

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

19 October 2015

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Reference	APEAL Pelican
Number of pages	2
Subject	Green Solutions for Central Europe Summit

SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS THE ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMICAL SOLUTION OFFERED BY STEEL PACKAGING IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Steel packaging's high recycling rates offer an ecological and economical solution for the transition to a Circular economy in Central Europe, concluded a major European summit held in Poland on 8 October.

Attended by can manufacturers, brands and local recovery organisations "*Steel Packaging - Green Solutions for Central Europe 2015*", was hosted by APEAL, the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging, in partnership with Rekopol Recovery Organisation SA. It was the second steel packaging summit specifically oriented to the needs of Central Europe, the first event having taken place in 2011 in Slovakia.

Opening the Warsaw event, APEAL President Dr Ulrich Roeske said: "The Steel for Packaging industry is proactively supporting the concept of an efficient circular economy. Our vision is a closed steel loop".

Karl Buttiens, General Manager for Environment and Global CO₂ at ArcelorMittal, welcomed participants, underlining how Steel is a Fabric of Life due to its undisputed strength and circular economy compliance. He stressed the need to teach respect for materials, define recycling properly and avoid landfill.

Jakub Tyczkowski, president of the board of Polish recycling organisation Rekopol, outlined recent changes to the European Packaging Regulations (EPR) for the Polish market. He said: "Potentially higher EU targets will be a challenge for Poland. The current EPR system is not yet adapted for this and the industry needs to take a proactive position and lead the way."

All four members of the APEAL Board were active at the event and took questions from the floor. Christian Korn, representing U. S. Steel Košice, highlighted the growing demand for steel packaging in Central Europe. He showed how demand is driven by steel's excellent product protection and

preservation properties – steel is an excellent material format to fight food waste-, as well as by convenience of use and consumption and a wide offering of pack sizes.

Steel packaging's market-leading European average recycling rate of 75% was highlighted by Tony Waite from TataSteel Europe who also confirmed the steel for packaging industry's objective of achieving a recycling rate of 80% by 2020. He commented that Central Europe had a key role to play in helping achieve this target and achieving progress towards the circular economy.

Stéphane Tondo of ArcelorMittal demonstrated how steel packaging is a green solution for Central Europe and complies with the EU's Circular Economy requirements for product design, sourcing and waste efficiency. He added that steel, as a permanent material, recycles forever.

Mazovia region Marshall Adam Struzik recognised the efforts made by the steel for packaging industry in Europe and described his expectation that the conference will *"help to develop a common position concerning the ambitious targets set by the circular economy package in the European Union, and also demonstrate that legal changes are necessary in Polish legislation so that the system is actually closed-loop."*

Indeed, delegates experienced the closed-loop recycling of steel first-hand when the summit was concluded by a tour of the ArcelorMittal Warszawa steel manufacturing plant. The visit also clearly demonstrated how all steel plants are effectively recycling plants because steel scrap is an integral part of the manufacturing process.

Secretary General Alexander Mohr concluded: "Steel for packaging is a great example of a material ideal for the circular economy. Steel is a win, win, win for customers, the economy and the environment."

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About APEAL

APEAL, the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging, is a federation of the four major producers of steel for packaging (ArcelorMittal, Tata Steel Packaging, ThyssenKrupp Rasselstein, U.S. Steel Košice). In total these four companies employ over 200,000 workers in Europe. Founded in 1986, APEAL represents today about 95% of the total European production of steel for packaging.

About Steel for Packaging

Steel is a unique packaging material, combining exceptional performance capabilities with unrivalled environmental credentials. Strong, formable and long-lasting, steel offers numerous benefits for the safe packaging of a wide variety of products.

