

The packaging pledge of the Technology Industries of Finland

The European Commission requested in the plastic strategy in January industries to provide pledges to tackle the global problem of the plastic waste. This is the pledge of the Technology Industries of Finland.

With this pledge the Technology Industries of Finland strives to advance more efficient use and recycling of packaging materials in the technology industries. The goal is that all packaging material that companies either use, receive from suppliers or send to customers is collected and recycled properly.

The products of technology industries are delivered all around the world. The company in its actions must take into consideration the different possibilities to recycle. Because plastic is merely one of the packaging materials used, the pledge includes all packaging material.

The goals are for instance:

1. To decrease the amount of packaging material so, that the product will not break during delivery or while stored.
2. To increase reusing of packages and packaging materials for example between the supplier and the company or the company and the customer.
3. To increase the recycling of packages and packaging materials.

The actions which could be advanced with the pledge in companies could for instance be:

1. In the packaging design it is striven to minimize the amount of packaging materials, while taking into consideration the required properties of the packages for example in durability and permeability.
2. It is striven, whenever possible, to use reusable packages.
3. The customers are instructed to recycle the packages as efficiently as possible for example by collecting by grade and delivering to proper recycling. This can be achieved through markings on the packages, in instruction manuals and by otherwise instructing the suppliers.
4. The organizations will strive to collect the packaging waste caused by their actions by grade and to deliver it to be properly recycled.

The Technology Industries of Finland is the federation of Finnish technology industry companies. It promotes competitiveness and operational preconditions of this Finland's largest export sector. The technology industry is the largest export sector in Finland. It covers 50% of total Finnish exports. The technology industry companies invest about EUR 5.0 billion annually in Finland and 70% of private-sector R&D investment. Almost 300,000 are employed directly in the sector, 750,000 employed in total, equalling about 30% of the entire Finnish labour force. The Technology Industries of Finland has over 1,600 member companies.

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