



Netherlands Institute
for Sustainable Packaging

Belgium and the Netherlands: a comparison



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Introduction



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An overview



EPR



Packaged product



Collection

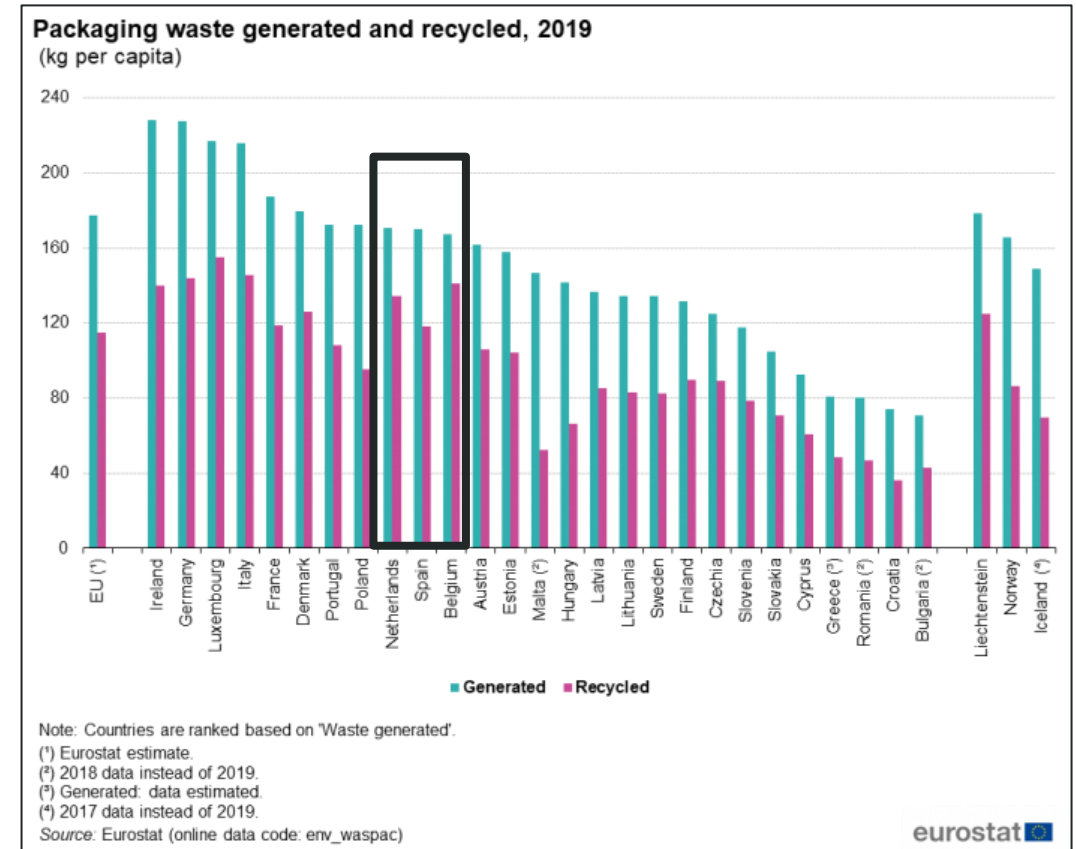
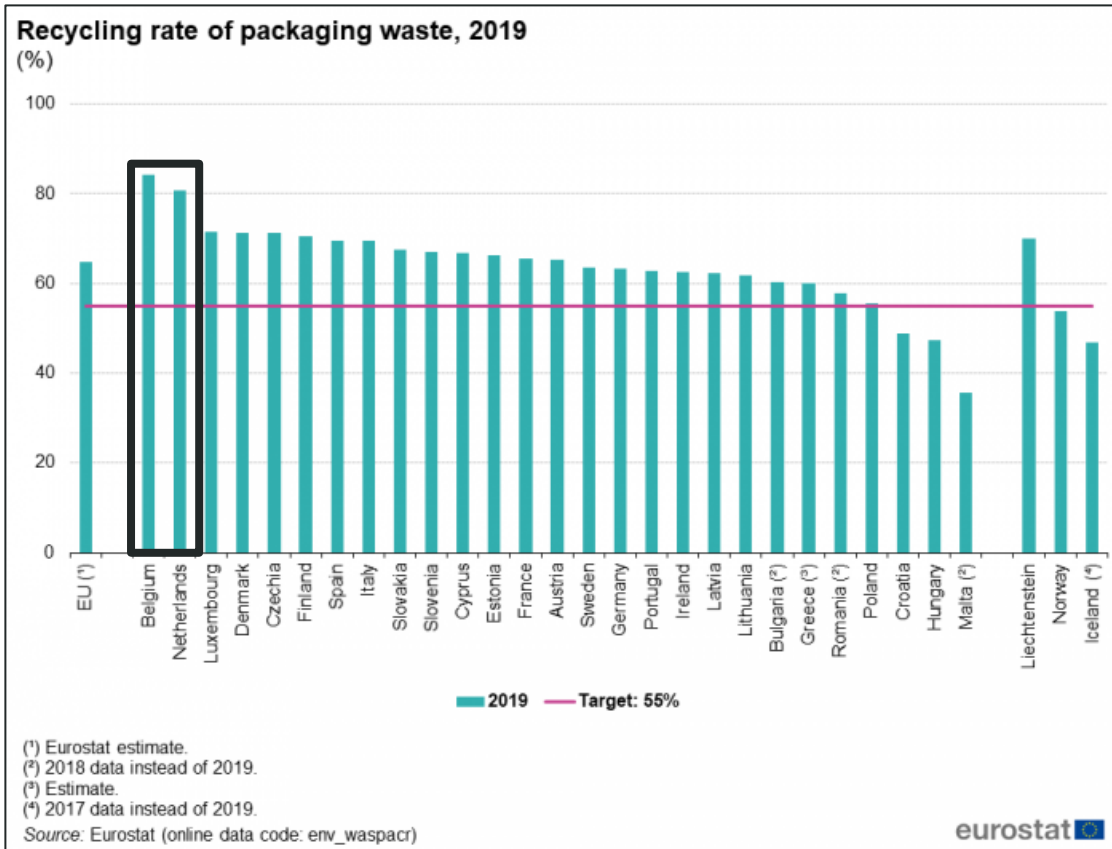


