

Wrap Up & Conclusions

Clarissa Morawski, Executive Director, Reloop Platform

- I want to take this opportunity to spend a couple of minutes with some key comments that I have based on what I've heard today. And I think one of the things that we are all facing is that we have to recognize in terms of context. Maybe not Belorussia necessarily but who knows what the future Belorussia is in terms of the European Union? We have a very different situation coming up in the next ten years. We know that, today, the current plastics recycling rate in the European Union, is approximately 22% to 30%, roughly. We know that the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive which became law in terms of its amendments in the spring is requiring 50% for all plastics packaging. This is major. For every single Member State sitting here today, this is going to require a massive transformation of your existing Green Dot systems. The existing Green Dot systems are going to have to collect a lot more plastic. Not just bottles and cans like they are doing now; they are going to have to collect polypropylene, linear low-density, high-density polyethylene. All the various plastic packages that are on the market today that many programs are not collecting are going to have to be collected. So when we look at the future system, it's a system that's collecting a lot more plastic packaging that's going through the same sorting facilities that are running today, that are worried that they are going to lose PET. It shouldn't be an issue. As was mentioned, PET is not a profit centre of any Green Dot system on this planet. It's a big cost. And, in Canada, we have done analysis for ten years: it's usually 1,000 American dollars per ton, net. So you are going to see transfer of some materials out of the sorting facility but a whole lot of new materials going into the sorting facility, which means there's going to be a lot more producers and brand owners that are going to have to pay fees to Green Dot system operators. So where is this all ending up? And I also want to say that the European Union also, with the 50%, has said: "We have a new recycling calculation where we do not include the losses that we are currently including." It will have a major impact on plastics at least thirty percentage points below what you're currently reporting. So, with all this in mind, it means we're collecting more. There's going to be more movement of material and less material going into the garbage stream. There is room for deposits so that we can solve the beverage container problem, and there is even more capacity that will be required from the existing Green Dot systems. We know that, in all countries with deposit systems in place, we have both systems (EPR and deposits) running well together. We have a Green Dot system and we have a deposit system. Be it Estonia, Lithuania, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Canada, etc, etc, etc. So please recognize that when we look at this deposit system, it's not in isolation. It is in a future that is much, much bigger. And there'll be many, many changes, and there is much, much economic activity for businesses in the waste management sector. Those responsibilities will evolve and change but there is plenty of opportunity for all of those members of that value chain. Except, maybe, if you are in the business of landfilling and incineration. So I wanna end on that note and I wanna ask you all to consider this as you are all government bodies... You're going to be facing a lot of criticism from retail, from some beverage producers, hopefully, less over time. And, certainly, some waste management businesses that have sort of fixed interests and are not able to see this bigger future of circular economy. I'm gonna ask you to think about it in that context. And I'm gonna ask you, please, we have provided you with evidence around the table today, we have more evidence at Reloop. If you need the evidence to support other work you're doing at a national level, come to us, we will supply you with the evidence. Use us, come to us and get information from us. And with that, I wanna thank all the people who came from many, many different places. I'm very much looking forward to a very interesting study tour tomorrow morning. Thank you.