



TOGETHER TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2017



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EURO POOL GROUP CHALLENGE
Euro Pool Group Challenge started in Spain, where sportive colleagues joined forces to combine healthy life style with a charity goal.

INTRODUCTION

Reuse and sharing have been the core of the Euro Pool Group business model for the past 25 years. In close collaboration with our stakeholders, we contribute to the transition towards a circular economy by sharing the benefits of our reusable packaging solutions across the supply chain.

We are continuously standardising and integrating our services in our customers' logistics. With a growing network of approximately 178 service centres, covering 27 countries, we offer our customers a reliable, sustainable and efficient logistic services up-and-down the supply chain.

In a resource-constrained world, there is a strong urgency to reduce waste. The circular economy is both an important societal trend, and to us a proven business opportunity. We offer circular solutions to our customers and supply chain partners.

At Euro Pool Group we integrate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) into our vision and strategy. We are clear about our mission and objectives, and transparent about our results and progress. This is also reflected in our first Sustainability Report, that we herewith proudly present.

I am pleased to report that we have made good progress. One example for the Euro Pool System division is the opening of our depot in Barendrecht in November 2017. In this state-of-the-art facility, the machines we use are designed by Euro Pool System's own employees. We use the latest technology in identifying and counting the trays, removing labels, quality control and automatic sorting. Thereby ensuring greater energy and resource efficiency in the fresh supply chain, and a high degree of food safety and hygiene. An example for the LPR division is our commitment – since 2010 – to sustainably procure wood through our PEFC Chain of Custody certification. LPR has strengthened its engagement towards sustainable forest management by supporting the French reforestation fund 'Plantons pour l'avenir'. This allows us to offset the carbon footprint of our activity for some of our biggest customers.

Our main ambition is to reduce the carbon footprint per movement by 20% in 2025, compared to 2017. We align our ambitions to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to even better connect and collaborate with partners and create positive impact.

Our employees, suppliers and customers throughout Europe contribute all to our result. Let us continue the transition towards a circular economy by further developing a more sophisticated supply chain that is efficient, sustainable and above all circular.



Gerjo Scheringa
CEO Euro Pool Group

2

EURO POOL GROUP

Over the past 25 years, Euro Pool Group has become Europe's leading logistics service provider of reusable logistic carriers.

Every day, producers, transporters, processing companies and retailers enjoy the efficiency and sustainability benefits of our reusable trays and pallets. We offer circular solutions that reduce single-use packaging waste, carbon emissions and food waste in the supply chain.

Euro Pool Group (EPG) consists of Euro Pool System (EPS) and La Palette Rouge (LPR): two divisions with their own history and expertise. This report covers the activities of both divisions, unless otherwise explained.



EPS provides logistical services for reusable trays, based on rental and return, to European growers of fresh products (such as fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and convenience meals) and their retail partners.



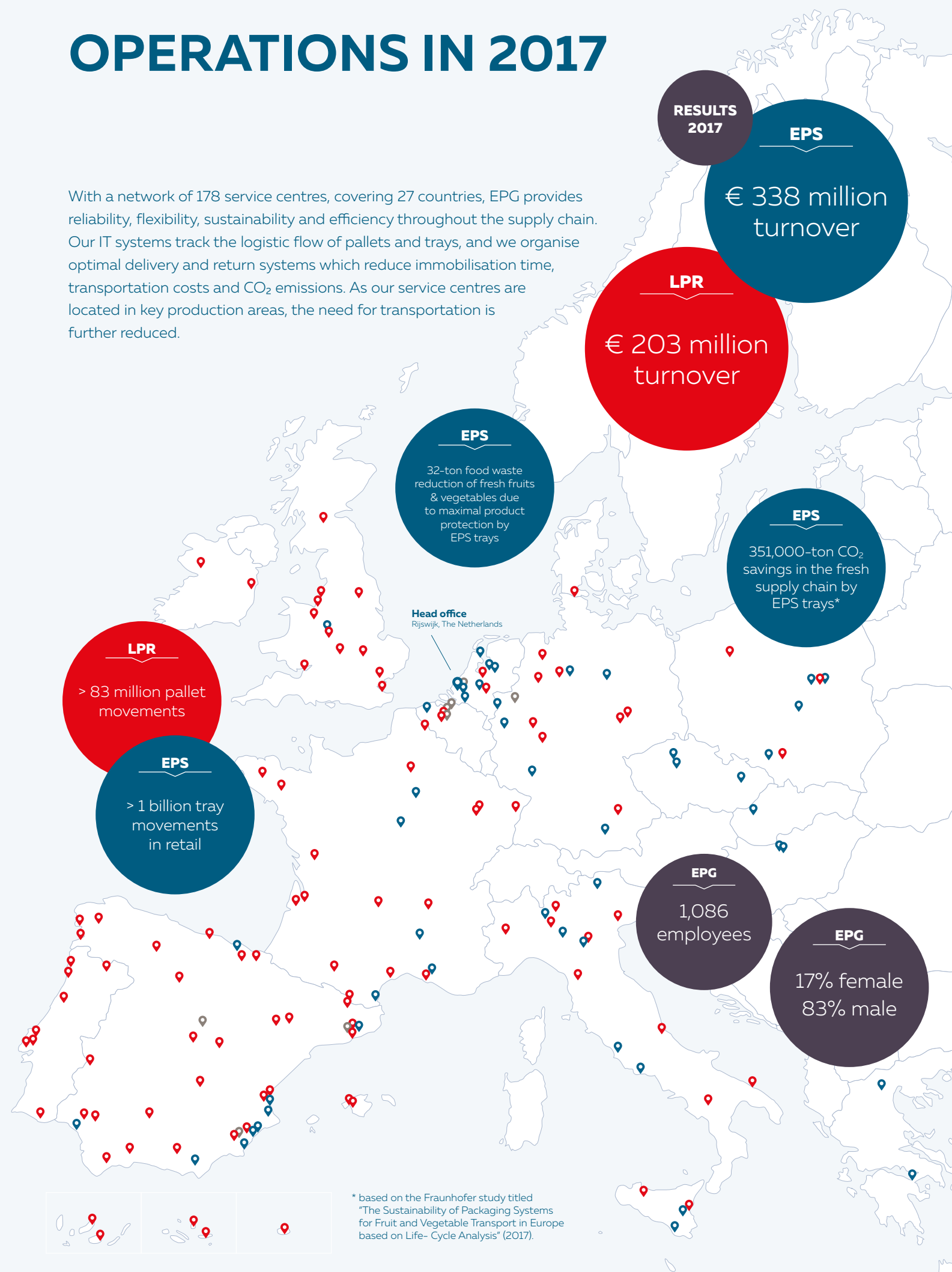
LPR provides logistical services for reusable pallets, based on rental and return, to manufacturers and distributors in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector in the European market.

