

PET Pack

CEE Forum 2026



Food Contact, Compliance & Competitiveness in CEE Packaging

Staying Competitive Under Europe's New Packaging and Food-Contact Rules

Clear direction

Practical solutions

Peer exchange

 17.09.2026

 Dorothea Hotel, Budapest, Hungary

 In-Person Forum
Networking Dinner 16 September



Scan & Register

Agenda, speakers
& latest updates

PET Pack CEE Forum 2026

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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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