

Repak Welcomes Announcement on €55 million Environment Fund Call for Introduction of Weight Based Charges

(Dublin 24.04.03) Repak, the waste compliance scheme, has today welcomed the announcement of the €55 million environmental expenditure programme under the Environment Fund for 2003 by Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment and Local Government, but has called for the introduction of weight based charges to encourage the use of recycling facilities.

This fund will help Ireland meet its 2005 recycling/recovery target of 50% or 450,000 tonnes of used packaging, which is a doubling of the 2001 target. However, the organisation believes that incentives such as the introduction of weight based charges will be necessary to achieve full optimisation of the new recycling infrastructure.

According to Darrell Crowe, Marketing Manager, Repak "The provision of these grants towards new and improved recycling infrastructure will increase accessibility to recycling for all. However, in order to ensure that the recycling infrastructure delivers the level of domestic usage needed to meet our EU recovery targets, we believe that consumers need to be motivated and rewarded by the introduction of weight based domestic bin charges. This will reward those who are currently recycling and motivate others to fully engage in recycling."

Last year (2002) Repak helped fund the recycling and recovery of over 300,000 tonnes of used packaging. In June the organisation launched its €3.9 million grant programme to establish 850 new bring sites nationwide.

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