Circular economy: reduce, reuse, repair and recycle

A circular economy offers a solution to global challenges such as resource scarcity and the impact of waste and climate change. Euro Pool Group's pooling system of reusable logistic carriers is a perfect fit as it comprises all circular elements: reduce, reuse, repair and recycle.

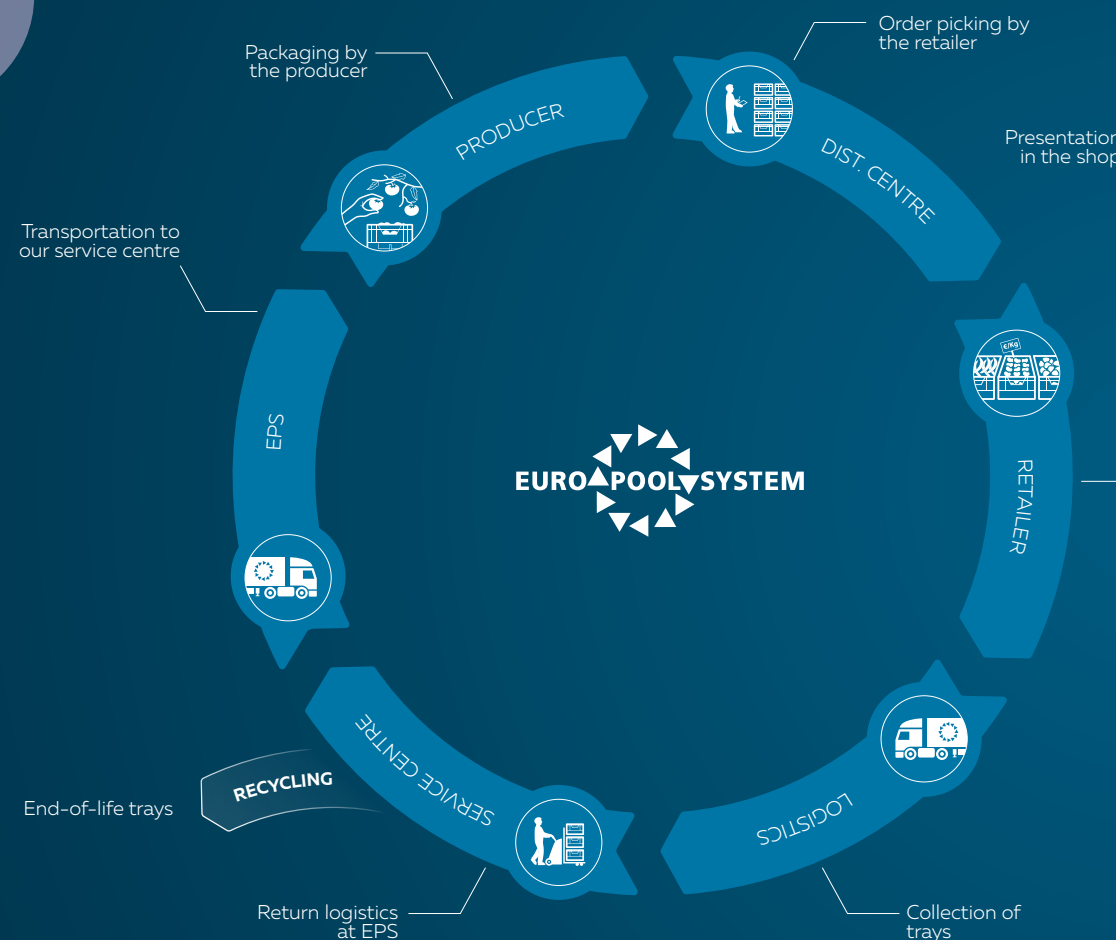
OPERATIONS IN 2017

With a network of 178 service centres, covering 27 countries, EPG provides reliability, flexibility, sustainability and efficiency throughout the supply chain. Our IT systems track the logistic flow of pallets and trays, and we organise optimal delivery and return systems which reduce immobilisation time, transportation costs and CO₂ emissions. As our service centres are located in key production areas, the need for transportation is further reduced.



3 CREATING SHARED VALUE

It is our mission to create value by driving efficiency in the retail supply chain together with our suppliers, customers and partners.



A circular solution in 8 steps

From resource use to product design, and from transportation to maintenance and end-of-life management, EPG offers a circular solution of reusable logistic carriers.

1

Resource efficiency
Our trays are made from virgin plastic to ensure high quality endurance. We investigate the possible use of recycled plastic and bioplastics.

2

Designed to last
We ensure continuous improvement of the functionality and robustness of trays and pallets. We innovate with suppliers to make trays thinner and easier to fold.

3

Optimised delivery
Our service centres are located in key production areas in order to minimise transportation to customers. Based on information within the supply chain we use empty trucks from retailers to our customers as much as possible and minimise extra transportation for efficient delivery. We help customers to reduce CO₂ emissions and monitor their impact.