Sorting



Recycling

But first



Important similarities



EPR



Packaged product



Collection



Sorting



Recycling

- One – not for profit - EPR for Household waste
- EPR on behalf of producers and importers

- Cost based approach for fees per material
- Goal D4R identical; move towards more recycling
- Criteria D4R similar; based on existing infrastructure

- Identical collection systems for glass and paper/cardboard
- PMD+ in Belgium resembles the PMD in NL
- Collection is the responsibility of local authorities

- Identical technology

- Identical technology
- Same market

* EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility
 D4R – Design-for-Recycling
 PMD – Plastic, Metal and Beverage cartons
 (Drankenkartons)



Important differences



EPR



Packaged product



Collection



Sorting



Recycling



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality → Quantity • Cooperation with national authorities = close • Different organisations for b2c and b2b - 1994 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the system results in increase of number of fees • 25 fees for household waste, including 14 fees for <i>recycled</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local systems adopt national collection scenario • For PMD one system of collection one set of sorting rules for consumers • PMD since 1994 (PMD+ since 2019) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For PMD+; more refined sorting – 14 fractions • Own quality specifications • Sorters in Belgium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS is a separate stream
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity → Quality • Cooperation with national authorities = little • One organisation for b2c and b2b - 2006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of the system results in increase of number of fees • 12 fees for household waste, including 1 bonus for <i>good recyclable</i> • Deposit for PET beverage bottles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local systems autonomous and can differ from each other • For PMD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -different systems of collection -different sorting rules for consumers • Plastic collection since 2008 (PMD since 2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For PMD; less refined sorting – 10 fractions • Quality specifications mainly aligned with German DKR • Sorters in NL and Germany 	
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In depth: consequences for companies



