the start of the recycling process, based on the various reports by and checks on waste collection services, sorting plants, traders and recyclers. In accordance with the new calculation method, ferrous metals recovered from incinerator scrap are limited to the estimated quantities of metal packaging waste in the streams destined for incineration, and to which the average extraction rate of the ferrous metal processing plants (0.85) is then applied. Where necessary, all figures are capped at 100%.

5.3. Results of the individual responsible companies in 2022

A total of 72 companies fulfilled the take-back obligation for 2022 themselves. This mainly concerns industrial and commercial packaging waste.

The table below shows the tonnages and rates obtained after analysing all declarations for 2022 and applying the new calculation method. The declarations were corrected to comply with the European calculation method.

	Paper/Cardboard	Plastic	Ferrous metals	Wood	Other materials	TOTAL
Quantity of packaging placed on the Belgian market (in tonnes)	32,153	2,238	429	18,334	884	54,038
Recycling (in tonnes)	29,753	2,072	427	15,653	684	48,589
Incineration with energy recovery (in tonnes)	29	79	0	281	10	399
Recycling rate (in %)	92.5	92.6	99.7	85.4	77.4	89.9
Recycling and recovery rate (in %)	92.6	96.1	99.7	86.9	78.5	90.7

5.4. Beverage packaging figures

Article 13(1) of the Cooperation Agreement sets a collection and recycling target of 90% for beverage packaging from 2022.

The table shows the quantities of beverage packaging collected and recycled in 2022 for Fost Plus members.

The figures comply with the new European calculation method (deduction of contamination, moisture content, etc.).



	Recycling compared to Fost Plus members – Capped (%)	Recycling compared to Fost Plus members – Capped (tonnes)
PET drink bottles	80.8	42,825
HDPE drink bottles	100.0	3,223
Metal beverage packaging	93.2 ¹ (64.2 ²)	26,370 ¹ (18,159 ²)
Drink cartons	88.3	9,087
Glass bottles	100.0	184,544
TOTAL Beverage packaging	95.2	266,049

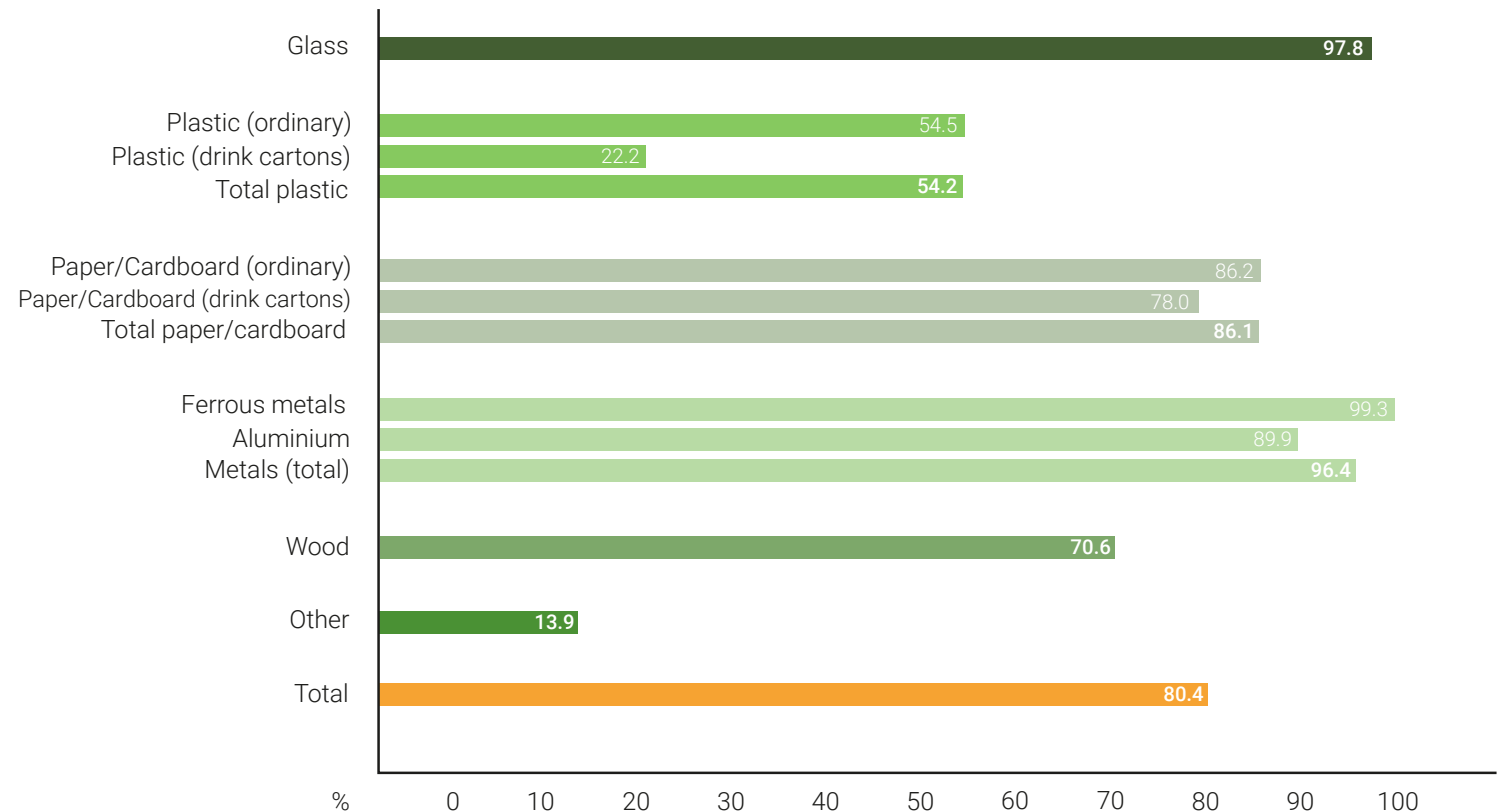
¹Including ferrous metal materials recovered from incinerator scrap.