4

Renting and sharing trays and pallets
Empty trays and pallets are packed with food products by our customers.

5

Renting and sharing trays and pallets
Orders are selected in the retailer's distribution centre for transportation to the shops. The trays and pallets are unpacked in the shop. We help retailers in reaching their goals with regard to circular packaging.

6

Optimised return logistics
Our IT systems track the tray and pallet flows throughout the supply chain. We organise optimal return systems to our service centres, making use of empty return-trucks as much as possible, which reduces immobilisation time, transportation costs and CO₂ emissions.

7

Optimising lifespan of trays and pallets
All empty trays and pallets that return from the shops to the service centres are recorded, checked, sorted, washed, repaired where necessary and put back into the circuit for a new rotation. 99% of trays are reused and make on average 5 rotations a year. 95% of pallets are reused and make on average 4 rotations a year.

8

Recycling
We monitor trays and pallets end-of-life.

FACT

Trays last for over 7 years

FACT

100% of trays are recycled

FACT

1 billion tray movements in 2017

FACT

Pallets last for over 5 years

FACT

> 83 million pallet movements in 2017

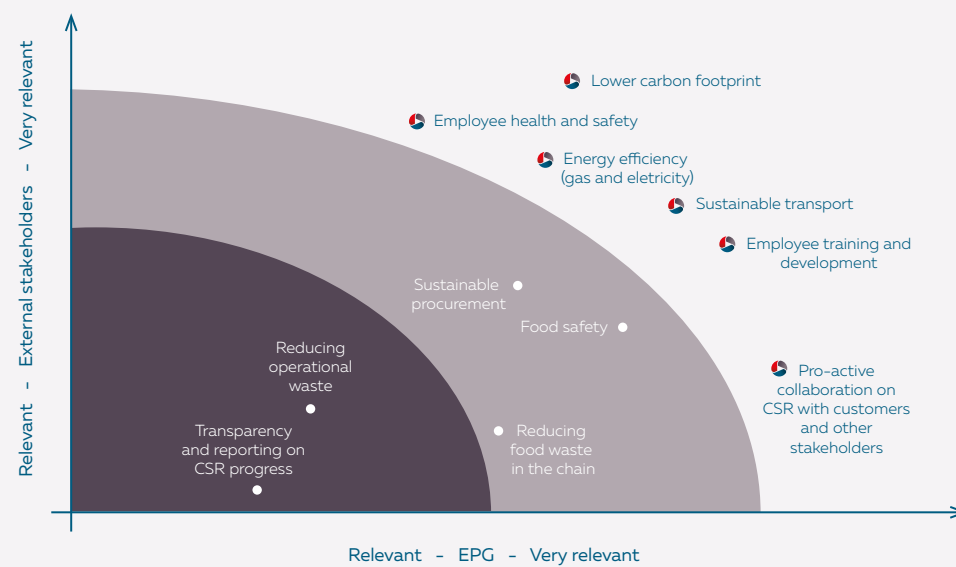
FACT

74% of the wood is PEFC certified

4

SUSTAINABILITY AT
EURO POOL GROUP

To identify the priorities of our sustainability strategy, we asked our customers, partners and employees which topics they find most relevant for EPG. This analysis resulted in a materiality matrix indicating the relevance of topics for external stakeholders and for EPG.



