

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 Networking lunch

75-minute lunch.

16:00 Closing Refreshments

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 CEE, Resilux](#)

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

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08:30 Registration & Networking Coffee

MORNING · EU REGULATION, FOOD CONTACT TESTING AND WHAT IT DEMANDS FROM CEE OPERATIONS

09:00 Opening

PETCORE EUROPE & KÖR

09:15 **Keynote: 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)

- 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)*

Session 2 : *Árpád Somlai (Managing Director CEE, Resilux) · 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 Coffee Break

11:00 **Shaping Compliant and Competitive CEE Packaging: The Frameworks, Standards and Tools Available to Your Operation**

Antonello Ciotti · Roberto Bertaggia (PETCORE EUROPE) · Pauline Dirkmaat · Zsolt Puskás (KÖR)

- What PETCORE EUROPE's three-year strategic roadmap means for CEE companies, and the concrete initiatives already underway to support the value chain
- Standardisation work on PPWR and food contact materials: how harmonised testing methodologies and certification frameworks translate into practical tools your operation can use today
- How digital testing platforms can streamline your compliance workflow: from sample submission to the supply chain documentation your customers and brand owners require
- What you can do differently starting now to reduce risk and strengthen your position in the European supply chain

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11:35 Food Contact Testing in Practice: Getting results you can trust

Raphael Jaumotte (Technical Manager, PETCORE EUROPE) · Bernd Schwarz (Chief Chemical Officer, KÖR)

- What NIAS are, why they represent one of the most significant compliance risks in recycled PET, and how to map your organisation's exposure
- Which testing methods apply to PFAS, NIAS and food contact migration
- How to interpret results and make defensible compliance decisions
- The food contact testing requirements that apply to recycled PET: what regulators expect, what the certification process involves, and where the documentation gaps typically are
- How to build a testing strategy that is proportionate, cost-effective and auditable, without over-investing in unnecessary analysis

12:10 Panel Discussion and Q&A

12:30 Networking Lunch

AFTERNOON · PPWR, COMPLIANCE INFRASTRUCTURE AND REAL-WORLD LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

13:45 Concrete Actions, Real Deadlines: Projects Reshaping CEE Market Access

Argiris Dabanlis · Karlheinz Hausmann · Jose Antonio Alarcón · Raphael Jaumotte · Christian Crépet (PETCORE EUROPE)

- Recyclability assessment frameworks: whether your current packaging design qualifies under European standards, and what to change if it does not
- Chemical recycling and depolymerization: what food contact approval actually requires and what the realistic timeline looks like for CEE operators
- Functional barriers and novel technology: where the regulation on barrier materials is heading and what your product development needs to account for now
- 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 GROW, DG ENV and DG Trade, and what the TAXUD customs code change means for trade flows
- Polyester Textiles

14:15 Q&A

14:30 From Testing to Documentation: What a Compliance-Ready Operation Actually Looks Like

Bernd Schwarz (Chief Chemical Officer, KÖR) · Leigh Hyldon (Enterprise Sales Director, KÖR)

- What a compliance-ready operation looks like in practice: testing networks, data management and certification documentation that hold up under audit and satisfy European brand owner requirements
- How to stop treating compliance as a cost centre and start using it as a commercial differentiator with your customers
- Which digital tools and laboratory infrastructure are available to CEE companies today, and how to assess what your operation actually needs versus what is nice to have
- How to build a compliance data trail that is auditable, shareable and valuable
- What you can put in place in the next three to six months to meaningfully reduce your compliance risk and strengthen your market position

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15:00

PPWR is here. What to Do, How to Do It, and When

Blanka Szilvássy (Expert on Food Contact Materials, Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office)

Ermis Panagiotopoulos (Head of Sustainability Advocacy, Indorama Ventures EMEA)

Árpád Somlai (Managing Director CEE, Resilux)

Bernd Schwarz (Chief Chemical Officer - KÖR)

Dariusz Lizak (President, National Chamber of Commerce Bottling Industry, Poland)

Moderator: Roberto Bertaggia (PETCORE EUROPE)

- What PPWR requires from your operation today, and what you still have time to prepare for
- Recycled content targets, design for recyclability and food contact rules: what changes in your contracts, your sourcing and your product specifications
- How to prepare for inspections and audits
- How leading manufacturers, fillers and recyclers in the region are adapting right now - concrete examples from the panel
- PPWR and testing: what documentation you need to produce, for whom, and by when
- Your questions answered live - regulators and industry in the same room

15:45

What We Heard Today, and Where We Go From Here

Antonello Ciotti (PETCORE EUROPE) · Gyula Tóth · Zsolt Puskás (KÖR)

16:00

Closing Refreshments & Networking

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