

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](#)

How the EU's Circularity Agenda Is Being Shaped and What It Means for Industry

Dariusz Lizak

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

The CEE Perspective: Competing and Complying in a Rapidly Changing Regulatory Environment

Arpad Somlai

[Managing Director, Resilux CEE](#)

The CEE Perspective: Competing and Complying in a Rapidly Changing Regulatory Environment

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08:30 Registration & Networking Coffee

MORNING · REGULATION, RISK & THE CEE REALITY

09:00 Opening

PETCORE EUROPE & KÖR

09:15 How the EU's Circularity Agenda Is Being Shaped and What It Means for Industry

Stefano Soro - Head of Unit, Sustainable Products, DG GROW, European Commission · Q&A

- How DG GROW is translating the EU's circularity ambitions into concrete regulatory action
- The policy priorities shaping sustainable products across European markets
- What the EU expects from industry as these frameworks come into force
- The direction of travel: where regulation is heading over the next years

09:45 The CEE Perspective: Competing and Complying in a Rapidly Changing Regulatory Environment

Session 1 : *Dariusz Lizak (President, National Chamber of Commerce Bottling Industry) · Q&A*

Session 2 : *Arpad Somlai (Managing Director, Resilux CEE) · Q&A*

- How new EU packaging regulations are landing on the ground for Central and Eastern European businesses, from an industry and trade perspective
- The real competitive pressures facing CEE converters and manufacturers: cost, sourcing, certification and market access
- What the bottling and packaging industry in the region needs from regulators and institutions to remain competitive
- First-hand account of how a leading CEE PET operation is adapting its strategy and supply chain in response to evolving requirements

10:30 Networking Break

11:00 What Food Contact Compliance Really Demands: Testing, Risk and the Operational Reality

Raphael Jaumotte (PETCORE EUROPE) · Bernd Schwarz (KÖR)

- What NIAS (non-intentionally added substances) actually are, why they matter for food contact compliance, and why most CEE operations have not yet fully mapped their exposure
- The food contact testing requirements that apply to recycled PET materials: what regulators expect, what the certification process involves, and where the documentation gaps typically are
- The most common points of failure in food contact compliance audits, and what they cost operationally and commercially when they surface
- Where the regulatory expectation and current operational practice diverge most sharply in the CEE region: a frank assessment of where the industry stands today

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11:30 PETCORE EUROPE & KÖR: Shaping the Future of Compliant and Competitive CEE Packaging

Antonello Ciotti · Roberto Bertaggia (PETCORE EUROPE) · Zsolt Puskas (KÖR)

- What PETCORE EUROPE's three-year strategic roadmap means for CEE companies, and the concrete initiatives already underway to support the value chain
- How the European compliance mechanism works in practice
- How standardised testing methodologies and material certification reduce uncertainty and compliance cost for your operation
- What KÖR's compliance model and digital testing platform deliver: from sample submission to supply chain documentation that satisfies European brand owner requirements
- What you can do differently starting now to reduce risk and strengthen your position in the European supply chain

12:30 Networking Lunch with Topic Tables Peer discussions

AFTERNOON · PROJECTS, TOOLS & CASE STUDIES

14:00 Concrete Actions, Real Deadlines: What PETCORE's Key Projects Mean for Your Operation

Raphael Jaumotte · Jose Antonio Alarcon · Argiris Dabanlis · Karlheinz Hausmann (PETCORE EUROPE)

- Recyclability assessment frameworks: whether your current packaging design qualifies under European standards, and what to change if it does not
- Functional barriers and novel technology: where the regulation on barrier materials is heading and what your product development needs to account for now
- Chemical recycling and depolymerization: what food contact approval actually requires and what the realistic timeline looks like for CEE operators
- Data sharing and Certification Article 6: the documentation and traceability obligations arriving in 2027, and how to prepare your systems before they become mandatory
- Advocacy and regulatory intelligence: what PETCORE is negotiating on your behalf at DG Growth, DG ENV and DG Trade, and what the TAXUD customs code change means for trade flows

14:30 The Compliance Infrastructure That Gives You a Competitive Edge

Zsolt Puskas · Bernd Schwarz (KÖR)

- What a compliance-ready operation looks like in practice: testing networks, data management and certification documentation
- How to move from reactive compliance to proactive competitive positioning
- The digital tools and laboratory infrastructure available to CEE companies today

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15:00 **Lessons from the Field: Industry Leaders on Their Compliance Journey**

Senior Representatives from leading packaging companies (TBC) · Moderated panel

- Candid accounts from senior executives in the packaging, converting and recycling industry on what compliance has demanded of their organisations
- What they got wrong, what they changed, and what they wish they had known earlier
- Practical takeaways directly applicable to your own operation

15:45 **Closing: What the Industry Told Us Today — and What Comes Next**

Antonello Ciotti (PETCORE EUROPE) · Gyula Toth · Zsolt Puskas (KÖR)

16:00 **Drinks Reception**

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