

Green light for the industrialization of a French recycling stream for household polystyrene (PS) packaging

Paris, 2022, January, the 27th - After 18 months of work validating the relevance and technical and economic feasibility of creating a French PS packaging recycling industry, the PS25 consortium has formally confirmed its ambition and committed to participate in the financing of the industry's scale-up. This sector will enable PS packaging to be part of a circular economy, to reduce their environmental impact and to achieve the objectives of the “AGEC” law to control and reduce the amount of virgin plastics placed on the market.

A relevant and technologically feasible sector

The work carried out by the PS25 Consortium covered all the stages of the PS recycling value chain. Its conclusions are very clear as to the technical and economic feasibility of creating a PS packaging recycling sector

- **The amount of household packaging in PS is sufficient to allow a recycling sector to be set up and to scale-up.** More than 100,000 tons are put on the market each year in France today. The deposit is guaranteed by the commitment of the companies in the PS25 Consortium to maintain their marketed tonnage. The amount available to supply recycling units could be increased by improving collection and sorting capacities for household packaging, but also by opening up to other sources such as industrial and commercial packaging.
- **The collection and sorting of PS packaging is on an upward trajectory** thanks to the extension of sorting instructions currently being deployed and to the modernization of sorting centers, more and more of which are able to sort PS packaging.
- **Recycling technologies have been identified and are being industrialized.** While mechanical recycling technologies already exist, the emergence of new advanced recycling technologies offers interesting prospects as they guarantee the suitability of the recycled material for food contact. Several announcements of creation of chemical recycling units for PS in France and in the near EU have been made in recent months for implementation from 2023 for the most advanced projects.

	Capacity	Location	Planned commissioning
Michelin (Pyrowave)	15 to 20 000 tons PS / year	France	2023 - 2024
Ineos Styrolution (Recycling Technologies)	Pilot unit And then factory in Wingles (62)	UK	2022

Indaver Plastics2Chemicals	32 000 tons plastics / year (incl. 50% PS)	Anvers (BE)	Early 2024
Trinseo (Synova / TNO)	15 000 tons PS / year	Tessengerlo (BE)	2023

Actors strongly committed to the effective recycling of PS

The analysis of the technical and economic model showed that the implementation of a PS recycling sector in France required guarantees and significant investments for its start-up and for its growth. In view of the challenge of circularity of PS packaging, the members of the PS25 consortium have noted their commitment to contribute to the establishment of this sector, via

- assistance with financing,
- guaranteed purchase of the recycled material
- and continued work on the eco-design of packaging to better meet the specifications of recyclers.

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About consortium PS25

Created in July 2020, the "PS25 Consortium" aims to build a circular economy for polystyrene (PS) packaging in France. Companies that use PS packaging (including : ANDROS; AGROMOUSQUETAIRES; Groupe BIGARD; CELENE; COOPERL ARC ATLANTIQUE; EURIAL UF; GALLIANCE; MLC; LACTALIS; Groupe LDC; TRIBALLAT NOYAL; SCHREIBER; YEO FRAIS; YOPLAIT) have decided to carry out this reflection together, under the impetus of SYNDIFRAIS and supported by CITEO and VALORPLAST.