²Excluding ferrous metal materials recovered from incinerator scrap.

5.5. Overall results for 2022 – Belgian recycling figures (in percentages)

Due to the specific calculation method used for the European figures, the overall Belgian results cannot be compared with those of the accredited compliance organisations and the individual responsible companies. The figures that Belgium has to report to Eurostat (the European Commission) are not merely the sum of the one-way packaging placed on the market and recycled by the accredited compliance organisations and the individual responsible companies; they also take into account free-riders, parallel imports (imports by private individuals), etc. In addition, reusable packaging placed on the market for the first time or taken out of circulation is also included.

We applied the new European calculation method in its entirety.



Recycling trends in Belgium in percentages

Reporting year →	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Glass	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	96.9	97.5	97.8
Plastic (ordinary)	42.6	43.4	44.5	42.4	47.3	45.2	49.6	54.5
Plastic Drink cartons ¹	---	---	---	---	---	0.0	14.7	22.2
Plastic (total)	42.6	43.4	44.5	42.4	47.3	44.7	49.2	54.2
Paper/Cardboard (ordinary)	90.7	89.2	93.0	95.7	92.3	89.7	88.7	86.2
Paper/Cardboard Drink cartons ¹	88.6	97.3	89.3	93.3	93.8	72.3	82.8	78.0
Paper/Cardboard (total)	90.7	89.2	93.0	95.7	92.3	89.3	88.6	86.1
Ferrous metals ²	---	---	---	---	---	98.3	99.1	99.3
Aluminium ²	---	---	---	---	---	88.7	89.7	89.9
Metals ² (total)	98.1	98.3	98.5	98.2	95.1	96.2	96.6	96.4
Wood	74.9	80.9	83.7	90.6	80.5	71.6	71.8	70.6
Other	5.5	3.2	6.2	6.7	6.3	5.7	4.3	13.9
TOTAL	81.5	81.9	83.8	85.3	83.5	79.7	80.4	80.4

¹ Since the 2020 reporting year, drink cartons have been split into two fractions in the figures reported to the EU: a paper/cardboard fraction (added to the paper/cardboard total) and a PolyAl fraction (added to the plastic total), for which recycling must be demonstrated separately.

² Since the 2020 reporting year, the "metals (total)" stream has been separated into a ferrous metal fraction and an aluminium fraction..



Total quantity recycled in tonnes, pallet repair included

Reporting year	Total
2015	1,427,814
2016	1,458,417
2017	1,491,975
2018	1,534,745
2019	1,541,551
2020	1,575,268
2021	1,628,806
2022	1,600,665



ADDITIONAL DATA ON
**ACCREDITED
COMPLIANCE
6. ORGANISATIONS**

6.1. Fost Plus reference costs (for collection and sorting) for 2023 and 2024

The IRPC determined the reference costs for 2023 as follows:

2023	Bottle banks/ Kerbside (EUR/tonne)	Recycling centres (EUR/tonne)	Total (EUR/tonne)
Glass	62.54	44.54	61.36
Paper/Cardboard	106.97	59.12	96.70
PMD collection	239.25	157.40	235.60
PMD sorting	---	---	280.66

The IRPC determined the reference costs for 2024 as follows:

2024	Bottle banks/ Kerbside (EUR/tonne)	Recycling centres (EUR/tonne)	Total (EUR/tonne)
Glass	65.22	44.57	64.22
Paper/Cardboard	117.10	64.39	105.97
PMD collection	254.73	163.99	250.69
PMD sorting	---	---	285.56

For a detailed overview of these reference costs and further information about how they are calculated, please refer to the data sheet available on our website.

6.2. Payments to unpackers by Valipac in 2023

In 2023 Valipac reported on the payment of incentives for 2022.

In all, 44,516 certificates were approved for 2022, representing a total amount of EUR 8.18 million. Not all of the approved certificates are actually paid out, as a large proportion of the bonuses approved by Valipac are not claimed by the unpackers concerned. The amount paid out for 2022 was EUR 4.68 million.



Each year, Valipac also monitors the distribution of bonuses between the different business sectors.

Half of the bonuses paid out go to unpackers with fewer than 50 employees (very small SMEs with fewer than 10 employees + SMEs).

In contrast, large companies (with more than 200 employees) receive 32% of the bonuses based on just 5.5% of the certificates.