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recycled (B) or good recyclable (NL) fee categories require proof</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use on pack logos voluntary 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration: 25 fee categories, including 14 for <i>recycled</i> • Prevention plan for larger companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation by continuous improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More value streams = more specific applications 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration: 12 fee categories, including one bonus for <i>good recyclable</i> • Sector innovation plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation by disruptive changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less value streams = more uniform applications 	

In depth: Design for recycling guidelines



EPR



Packaged product



Collection



Sorting



Recycling



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help improve recyclability, practical instructions • Based on current infrastructure • Drafted and updated in cooperation with packaging, sorting and recycling companies • Linked with fees / Eco modulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recyclability classification 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for most materials identical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for materials identical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up: D4R is guiding ('guideline') • Eco modulation: higher fees for undesirable end-of-life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycled – Valorised – Non-valorised – Obstructive 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some more steps in sorting process -> more recyclable types of plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuation of application differs – thick wall applications is 'recycled'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up: D4R is judging ('check' - yes/no) • Eco modulation: discount fee <i>good recyclable</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good – reasonable – limited – not recyclable and not allowed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuation is more gradual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuation of application differs – thick wall applications is 'limited recyclable'

A first comparison



	Recycled	Valorised	Non-valorised	Hazardous household waste (HHW)	Obstructive
Good recyclable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PET Bottles • Non-black HDPE, PP • Glass (without interfering substances, e.g. crystal) • Paper/cardboard with fiber >85% 				
Reasonably recyclable					
Limited recyclable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS • Black HDPE / PP • Transparent PET-trays • < 5cm or > 5 liter 				
Not recyclable		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opaque PET • PVC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass (with interfering substances, e.g. crystal) • Porcelain, ceramics, pottery 		
Not allowed				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packaging with contents that must be sorted as HHW 	



A first comparison




	Recycled	Valorised	Non-valorised	Hazardous household waste (HHW)	Obstructive
Good recyclable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PET Bottles • Non-black HDPE, PP • Glass (without interfering substances, e.g. crystal) • Paper/cardboard with fiber >85% 				
Reasonably recyclable					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic cans with metal bottom or top • Laminated plastic with aluminum film
Limited recyclable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS • Black HDPE / PP • Transparent PET-trays • < 5cm or > 5 liter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPS • Non-transparent PET-trays 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packing with non-removable labels/sleeves >70%
Not recyclable		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opaque PET • PVC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass (with interfering substances, e.g. crystal) • Porcelain, ceramics, pottery 		
Not allowed				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packaging with contents that must be sorted as HHW 	

Conclusion

- At first glance, Belgium and the Netherlands seem very different
- If you look more in depth, we are quite similar
- We are becoming more alike
- We serve many companies that are active in both markets and have similar ambitions

This gives opportunities for closer cooperation and maybe even harmonisation

Key take aways

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both countries operate based on the EU EPR legislation • Both are top performers with the EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both countries have producer responsibility organizations on a national level, run by and for producers / importers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems for collecting, sorting and recycling of glass, paper/cardboard are similar • PMD(+) systems have different history and are converging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D4R tools (guidelines / recycle checks) have similar goals, similar context and use similar criteria 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two organisations (Fost Plus for B2C, Valipac for B2B), • Possibly two declarations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium has a more refined fee structure • More categories on your declaration 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D4R guidelines recognizable in fees, no hard link. • Look and feel Belgium D4R guidelines differ from Dutch recycle check, some criteria result in different classifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees categorized in eco modulated fees.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One organisation (Afvalfonds Verpakkingen) • One declaration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Netherlands has a more diverse collection system for PMD, less clear national level communication to consumers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deposit for PET-bottles and in 2023 metal cans: • Different deposit category on your declaration, different deposit logos on your packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look and feel Dutch recycle check differ from Belgium D4R guidelines, some criteria result in different classifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one eco modulated fee • Hard link with recycle check



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Thank you!

Questions?

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