Six topics are marked as most relevant from both perspectives and form the core of our sustainability strategy. We clustered these six topics in three strategic pillars.

People

- Employee training and development
- Employee health and safety

Planet

- Lower carbon footprint
- Sustainable transport
- Energy efficiency

Partners

- Pro-active collaboration with stakeholders



TOGETHER
TOWARDS
A CIRCULAR
ECONOMY

**Sustainable Development Goals**

With our circular business model, we aim to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These universal goals for 2030 provide a framework, agreed on by all members of the United Nations, to achieve and monitor progress and collaborate across sectors. With our focus on the well-being and personal development of our employees, we contribute to SDG 8. Our circular services of reusing and sharing packaging solutions save resources, use less energy and prevent waste, contributing to SDGs 7, 8, 12 and 13. In close collaboration with partners in the supply chain, we achieve more impact than if we would only improve our internal operations. This contributes to SDG 17 and accelerates progress on the other SDGs.





MARLOES DE HAAS
Group HR Manager,
joined EPG in 2016

*"Sustainability is highly valued by
the new generation and an obvious
condition to join a company."*

PEOPLE

PILLAR 1

Employee training and development

We facilitate career & personal development support for our 1,086 employees and offer training programmes.

Employee health and safety

We invest in a safe working environment and strive to ensure that our colleagues, contractors and visitors get home safe every day. We train our employees on health and safety measures to minimise accidents.



PLANET

PILLAR 2

Lower carbon footprint

We reduce Greenhouse gases emissions through sustainable procurement, resource efficiency, optimal product and process design, waste prevention.

Sustainable transport

We ensure supply chain efficiency by locating our service centres in key production areas, and by using existing truck capacity and optimal transport planning, thereby lowering the number of transport movements.

Energy efficiency

We reduce gas and electricity consumption in our EPS service centres, focussing on the equipment and processes we use to wash our trays.



JULIO LÁZARO BADENAS
International Operations Manager,
joined EPS in 2003

*"We worked on the implementation of
the efficient drying solution project for
the past two years and managed to
cover 30-45% of our washing volumes.
This significantly reduced our energy
consumption."*

NIELS DE GOEDE
Supply Chain Manager,
joined EPS in 2002

*"Our philosophy is to optimise the
use of existing capacity in the supply
chain, resulting in efficiency as well as
sustainability advantages."*



PARTNERS

PILLAR 3

GAËL GONZALEZ
Quality & CSR Manager Europe,
joined LPR in 2016

"We help our customers to lower their environmental impact, and we provide insight in the carbon footprint of our pallet service through our online customer portal."



Pro-active collaboration with stakeholders

We contribute to circular economic growth throughout the fresh food and FMCG supply chain. By using and sharing trays and pallets as circular logistic carriers, we help our customers to reduce their environmental impact.

Compliance & certification

In all our countries of operation, compliance with local laws and regulations is included in our management systems. We use certification schemes to meet relevant standards and to provide evidence thereof.

Speak-up campaign

In 2017 we introduced a code of conduct and whistle blower policy, and re-launched them internally under the campaign name 'Speak Up'. Every EPG service centre, subsidiary and office across our countries of operation received information to spread the message and explain it to the employees. In case of a suspicion of misconduct, every employee can report this anonymously via an external party.

Corporate health & safety and managing environmental risks

To prevent accidents, we work with KPI's on four dimensions in our EPS service centres across Europe. These KPI's on Safety, Health, Environment and Quality (SHEQ) have a preventive purpose and allow us to act pro-actively. In 2018 we will switch from our current management system OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series) to ISO 45001 for the service centre in Valencia, Spain. ISO 45001 focuses on health, safety and psychosocial well-being of employees. We aim to implement this transition in Bornheim, Germany, by 2019 and in the remainder of our service centres in the Western European region by 2020. To manage environmental aspects we are planning to implement ISO 14001 for Zellik, Belgium and Bornheim, Germany. Further roll-out for our own depots will take place in the coming 3-4 years. LPR conducts a detailed audit on Safety, Health, Environment and Infrastructure management in each service centre each year. In addition, our inspection teams continuously visit the service centres in each country to check their compliance while also executing pallet quality controls.



GAËL GONZALEZ

"CSR at LPR has been a journey since 2010. We started with PEFC certification for our wood supply and worked on several topics since. From business ethics to greening transportation, and from the reforestation project to the carbon capture project. I am proud this has been awarded with a 'Gold' rating by EcoVadis, for the third year in a row," Gaël Gonzalez, Quality & CSR Manager Europe LPR.