6.3. Value of the materials:

• Reference values Fost Plus 2023

Material (selectively collected and sorted)
Average price (EUR/tonne)



• Value of industrial and commercial packaging waste in 2023

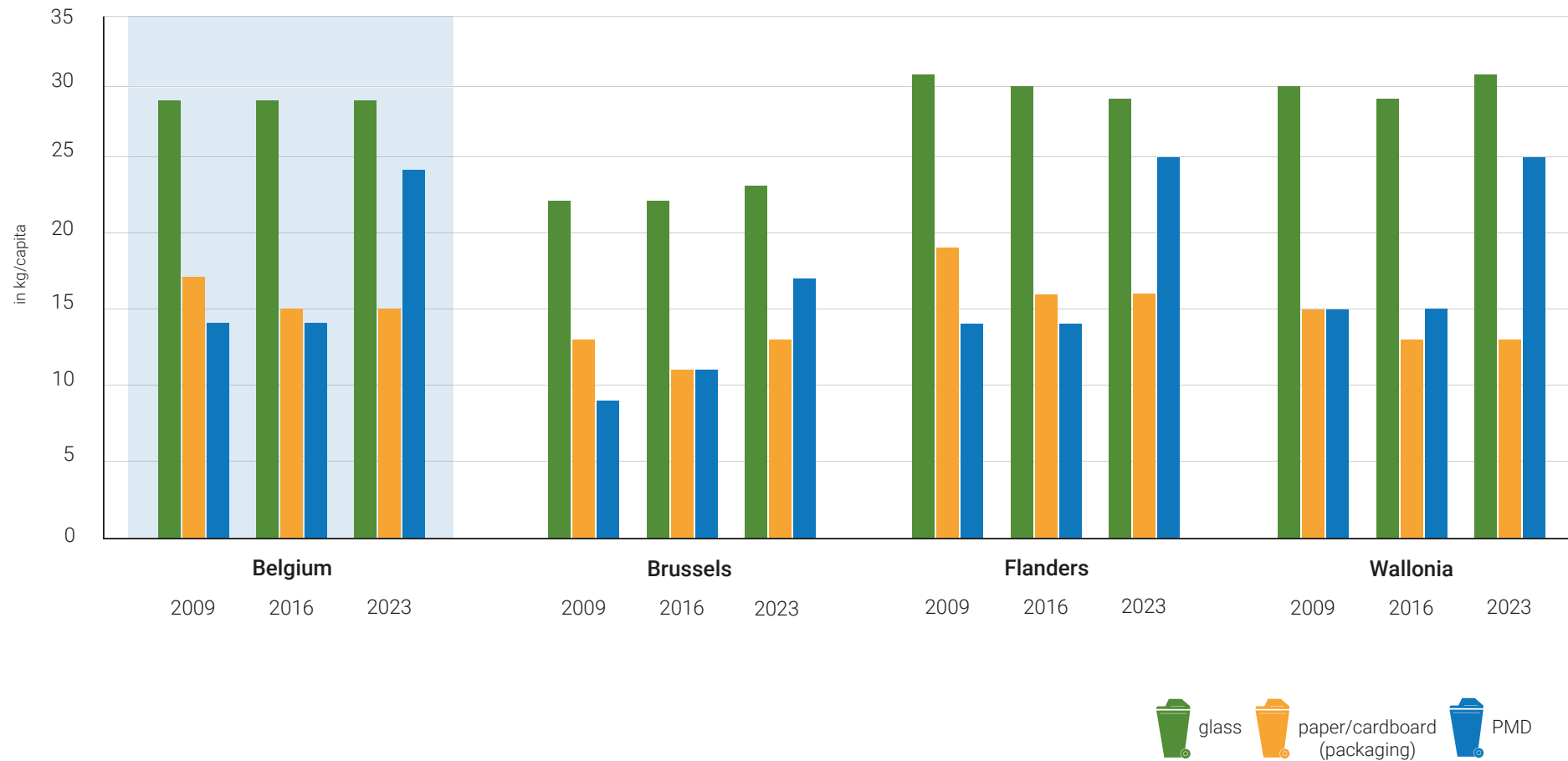
Each year, Valipac produces a report on the sales prices of secondary raw materials: paper/ cardboard, metal, wood (separated into pallets and wood chips) and plastics (separated into films and HDPE). The following **sales prices** were set for 2023:

	Minimum price (€/tonne)	Maximum price (€/tonne)
Paper/Cardboard	60	85
Plastic (HDPE)	670	780
Plastic (clear LDPE)	460	650
Plastic (cling film/coloured film)	80	170
Metal	160	270
Wood (A-grade wood chips)	15	50
Wood (pallets)	195 (reference market: France) 320 (reference market: Germany)	228 (reference market: France) 480 (reference market: Germany)



