

PET Pack

CEE Forum 2026



Food Contact, Compliance & Competitiveness in CEE Packaging

DATE

Thursday 17 September 2026

TIME

08:30 – 16:00
+ Dinner 16 Sep

VENUE

Dorothea Hotel, Autograph Collection
Dorottya utca 2, 1051 Budapest, Hungary

WHY ATTEND

EU packaging regulation is reshaping how companies across the entire value chain operate. PPWR is not a concern limited to packaging manufacturers, it applies to any company that places packaged products on the EU market, from converters and recyclers to brand owners, importers and distributors. Combined with tightening food contact materials certification requirements and new traceability obligations, these changes are already affecting what CEE organisations must demonstrate to retain access to European supply chains.

PET Pack CEE Forum 2026 brings together senior professionals across the CEE PET value chain for one focused day in Budapest to address these challenges directly.

Below you will find: — The six main themes of the conference — Five dedicated networking moments, including a hosted dinner the evening before — Three keynote speakers: the European Commission's regulatory outlook, and two senior practitioners from the CEE industry sharing what is actually changing on the ground

PROGRAMME THEMES

1 The regulatory stakes

EU and local developments reshaping PET packaging and food contact materials in CEE.

2 The technical compliance frontier

Food contact safety, NIAS risk and rPET certification — implications for operations and quality teams.

3 Supply chain integration

What CEE companies must demonstrate to access and compete in European supply chains.

4 Operational compliance tools

Testing infrastructure and compliance data — from liability to competitive asset.

5 European frameworks in practice

PPWR, chemical recycling, digital traceability — and what each means for your market position.

6 Industry case studies

CEE practitioners on compliance challenges, strategic decisions and measurable outcomes.

NETWORKING

16 Sep evening Networking dinner

Hosted dinner for all attendees — where the most valuable conversations of the trip often begin.

08:30 Welcome coffee

Informal arrivals before the programme begins.

10:30 Morning break

30 minutes between the opening sessions and the technical programme.

12:30 Lunch — topic tables

90-minute lunch with themed peer discussion tables: PPWR, rPET certification, digital traceability, NIAS.

16:00 Drinks reception

Informal close. Continued conversations with speakers and peers.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Stefano Soro

[DG GROW, European Commission](#)

Keynote: Europe's New Packaging Rules: What Does It Mean for CEE?

Dariusz Lizak

[President, Nat. Chamber of Commerce Bottling Industry](#)

The CEE Reality: Staying Competitive in a Shifting Regulatory Landscape

Arpad Somlai

[Managing Director, Resilux CEE](#)

The CEE Reality: Staying Competitive in a Shifting Regulatory Landscape

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TIME	SESSION · SPEAKERS · TOPICS
08:30	Registration & Networking Coffee
MORNING · REGULATION, RISK & THE CEE REALITY	
09:00	Opening <i>PETCORE EUROPE & KÖR</i>
09:15	Keynote: Europe's New Packaging Rules <i>Stefano Soro — DG GROW, European Commission</i>
09:45	The CEE Reality: Staying Competitive in a Shifting Regulatory Landscape <i>Dariusz Lizak (National Chamber of Commerce Bottling Industry) · Arpad Somlai (Resilux CEE) · Q&A</i>
10:30	Networking Break
11:00	What Food Contact Compliance Really Demands: Testing, Risk and the Operational Reality <i>Raphael Jaumotte (PETCORE EUROPE) · Bernd Schwarz (KÖR)</i>
11:30	The Tools Available to Help You Adapt <i>Antonello Ciotti · Roberto Bertaggia (PETCORE EUROPE) · Pauline Dirkmaat · Bernd Schwarz (KÖR)</i>
12:30	Networking Lunch with Topic Tables
AFTERNOON · PROJECTS, TOOLS & CASE STUDIES	
14:00	What to Expect by 2027: Projects Reshaping CEE Market Access <i>Raphael Jaumotte · Jose Antonio Alarcon · Argiris Dabanlis · Karlheinz Hausmann (PETCORE EUROPE)</i>
14:30	Building for What's Coming: Compliance Infrastructure Projects <i>Zsolt Puskas · Bernd Schwarz (KÖR)</i>
15:00	In the Room: How Two Companies Tackled Their Biggest Compliance Challenge <i>2 CEE companies (TBC)</i>
15:45	Closing: What the Industry Told Us Today — and What Comes Next <i>Antonello Ciotti (PETCORE EUROPE) · Gyula Toth · Zsolt Puskas (KÖR)</i>
16:00	Drinks Reception