ANNEMIEKE VAN DER HEIJDE
Group Marketing Manager,
joined EPG in 2015

"We make progress in the development and implementation of our sustainability journey. It is our ambition to reduce our carbon footprint with 20% per movement by 2025, compared to 2017, and it is my mission for 2018 to involve all of our employees and external stakeholders to achieve this goal."

Governance

A designated team, under supervision of Group Marketing Manager Annemieke van der Heijde, ensures that these topics are incorporated in the overall strategy of EPG. The steering committee consists of several pillar owners who embed and manage the sustainability activities and opportunities on a local level throughout the EPS and LPR divisions. Top management participates in the steering committee and holds the overall responsibility.

Together with our partners

We collaborate closely with our stakeholders and partners to improve our impact throughout the supply chain.



STAKEHOLDERS

Suppliers of trays and pallets

- EPS co-operates with tray suppliers on innovations such as the folding banana tray with Bekuplast, and obtaining a food licence to recycle old trays into new trays.
- LPR procurement is based on a network of selected suppliers. They have to comply with the highest requirements in terms of quality and they guarantee a responsible sourcing of wood in accordance with LPR's PEFC Chain of Custody certification.

Customers

Growers of fruit and vegetables share our reusable trays. Producers of Fast Moving Consumer Goods share our reusable pallets.

- Our customers expect advanced standards regarding Occupational Health and Safety and Environment. We pay great attention to complying with these standards to which we fully adhere.
- We offer customers a solution which generates sustainability benefits such as increased efficiency, reduced food waste and lower CO₂ emissions. Our LPR tool monitors and reports the carbon savings to customers.

Transport companies

We work closely together with transport companies to optimise the delivery and return of empty trays and pallets.

- Information sharing is a key element for optimising our logistical services throughout the supply chain.
- We look for opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of transport by using empty return trucks, multi-customer optimisation and partnering on multi-model transportation options such as Cool Rail.

Retailers

Retailers throughout Europe use our reusable trays and pallets.

- We collaborate with our retail partners, enabling them to reach their targets on circular packaging and a lower carbon footprint.
- Information sharing is a key element for optimising our logistical service throughout the supply chain, and results in increased efficiency and cost savings for retail partners.

External service providers

Empty trays and pallets are collected, sorted, washed and repaired for reuse.

- Our network of service centres is a cornerstone of our circular model. We collaborate closely with these business partners to build a qualitative and efficient service. They have to comply with the health, safety and environmental requirements defined in our code of conduct which we audit yearly.

Knowledge partners

- We conduct a research on the use of bioplastics with Wageningen University in the Netherlands.
- We collaborate with DUO Plast Technology Centre, Germany, for operational optimisation.
- For food and environmental safety, we conduct research with Mérieux NutriSciences / Silliker, Triskelion, Groen Agro Control and Intertek in the Netherlands.

NGO's

- The EPG Sports Challenge resulted in 919 days and 18 hours of sportive activities by colleagues for which a donation will be made to charity.
- LPR supports the reforestation project 'Plantons pour l'avenir', to compensate for CO₂ emissions related to LPR's transport activities.

Employees

- In 2017 we established our CSR strategy and started to deliver on its implementation, with the support of our pillar owners. In the coming years we will engage all our employees to share our CSR ambitions and results.



PEOPLE

PILLAR 1



People are our most important asset. Therefore we encourage professional and personal growth, and take measures to improve the safety and well-being of our employees.

5

PILLAR 1: PEOPLE



MARLOES DE HAAS

"I'm proud of all the colleagues that participated in the Leadership Development Programme, which we continue in 2018." Marloes de Haas, Group HR Manager.

"Together with my SHEQ-colleague Anne de Middelaer, I am pleased to see the benefits of our safety measures and new risk assessment tool. As a result, the number of accidents significantly reduced in our service centre in Zellik, Belgium."
Marloes de Haas,
Group HR Manager.

We are keen on the development and well-being of our 1,086 employees in our entire organisation. We facilitate training programmes and take measures to improve the health and safety of our employees.

The main explanation for the high number of male employees is the high degree of physical work in our service centres. For the next five years we aim to realise a participation rate of 25% of female employees.

Employee training and development

Training

Over the past three years, EPG has executed a Leadership Development Programme in which 85 people participated. Employees in our service centres received operational trainings such as Lean Six Sigma. LPR started in 2017 with an e-learning module to capitalise on business knowledge and to develop and reinforce skills. 185 employees completed these training modules. In 2018 the e-learning module is also provided to EPS employees.