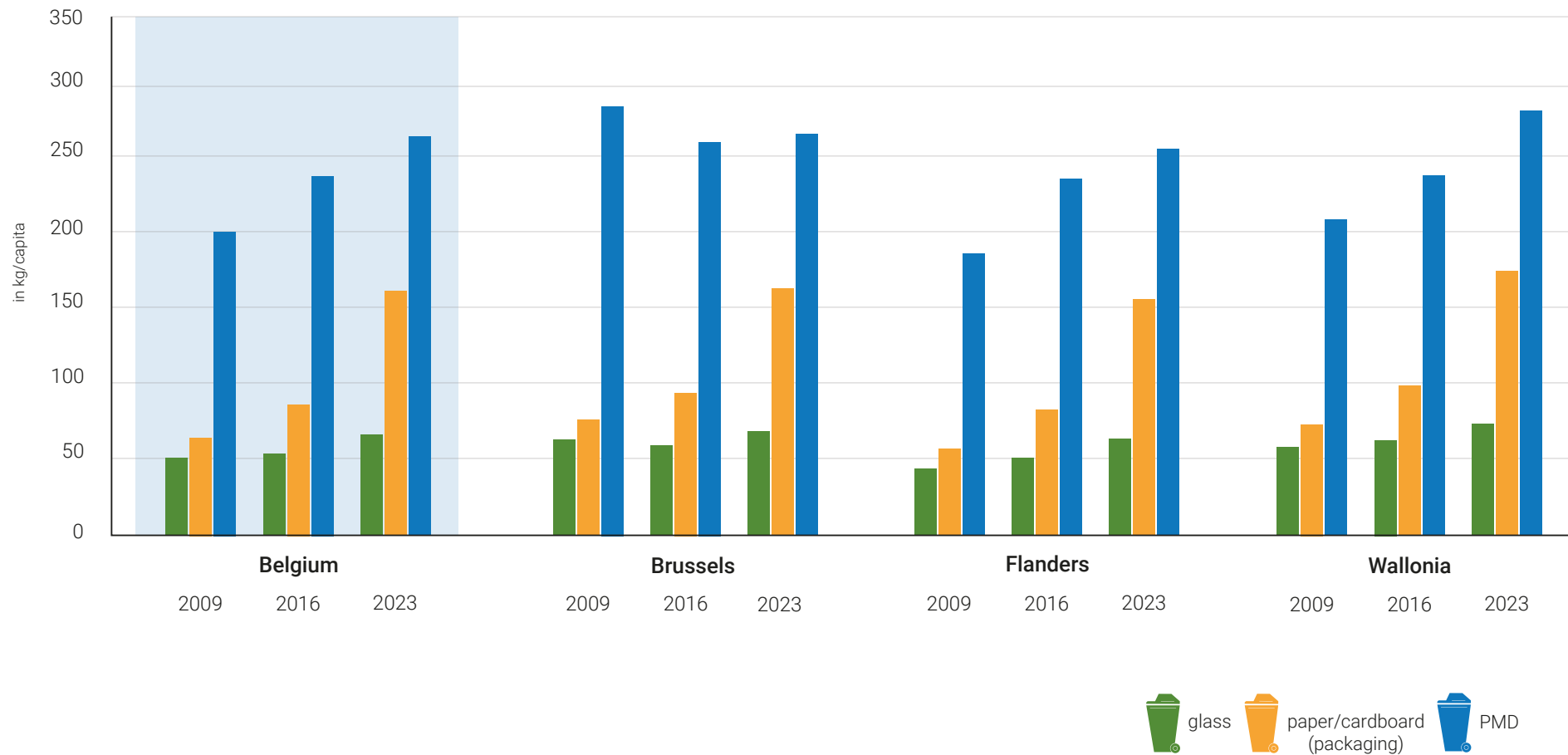
6.4. Collection of household packaging waste

Trend in the **collection results** per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole (in kg/capita)



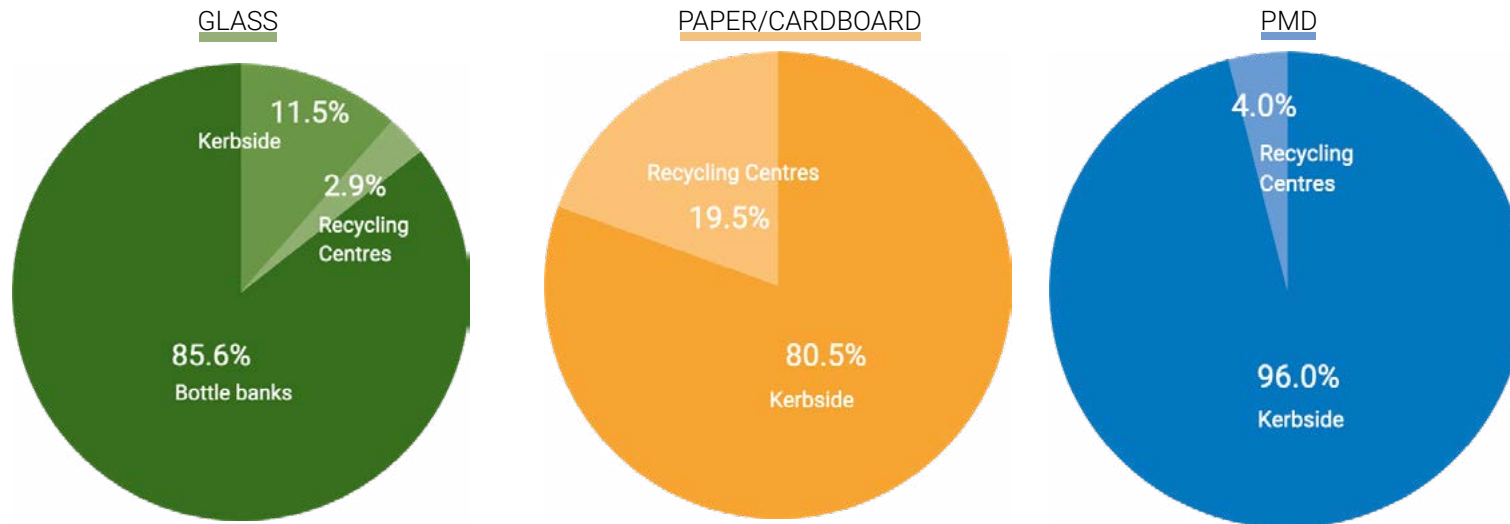
6.5. Collection cost of household packaging waste

Trend in the **collection cost** per material, per Region and for Belgium as a whole (in kg/capita)

