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INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION
OF PAPER AND BOARD CONVERTERS
IN EUROPE aisbl

For Immediate Release

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Food contact: Self-regulation for paper and board industry

Yesterday, at the European Parliament, the International Confederation of paper and board Converters in Europe (CITPA) and the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) presented the voluntary 'Industry Guideline for the Compliance of Paper & Board Materials and Articles for Food Contact'.

The event was hosted by MEP Ms. Pilar Ayuso (EPP-DE), member of the Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee who said it was important to know what the industry has done in the field of food safety.

The Guideline, which has been peer reviewed by PIRA International, refers to those aspects of quality assurance which are of most significance to ensure that paper and board meets the quality standards appropriate to their intended use in food contact. "*Safety of food is a pre-eminent concern, the paper and board manufacturing and converting sector recognises this concern and gives top priority to the safety of the materials and articles it manufactures and supplies*" said John Swift, Chair of the Cross Industry Group responsible for the drafting of the Industry Guideline. He added that "*for the first time, all the components needed to facilitate compliance with EU legislation were included in one text*".

A challenge in demonstrating the commitment to supplying safe products is to demonstrate compliance with relevant legislation. The sector has cooperated at National Government and EU level for many years, and the Industry Guideline proposes a route for compliance with EC regulation 1935/2004, which covers all materials which come in direct contact with food.

The lack of a specific measure for paper and board has created a disadvantage in the market because paper and board materials appear to be "unregulated". So, "*if the European Commission decides to start drafting a specific measure for paper and board materials, we have the ground prepared to do so*" said Mr. Bengt Nordin, CITPA President, in his closing remarks. Mr Nordin also presented the benefits of the Industry and pointed out the challenge of demonstrating the safety of paper and board. Mr Nordin said to be proud to announce that "*the industry is monitoring the implementation of the Industry Guideline and so far, the results have shown a large acceptance within paper and board companies*".

[Industry Guideline for the compliance of paper and board materials and articles for food contact Peer Review](#)

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Notes to the Editor

CITPA - Confederation of International Converters of Paper and Board in Europe, established in 1961, represents the interests of the European Paper and Board Converting Industry which covers a wide variety of converted paper products including packaging, beverages cartons, corrugated board, speciality papers and many more. CITPA membership comprises European level associations such as ACE, EUROSAC, FEFCO, Euro Wax Pack, FINAT, ECTA and ECMA as well as national federations such as Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Portugal and associate members, ProCarton, PaperImpact and CepiEurokraft.

Website: www.citpa-europe.org

CEPI aisbl - The Confederation of European Paper Industries.

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation regrouping the European pulp and paper industry and championing this industry's achievements and the benefits of its products. Its mission is to promote the members' business sector by taking specific actions notably, by monitoring and analysing activities and initiatives in the areas of industry, environment, energy, forestry, recycling, fiscal policies and competitiveness in general. Through CEPI, the paper industry increases its visibility and acts on emerging issues, making expert and constructive contributions on behalf of the industry.

Its collective expertise provides a unique source of information both for and on the industry; coordinating essential exchanges of experience and knowledge among its members, the ability to provide technical assistance to legislators and to identify independent experts on specific issues. Through its 19 member countries (17 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland) CEPI represents some 700 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1020 pulp and paper mills. Together they represent 24% of world production.

Website: www.cepi.org