Employee health and safety

Working together with external service providers

We feel responsible for the working conditions at the facilities of external service providers and we collaborate with them to implement health and safety measures and check on labour practices. For instance the service centre in Valencia, Spain, received the OHSAS18001 certification IN 2017. We take precautions to ensure a safe working environment and train our employees on health and safety measures to minimise accidents.

Safe working place

To avoid accidents, we have taken slip, trip and fall prevention measures in the internal EPS service centres. For instance, by treating the floors around the washing facilities to reduce the slip risk. We also started a project to improve the stability of our palletisation.

Healthy employees

Once a year all EPG employees are offered a health check. The EPG Sports Challenge also contributes to the goal of staying healthy and it supports a good cause in the meantime. Employees submitted a total of 919 days and 18 hours of sports activities, for which EPG donates to a charity.

Employee engagement

Once a year LPR organises a Red Day in which all subsidiaries take part in the same activity focused on local sustainability and charity projects. To celebrate our 25th anniversary as EPG, we organised a group event in combination with activities on a local level. In 2018 we plan to actively engage employees in our sustainability strategy and promote local activities.



EURO POOL GROUP CHALLENGE

Sharing the benefits of sports

FACT

85 participants in the Leadership Development Programme

FACT

Employees:
1,086 at EPG
779 at EPS
307 at LPR

FACT

Employees:
17% female
83% male

FACT

Absence rate:
3.45%



PLANET PILLAR 2



To minimise empty kilometers in the transportation of our logistic carriers we closely cooperate with our customers for optimal transport planning.

PILLAR 2: PLANET



NIELS DE GOEDE

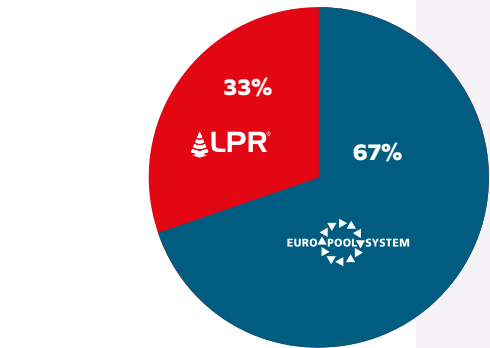
Our circular business model focuses on sharing and reusing logistic carriers. By ensuring supply chain efficiency, minimising truck movement and exploring alternative modes of transport, we lower our carbon footprint and that of our customers. Additionally, we focus on resource efficiency and the avoidance of waste.

Lower carbon footprint

In 2017 we have calculated our full scope carbon footprint¹. This is a unique approach in which we take our own operations, and both the upstream and downstream activities from our partners into consideration. In addition to taking measures in our own operations, collaborating with partners to reduce emissions in transportation yields most positive impact.

At both divisions, transportation (our own transportation and that of our customers) has the highest impact (51% in total). The impact of our own operations (such as service centres and offices) is higher at EPS compared to LPR. Partly because washing the trays requires more energy than repairing the pallets.

Our aim is to reduce our carbon footprint with 20% per movement by 2025, compared to 2017. We do this mainly by implementing more sustainable



	EUROPOOLSYSTEM		LPR	
Transportation	<div></div> 85,286 t	32%	<div></div> 51,296 t	19%
Own operations	<div></div> 40,700 t	15%	<div></div> 10,368 t	4%
Upstream production	<div></div> 52,048 t	19%	<div></div> 24,754 t	9%
Other	<div></div> 9,096 t	3%	<div></div> 499 t	0%
End of life	<div></div> -6,647 t	-2%	<div></div> 1,671 t	1%
Total ton CO ₂ equivalent	<div></div> 180,484 t	67%	<div></div> 88,589 t	33%

¹ The presented carbon footprint includes all scope 1 and 2 emissions of Euro Pool's own operations and all relevant scope 3 upstream and downstream emissions. All transportation flows are included except for the retail store returns to the jointly operated (by retailers and EPS) RSU's.

The footprint has been set up in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, except for the end-of-life calculation for EPS where the Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules Guidance (May 2018) is applied.

transportation options and increasing the energy efficiency of our own operation. Additionally, the reforestation project, optimal product design and reduction of food waste contributes to a lower carbon footprint.

Renewable energy

For 2018 EPS plans to sign green energy contracts from renewable sources, starting with its operations in Spain and followed by other European markets.

Reforestation commitment

LPR has signed an agreement for the reforestation of 15 hectares of forests per year with the association 'Plantons pour l'avenir' in France. This initiative has a dual objective: compensating part of the carbon footprint of LPR's transport activities in partnership with some of our customers, as well as contributing to the preservation and development of forest ecosystems that are vital for LPR's business.

Optimal design

We continuously improve the functionality and robustness of our trays and pallets. Together with our suppliers, we innovate to make trays thinner and easier to fold, thereby significantly reducing truck movements and CO₂ emissions. Our pallets are composed of 100% solid wood and contain no composite blocks. This reduces chemical use and it makes our pallets stronger and better recyclable.