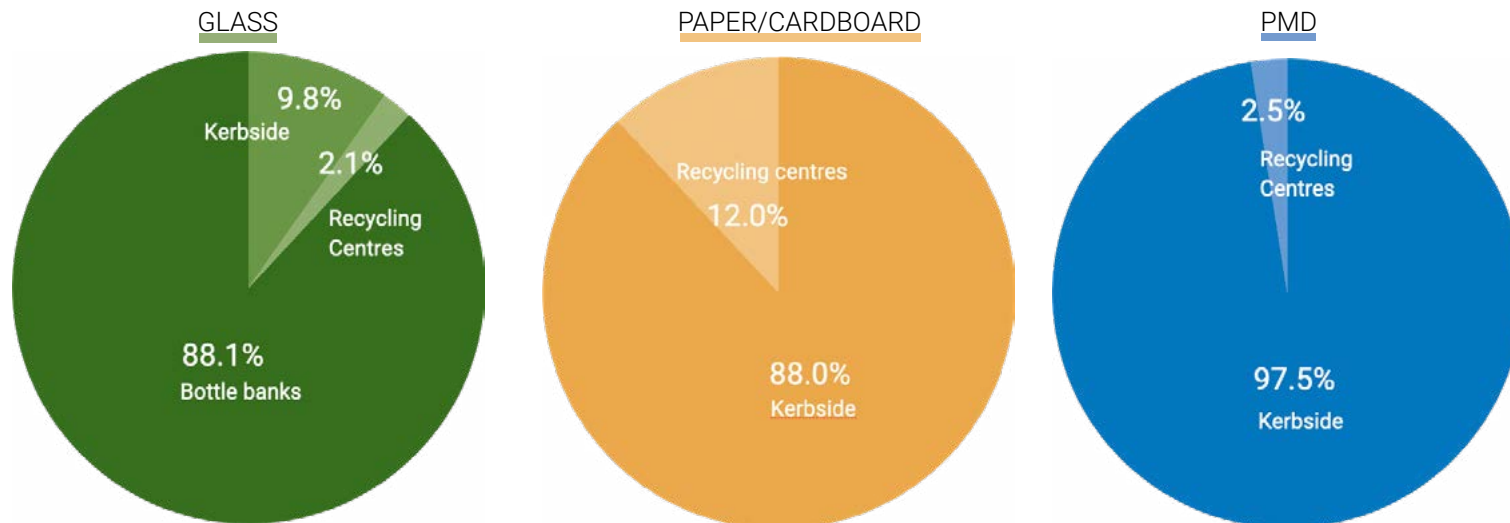


6.6. Collection methods for household packaging waste

Per fraction, proportion of the **result** achieved by each collection method in 2023



Per fraction, proportion of the **cost** incurred by each collection method in 2023





