

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Aluminium cans recycling close to 60%!**

**The overall recycling rate for aluminium beverage cans in Western Europe considerably improved in 2006 and stands now at 57,7%, an increase by nearly 6% compared to the 52% result in 2005. This is mainly due to the numerous well performing collection and recycling initiatives throughout Europe.**

**The total number of aluminium beverage cans consumed in Europe rose from 25.1 to 28.3 billion units, resulting in an overall aluminium share of 68% in Europe. The consumption of aluminium cans in Central & Eastern Europe grew by nearly 1.4 billion units to a total number 10 billion cans, an increase of more than 15% compared to the year 2005!**

The aluminium beverage can market grew in most Western European countries, with record sales in the Scandinavian and the Benelux countries, significant increases in the United Kingdom and Ireland and Turkey becoming a full aluminium market in 2006. The total market including Central & Eastern Europe grew by 16% to more than 32.7 billion aluminium cans. This includes also exports to non-European countries. Today, 7 out of 10 cans produced and filled in Europe are made of aluminium.

Recycling rates remain high, up to 92%, in countries with deposit or take-back systems. The deposit schemes in Northern Europe and in Germany perform very well but mixed waste and separate metal packaging waste collection schemes in other countries also experience better results. Aluminium can recycling went up in most countries but most progress was made in Belgium, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Hungary and Poland.

The high scrap value of aluminium is one of the key success factors. Collection centres obtain through the application of the latest sorting techniques a better quality of the sorted aluminium fraction and thus higher revenues. Individual collection of used aluminium cans, mainly in low-income countries in Central & Eastern Europe and in Turkey pay off and voluntary collection schemes help to raise money for charity goals and school projects.

With a considerable amount of extra recycling in addition to official recovery activities, it can be safely assumed that 7 out of 10 cans are collected and recycled.

Recycling of used aluminium beverage cans saves up to 95% energy. Recycled aluminium cans are used again for the production of new cans or for the production of other valuable aluminium products such as engine blocks, building facades or bicycles.

In Europe about 50% of all aluminium used for the production of new beverage cans and other aluminium packaging products comes from recycled aluminium. This corresponds with a saving of over 8kg of greenhouse gases per kg of aluminium produced.

#### **For further information please contact:**

Mr. Maarten G. Labberton

Phone: +32 2 775 63 19

E-mail: [labberton@eaa.be](mailto:labberton@eaa.be)

**Annex + Graph: detailed overview per country**

## Aluminium Beverage Can Usage and Recycling 2006<sup>1</sup>

Country	Units per capita / year	Aluminium Share (%)	Recycling Rate (%)	Comments
Austria	78	88	50 <sup>2</sup>	
Belgium (+Lux.)	27	40	91 <sup>3</sup>	
Denmark	102	100	86 <sup>4</sup>	Deposit scheme
Finland	66	100	86	Deposit scheme
France	14	30	40 <sup>5</sup>	
Germany	3	50	89	Deposit scheme
Greece	86	92	36 <sup>6</sup>	
Ireland	112	85	48 <sup>7</sup>	
Italy	37	95	49 <sup>8</sup>	
Netherlands	15	20	83 <sup>9</sup>	
Norway (+Iceland)	62	100	92	Deposit scheme
Portugal	14	25	31 <sup>10</sup>	
Spain	32	17	52 <sup>11</sup>	
Sweden	127	100	85	Deposit scheme
Switzerland	55	100	90	Levy based system
United Kingdom	105	78	48 <sup>12</sup>	
Turkey	24	100	75	including unregistered collection & recycling
<b>Western Europe (total consumption)</b>	<b>18.360 billion (40 cans c/y)</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>57,7%</b>	<b>excluding unregistered collection &amp; recycling</b>
Poland	79	98	65	excluded
Hungary	54	98	42	excluded
Russia	33	100	75	including unregistered collection & recycling
Other Central & Eastern Europe	14	97	75	including unregistered collection & recycling
<b>Total Central &amp; Eastern Europe</b>	<b>10.0 billion (30 cans c/y)</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>75%</b>	included
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>28.360 billion (35 cans c/y)</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>including unregistered collection &amp; recycling</b>

### Notes to the Editor:

A detailed overview per country is provided above. For the sake of consistency with official data, the UBC recycling rates per country is sometimes referred to as "the rate for the whole metal fraction" or otherwise (see footnotes).

*Aluminium is all around us. It is light and strong, corrosion resistant and durable, formable and highly conductive; it has natural shine and is 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 236,000 people.*

<sup>1</sup> Estimated, for EU 27, EFTA countries, Turkey and other Central & Eastern European countries, including tax free trade on airports, ferries, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Green Dot Scheme, recycling rate for the whole metal packaging stream counted as one fraction

<sup>3</sup> Green Dot Scheme, average for all packaging

<sup>4</sup> Cans within the deposit scheme only, assumed similar recycling rate for border trade cans

<sup>5</sup> Green Dot Scheme, estimated results within the whole metal packaging stream

<sup>6</sup> Combined results aluminium beverage can (Green Dot Scheme & industry collection data)

<sup>7</sup> Green Dot Scheme, assuming most aluminium packaging scrap consists of used beverage cans

<sup>8</sup> Estimated results of the whole aluminium packaging stream

<sup>9</sup> Estimated Results of the whole metal packaging stream (metals packaging industry data)

<sup>10</sup> Green Dot Scheme, recycling rate for the whole metal packaging stream

<sup>11</sup> Combined results aluminium beverage can (Green Dot Scheme & industry study)

<sup>12</sup> Packaging Recovery Notes (PRN) Trading only

**Graph**

**Aluminium beverage can consumption per capita versus aluminium can recycling – results per country and per region (European Aluminium Association (EAA), 2006)**

