



**Consultation on Proposed Extended Producer Responsibility Mechanism;
Possible Packaging Tax/Levy**

I have previously advised that the new Government's Programme for National Recovery 2011-2016 included a statement that it would "drive a waste reduction programme through an extension of Producer Responsibility Initiative and a levy on packaging after appropriate consultation with industry".

Both partners in the Coalition Government proposed a broadly based packaging tax in their election manifesto as recommended by Comhar Sustainable Development Council. Comhar suggested that this would raise €60 million per year (for comparison, Repak fees account for approximately €28m per year). The intention was to raise an additional €5 billion through tax and revenue raising measures in 2011-12, and to bring the budgetary deficit below 3% of G.D.P. by 2014. It is clear that the proposed Packaging Tax / Levy is part of that revenue raising mechanism.

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government has now launched a public consultation on a proposed levy on packaging and to review options. It has invited responses in particular on:-

- Stakeholders' overall views on Packaging Levy.
- How a Packaging Levy might be operated.
- International experiences of similar levies
- How a Packaging Levy should be structured in order to contribute towards a reduction in packaging.

Repak fees are, of course, a Packaging Tax/Levy on packaging, which is specifically ring-fenced for recycling. Repak's system of Pay by Type and Weight has also been an incentive for a reduction in packaging.

Repak has been specifically invited to respond to this consultation process and we would seek the views and opinions of Repak members to this process.

The deadline for comments is Friday, 5th August 2011, so time is of the essence. If, as a Repak member, you would like to participate by offering views or comments, please contact the Repak Membership Services Manager, Mr Declan Martin (Tel: 01 – 4670190 or email: declan.martin@repak.ie.)

It is vital that we respond strongly to this threat of double taxation in an area that has an exemplary track record.

Kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

Dr. A. Hetherington,
Chief Executive, Repak