7

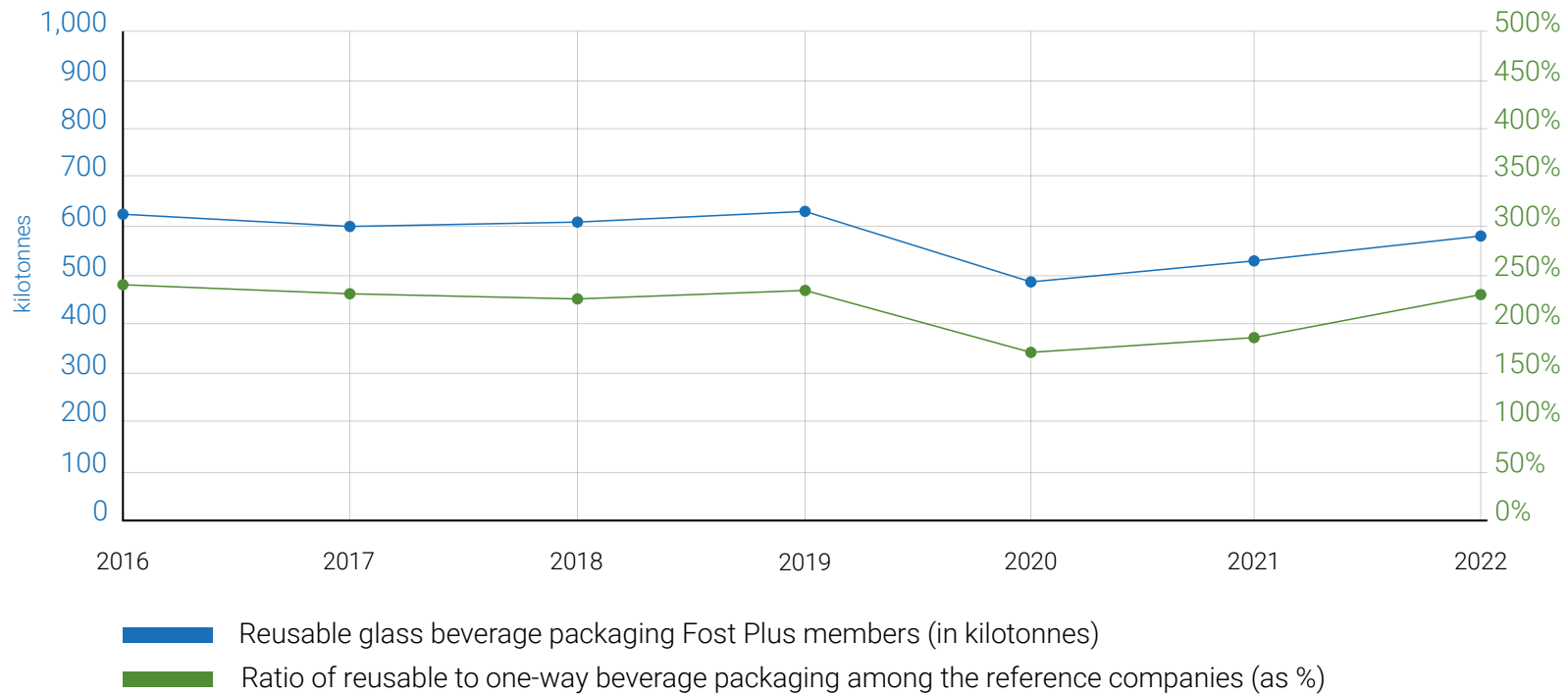
MONITORING OF
**REUSABLE
PACKAGING**

There is a great deal of reusable packaging on the market. This is mainly reusable industrial and commercial packaging that has great growth potential for the future.

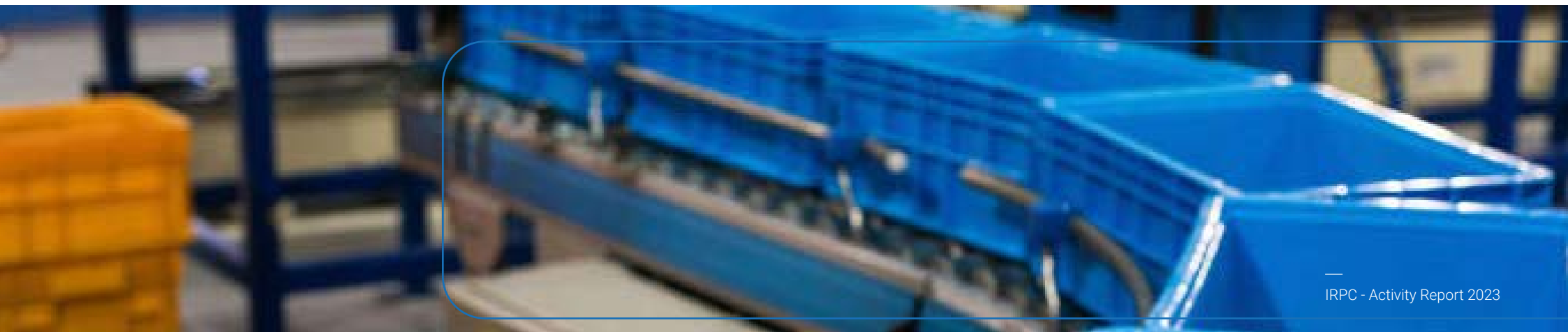
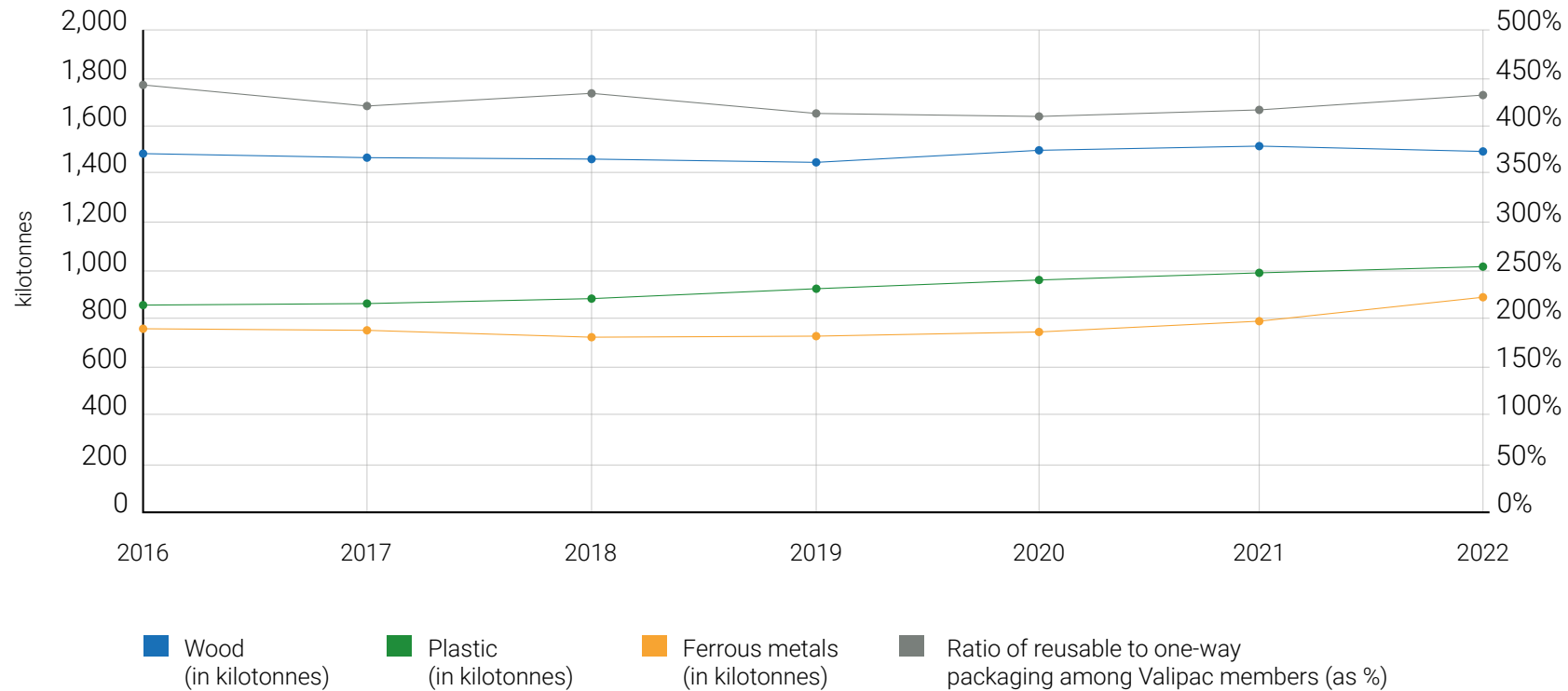
	Household packaging waste (in kilotonnes)	Industrial/commercial packaging waste (in kilotonnes)
One-way packaging	761	773
Reusable packaging	588	3,434