Minimal food waste

The use of our reusable logistic carriers results in far less product damage in the fresh food and FMCG supply chain, compared to alternatives. This significantly reduces waste and associated CO₂ emissions. In the case of single-use logistic carriers, approximately 4% of the transported carriers is damaged on the way to the consumer. With reusable packaging that figure is only 0.1%.

Sustainable transport

Our service centres are located in key production areas in order to minimise transportation to our customers. Our philosophy regarding sustainable transport is to optimise the use of the existing capacity in the supply chain. Many trucks return empty or only partially loaded. This inefficiency leads to many unnecessary trucks on European roads. Based on information within the supply



JULIO LÁZARO BADENAS



FACT

Only 0.1% product damage due to reusable trays²

FACT

By 2025, 5% of our pallet carbon footprint will be compensated by reforestation

² Fraunhofer study "The Sustainability of Packaging Systems for Fruit and Vegetable Transport in Europe based on Life-Cycle Analysis" (2017)



chain, we optimise the use of truck capacity of our business partners, such as retailers and customers from the FMCG industry, to return empty trays and pallets to our service centres. This minimises transportation and reduces CO₂ emissions, whilst ensuring optimal reliability, flexibility, sustainability and efficiency in the supply chain. LPR promotes carriers with greener truck fleets and concrete environmental engagement such as Charte Ademe in France, FTA in UK and ISO14001.

Multimodal transport innovation: Cool Rail

Another supply chain innovation we developed in this area is Cool Rail, a refrigerated rail service between Spain and Northern Europe, providing shippers of fresh produce with a more sustainable alternative to road transport. It can reduce CO₂ emissions by 70% and will eventually lead to cost savings of 20-30%. The initiative was successfully piloted in 2017. This unique and challenging partnership between growers, transport providers, retailers, railway companies and governmental organisations in multiple European countries, will be further developed in 2018.

Carbon footprint monitoring for customers

Via the online LPR customer portal, customers can calculate the carbon footprint of our reusable pallets. Based on the number of pallets rented per year, we calculate the total carbon footprint, as well as the emissions avoided by opting for a reusable pallet instead of a single-use solution.

Energy efficiency

At EPS, gas and electricity efficiency is an important focus area, starting with the equipment to wash our trays. We have developed centrifuges that dry our trays, using only 10% of the energy required for a conventional blower. This project covers 30-45% of our washing volumes. Another aspect is the gas required to heat-up the water. We developed a special washing process that minimises the temperature, thereby significantly reducing our energy consumption. By doing so, we have managed to turn high energy consuming processes into more sustainable solutions. Both innovations have been implemented in several key sites and a roll-out plan is in place for 2018.

FACT

1.07 kg of CO₂ equivalent was the footprint per movement of an LPR pallet in 2017

Reducing operational waste

Besides empty trays, our return logistics services also collect various other return streams from our retail customers, and make sure these are recycled. This means less transport is required to the shops, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of our customers.

Water reuse and reduction

Regarding the water consumption at the EPS service centres, we have initiated a pilot project to reuse the water used to wash the trays. By purifying the water, we reuse 70% of the water which otherwise would have been disposed. This saves approximately 59 million litres of water on a yearly basis. New service centres like Barendrecht and Zellik have implemented innovative washing techniques, to minimise water use. In the coming year we will develop our target and actions to further reduce the water consumption necessary to wash our trays.

FACT

90% reduction in energy consumption for drying the trays by a newly developed centrifuge

FACT

269 kton CO₂ equivalent is the total EPG carbon footprint for 2017

FACT

Our aim is to reduce our carbon footprint with 20% per pallet movement by 2025, compared to 2017

FACT

Our aim is to reduce our carbon footprint with 20% per tray movement by 2025, compared to 2017

FACT

70% of the water is reused in a reutilisation project



PARTNERS PILLAR 3



In 2010 LPR became the first PEFC certified pallet pooler in Europe offering their partners a sustainable answer to logistic carriers in the FMCG supply chain.

7

PILLAR 3: PARTNERS



GAËL GONZALEZ



Together with our partners we focus on reducing the use of resources, responsible sourcing and optimal repair and recycling of trays and pallets.

Recyclability of our plastic trays

Our EPS trays are made from virgin plastic to ensure a long lifespan of approximately 7 years and are 100% recyclable. In 2017 we have initiated a project to investigate the use of recycled plastic and bioplastics.

Procurement of sustainable wood for pallet manufacture and repair

LPR is continuously working with its suppliers to promote better sourcing and business practices. Operating in 21 European countries, LPR only sources pallets from EU countries, and works with both local pallet producers and local sawmills to produce wood for repair.

In 2010, LPR became the first pallet pooler to be PEFC certified. LPR controls the chain of custody, thereby guaranteeing that the wood used for its pallets and for pallet repair comes from responsibly managed forests. In addition, LPR promotes pallet manufacturers or sawmills that are PEFC certified. In 2010 only 22% was certified, this has grown to 74% in 2017. It is our ambition to source 100% PEFC certified wood by 2025.

