**APEAL to SHARE GOOD PRACTICES IN STEEL RECYCLING at virtuous circles workshop IN ROMANIA**

APEAL, the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging, has confirmed it will join the European Commission’s Virtuous Circle workshop in Romania, 6 December.

The Virtuous Circle is an initiative launched by the European Commission (EC) to help those Member States believed to be at risk of missing the 2020 target for recycling 50% of municipal waste as identified in the EC’s report, published 24 September 2018.

Hosted by Mrs. Grațiela Leocadia Gavrilescu, Deputy Prime-Minister & Minister of Environment, the workshop is designed to examine issues integral to increasing recycling rates and provide support through technical assistance and sharing of good practices.

Alexis Van Maercke, secretary general of APEAL, said: “By 2025, new waste legislation will apply including more ambitious recycling targets. However, it is fundamental that the targets under the current legislation are met first. We therefore welcome the recently-launched Virtuous Circle Workshops jointly organised by the Commission and the Member States. As APEAL, we are dedicated to supporting these initiatives”.

Steve Claus, Sustainability & Circular Economy Officer, will represent APEAL. “I am delighted to have been invited to attend the Virtuous Circles workshop and look forward to sharing examples of good practices in collection, sorting and recycling of steel for packaging with colleagues from the European Commission and Member States,” he said.

Indeed, the recommendations for member states included in the European Commission’s early warning report mirror the examples showcased as best practice in APEAL’s recently published [Good practices in separate collection, sorting and recycling of steel for packaging](https://www.apeal.org/reports/apeal-white-book-good-practices-collection-sorting-recycling-steel-packaging/), launched in April at the Steel for Packaging, a Pioneer of Circular Economy conference, Brussels.

 “As we roll out our report of good practices in steel recycling across Europe, I look forward to having more occasions to work with Member States and the European Commission to fully realise our common goal of a truly circular economy.”

**-ENDS-**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Media enquiries:*Michael BennettPelican Communications Email: michael.bennett@pelicomms.co.uk 00 +44 (0)1457 820807 | *APEAL:* Patricia MobbsCommunications ManagerE-mail: p.mobbs@apeal.be[www.apeal.org](http://www.apeal.org) [www.steelforpackaging.org](http://www.steelforpackaging.org) |

**About APEAL**

APEAL - the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging is a federation of four multi-national producers of steel for packaging (ArcelorMittal, Tata Steel, 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.