7.1. Overall trend in reusable household packaging



7.2. Overall trend in reusable industrial and commercial packaging





8 WASTE
TRANSIT

The IRPC assesses and processes notifications and registers shipment declarations of waste that is subject to the notification procedure and that is only in transit through Belgium. The waste in question does not therefore originate from Belgium, and Belgium is not its final destination either. With the entry into force of the Cooperation Agreement coordinating (Belgian) policy on cross-border shipments of waste, an administrative fee has also been payable for transit notifications, applicable since 1 July 2023. For more information, visit ivcie.be.

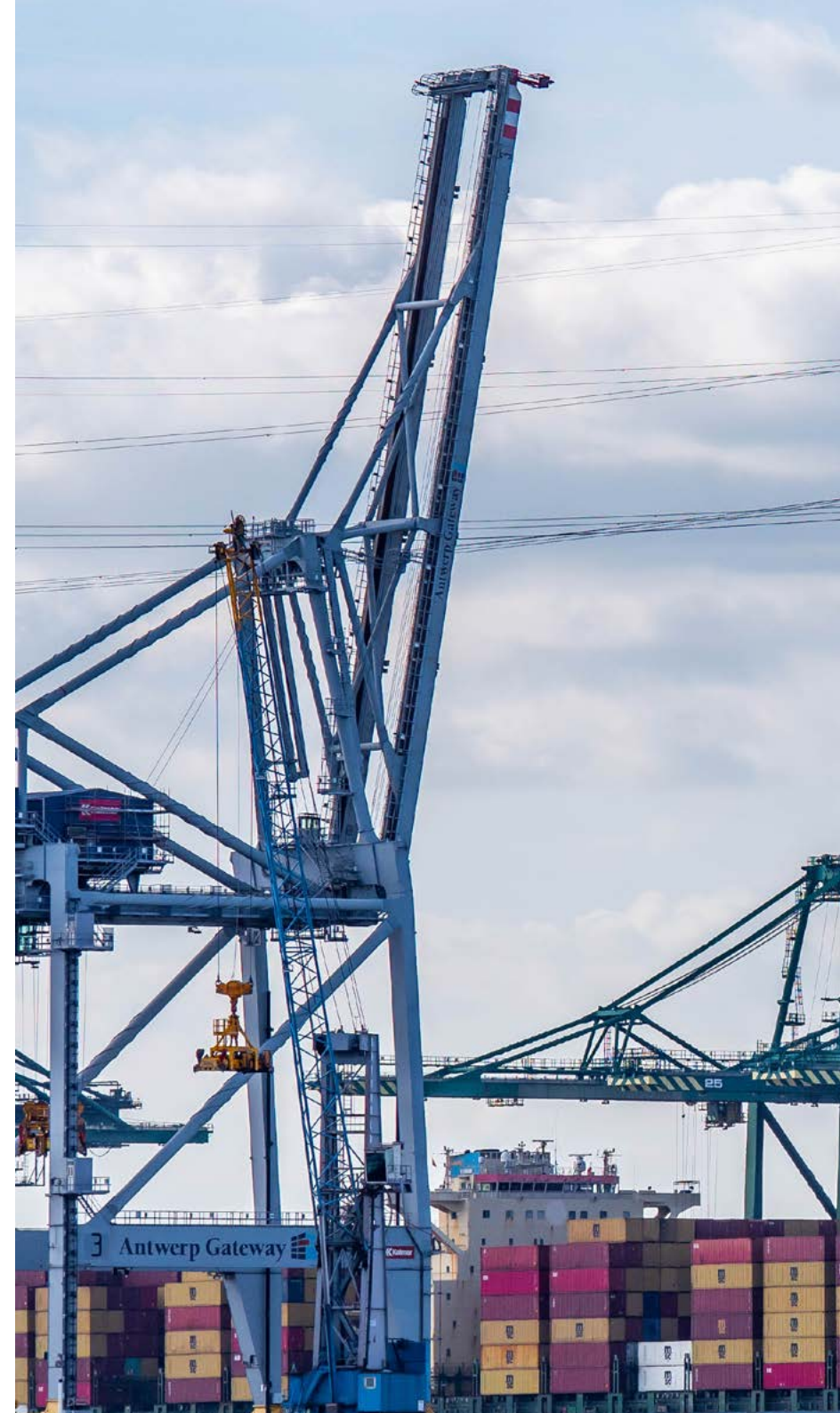
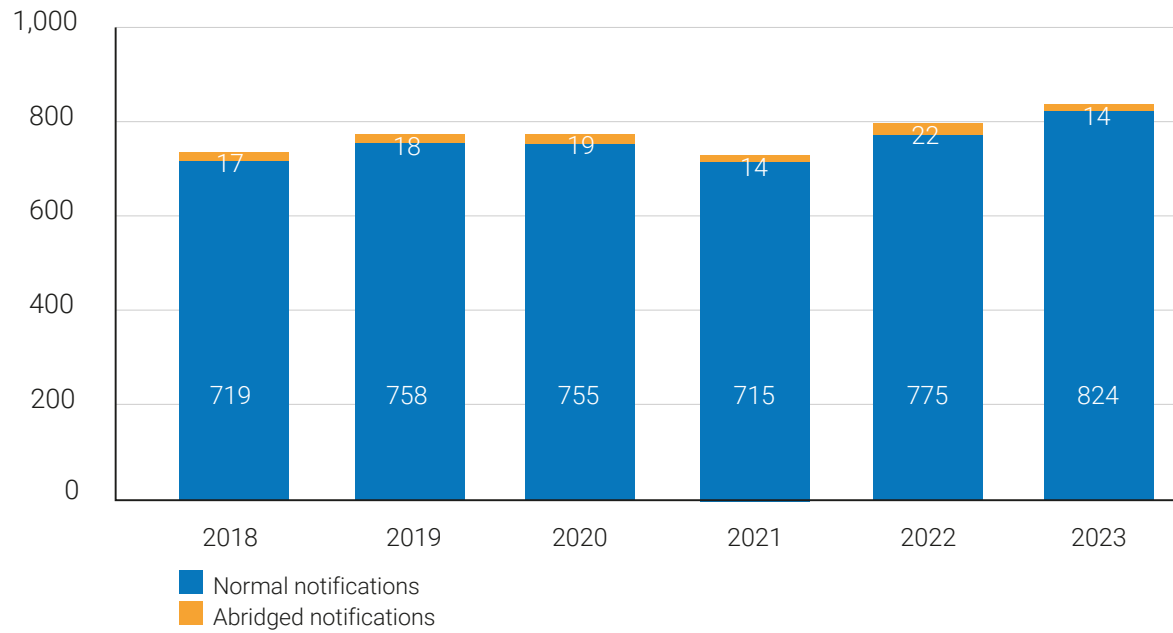
A notifier submits a notification when they wish to have a quantity of identified waste shipped during a given period of time in the future:

- ✓ spread over one or more separate shipments;
- ✓ via the same shipment routes each time;
- ✓ from the same point of departure, to the same destination and with the same type of content.

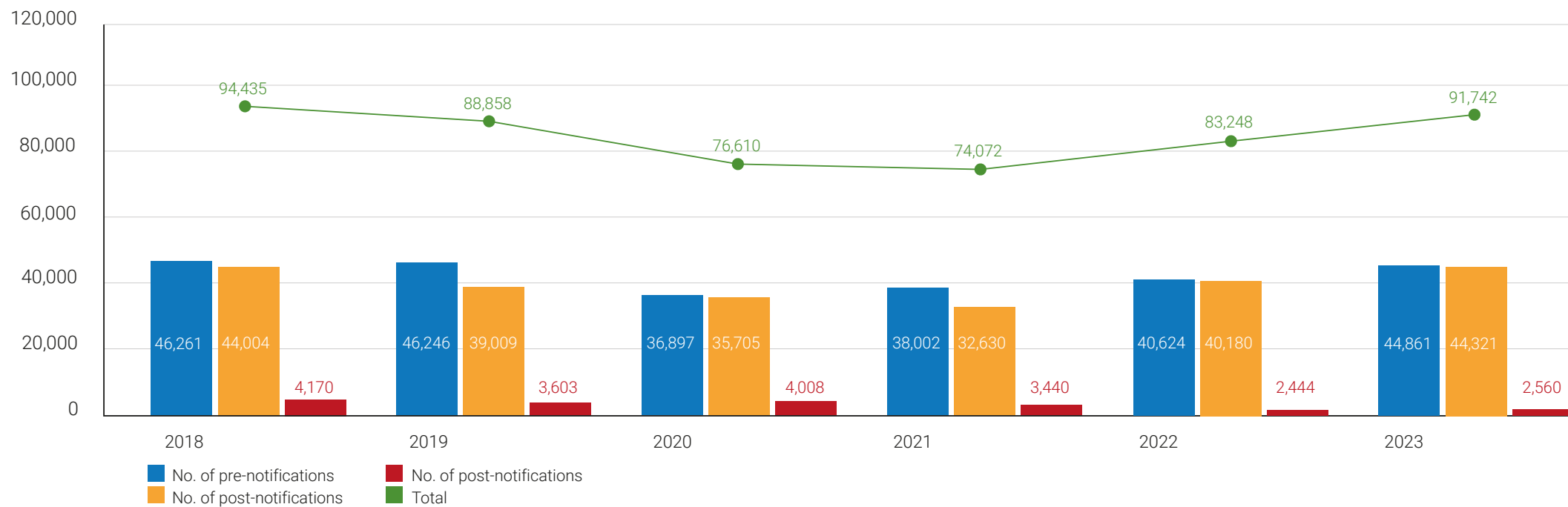
As the Belgian transit authority, the IRPC must receive and process all notifications. Henceforth, this will also include preparing and sending an invoice. Only once payment has been received can the IRPC grant approval and the shipments concerned may go ahead.



8.1. Trend in the number of notifications



8.2. Trend in the number of shipments registered





IRPC
Rue Gaucheret 92/94
B-1030 Brussels

Published by Marc Adams

Follow us on



www.ivcie.be