cepi confederation of
european paper industries

Press**Release**

Food contact: Self-regulation for paper industry

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) and the International Confederation of paper and board Converters in Europe (CITPA) have launched today the voluntary 'Industry Guideline for the Compliance of Paper& Board Materials and Articles for Food Contact'.

The Guideline, which has been independently peer reviewed by PIRA International, offers route to compliance with EC Framework regulation 1935/2004, which covers all materials and articles which come in contact with food. It gives guidance to paper and board producers as well as institutions and public authorities in how to ensure that paper and board meets the quality standards appropriate to its intended use in food contact. This means it will not endanger human health by causing an unacceptable change in the food's composition or deterioration in the way the food tastes, looks, feels and smells.

The health and safety implications of food contact are taken very seriously by the paper industry. When it comes to consumer protection, the sector has cooperated at national government and EU level for many years.

Many of the materials which come into direct contact with food, such as cellulose film, plastics and ceramics, are subject to material-specific measures which apply uniformly throughout the EU. For paper, on the other hand, the picture is fragmented, with countries such as Germany, France, the Netherlands and Italy, having national legislation, while other countries simply conform with the more general, non-material specific regulation 1935/2004. The unintended impression given to buyers is that compliance for paper and board is less clear than for other materials.

So it is against this background that the European paper packaging value chain has compiled the voluntary Industry Guideline for the Compliance of Paper & Board Materials and Articles for Food Contact (the Guideline). CEPI will also publish a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for the industry. Put simply, the Guideline spells out the rules, and the GMP describes a management system for those rules to be obeyed. GMP is not an optional bolt-on to the Guideline, but is required by Regulation 2023/2006, a general GMP requirement recently published by the European Commission.

"The Guideline offers, in the absence of a specifc measure, the alternative of self-regulation. There is now a period of opportunity during which the paper-based packaging chain can show that its own guidelines can deliver", explains Jori Ringman, CEPI Recycling and Product Director.

-- END --

Food Contact guidelines:
www.cepi.org/publications

Note to the Editor

For more information, please contact Daniela Haiduc CEPI Public Affairs and Communications Manager at d.haiduc@cepi.org or +32 2627 4915

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 member's 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 760 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1080 paper mills. Together they represent 26% of world production.

Website: www.cepi.org