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**Mandatory deposit systems for drinks packaging increase greenhouse gas emissions**

A study released this week reveals that adding deposit systems to existing integrated collection schemes for packaging from households has a negative impact on the environment and actually increases greenhouse gas emissions.

The study*, undertaken by the Paris-based BIO Intelligence Service**, comes at a crucial time as Governments across Europe are assessing their approach to materials collection schemes and are looking for solutions that offer benefits in terms of cost, efficiency and environmental impact.

"We sought to understand the impacts of combining a deposit system exclusively for beverage containers with existing multi-material schemes and looked at all key drivers influential to the final profile of collections schemes", explained lead analyst Véronique Monier. "We built an average European model, and in this case, our results show that in the two dimensions – environmental efficiency and financial cost – mandatory deposit schemes have a negative effect in countries where a multimaterial selective collection system exists."

The study was supported by APEAL, the European Association of Producers of Steel for Packaging, whose managing director Philippe Wolper commented, "The implications of this study are far reaching. If Europe were to implement a deposit system for one-way drinks containers in all countries currently operating green dot systems, the effect would be an increased greenhouse effect equivalent to another 500,000 to 700,000 cars on the road each year. That's like adding another city the size of Brussels in terms of environmental impact!"

PRO Europe, the organisation representing schemes for the collection and recovery of packaging waste in 21 Member States, was most interested in the findings of the research. Its Managing Director Bernard Hérodin commented, "This study clearly shows that integrated selective collection systems such as green dot schemes offer the best solution in terms of environment and cost efficiency. It is important that collection schemes are a global answer for achieving the high recycling and recovery targets."

"In the current political context any system that increases $CO_2$ emissions is unacceptable, especially when other cheaper, less environmentally damaging and more effective systems already exist that enable all countries to reach European Recycling targets," concluded Philippe Wolper.

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* The executive summary of the BIOIS study, 'Environment and Cost Efficiency of Packaging Waste Collection Systems', is available on the APEAL website: http://www.apeal.org/Contents/Enviroment/BIOIS_study.pdf

**BIO Intelligence Services has extensive experience in this specific double area of Life Cycle Assessment and collection schemes for used household containers including a year 2000 study for the European Commission DG Environment.