Ebaki, example of a partner in responsible pallet supply

Ebaki is one of the largest wood processing companies in Spain, producing an average of 150,000 pallets a year. We have worked with Ebaki since the start of our Spanish operations in 2005. Ebaki is located in the Basque Country, a region where forests cover a big part of the territory. Its plant is located in the heart of a sustainably managed forest. These sustainable principles are strongly implemented in this part of Spain, in particular through PEFC certification.

There is a strong coordination at the regional level between the different industries of the wood supply chain, from the forest owners to the sawmills and the manufacturers.

“We are a cooperative, the 48 co-workers are also the owners of the company. The logs are mainly sourced from the region, of which 60% is PEFC certified. People with disabilities represent up to 2% of our employees, in-line with Spanish regulations,” Eduardo Marquez, General Manager of Ebaki.

Supporting CSR ambitions of retail partners

Colruyt Group is a retail group active in the distribution of food and non-food products in Belgium, France and Luxembourg. It comprises about 500 stores under its own management and over 600 affiliated stores. “Sustainable entrepreneurship is in our DNA. Next to sustainable sourcing of our products, we also continuously work to reduce the environmental impact of our products and services. Against this backdrop Colruyt operates as an EPS depot; we clean and sort trays. This means that our suppliers can pick-up trays with their reverse logistics. By doing so we ensure more efficient logistics, reduce our environmental impact and also ensure a revenue stream for our business. For 2018 we are also exploring the use of folding trays, through our partnership with EPS.” Dirk Leemans, Head Centre of Excellence Supply Chain Colruyt Group.

FACT

74% of the pallets is made from PEFC certified wood

FACT

For every 100 trays we rent out, 99 are returned

8

GLOSSARY

Absence rate

Number of lost employee working hours, whether work-related or not, due to illness and injuries as a percentage of the scheduled working hours. Maternity leave is excluded.

BRC Global standard Packaging and Packaging Materials

Helps to develop and manufacture safe, legal packaging materials that meet the expected quality levels.

BRC Global standard Storage and Distribution

The objective of the BRC Global Standard is to ensure that product integrity during the storage and distribution is maintained, and that customer confidence is upheld through audit and certification. The EPS service centre in Barendrecht, the Netherlands, received this certificate in 2017.

Circular economy

Looking beyond the current take-make-dispose extractive industrial model, a circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system (Ellen MacArthur Foundation).

CO₂ equivalent

A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of their global-warming potential.

CO₂ footprint

The total amount of greenhouse gases produced by our direct and indirect activities, expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide.

ISO 9001

International norm addressing various aspects of quality management.

ISO 14001

Standard providing practical tools for companies and organisations to manage their environmental responsibilities.

ISO 45001

Standard for management systems of occupational health and safety (OH&S), published in March 2018. Its goal is the reduction of occupational injuries and diseases. This standard is based on OHSAS 18001, labour standards, conventions, and guidelines of the International Labour Organisation and national standards.

OHSAS 18001

Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series. An internationally applied British standard for occupational health and safety management systems.

PEFC certification

PEFC promotes sustainable forest management through forest certification. PEFC Chain of Custody certification offers assurances that the final wood and/or non-timber product can be traced back to a sustainable source.

Sustainable Development Goals

A framework, agreed on by all members of the United Nations, to achieve and monitor progress across all three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic).

Source

¹ Fraunhofer study “The Sustainability of Packaging Systems for Fruit and Vegetable Transport in Europe based on Life-Cycle Analysis” (2017).

² EcoVadis rates and monitors the CSR practices in the supply chain, across 180 sectors and 150 countries.

COLOPHON

Publication date

November 2018

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About the report

Our first sustainability report 2017 is drafted using the quality requirements of GRI Standard (Global Reporting Initiative) as a guideline. The ambition is to publish our Sustainability report 2018 in accordance with GRI Standard level ‘core’. To do so, we focus on selecting KPI’s, implementing local activities and measuring required data. Our carbon footprint inventory is based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. The scope of this report is Euro Pool Group, consisting of two divisions: Euro Pool System International B.V and La Palette Rouge (LPR).

SHARING THE BENEFITS OF RETURNABLE PACKAGING

Over a period of more than 25 years, Euro Pool Group has developed into the largest logistics service provider of reusable standard packaging in Europe. A success that we share with all the parties in the chain. Each and every day producers, transporters, processing companies and retailers benefit from the advantages of our reusable trays and pallets: they are strong, always available, stackable, clean, traceable and 100% recyclable. Moreover, we are constantly working towards further standardisation and integration of our solutions within the logistics process of our customers. With a network of approximately 178 service centres in 27 countries, we ensure optimal reliability, sustainability and efficiency throughout the entire chain.

