

FERVER: Europe's glass recyclers

FERVER is the European association that aims to bring together European glass recyclers into a collective body. It represents the profession at an EU level. Its members are responsible for recycling 70% of all container glass in Europe.



What does FERVER do? What is the Federation's mission?

FERVER is a European Federation with a dual role: To promote the activities and protect the interests of its members; and inform its members of the evolution of European legislation and the economic climate.

The Federation aims to bring together European glass recyclers. Its object is to represent the profession (particularly towards the European institutions). Some of the activities that the association may undertake in order to achieve its objectives are as follows:

- Promotion, on a sustainable

basis, of dialogue with European Union institutions and European organisations linked to glass recycling.

- Intensify cooperation between European glass recyclers.
- Dissemination of information relating to glass recycling
- The social object is the study, protection and promotion of the professional interests of the members.
- FERVER may not undertake any commercial activity.

Can you give a brief history of the company?

FERVER started in Paris in the early

nineties as an informal group of glass recyclers from Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and The Netherlands.

The first official Bylaws were published in 2004. Since then, FERVER has had a seat in Brussels, and a Secretary General. FERVER celebrated its official 10th anniversary with a workshop in Brussels at the end of 2014. In 2012, the offices of FERVER moved, remaining still in Brussels, to the building of the Belgian waste management federation FEBEM, which ensures the administrative and logistic services.

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in Brussels. External speakers are invited to these assemblies.

FERVER has 34 members, each recycling a significant part of their glass collection into the glass industry on a long-term basis.

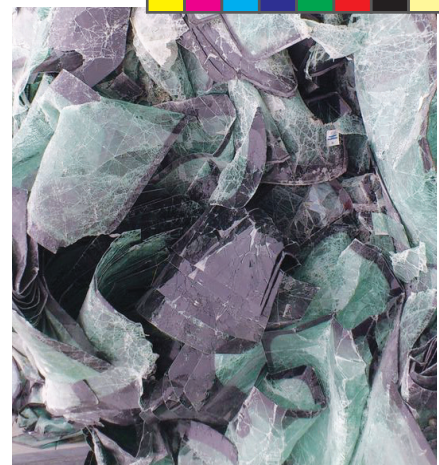
Are your members present throughout the whole of Europe?

FERVER has members in 14 countries of the European Union, and also has a member in Norway and Ukraine. Some countries are represented by one company, other countries by several members.

What does FERVER do for its members?

One of the first tasks of FERVER was to write an ethical code of good practices. This code, signed by all the members, is a guarantee of ethical behaviour, and of respect for the environment and the legislation for the members and their relations.

FERVER brings the members into contact to develop common positions at a European level. FERVER played a crucial role in the writing of the End of Waste (EOW) Regulation for glass cullet. Thanks



Europe for flat glass, in order to create a relationship of mutual confidence, to define and even anticipate their demands in order to allow its members to offer the right quantities and qualities of furnace ready cullet.

How does FERVER encourage or promote glass collection and recycling?

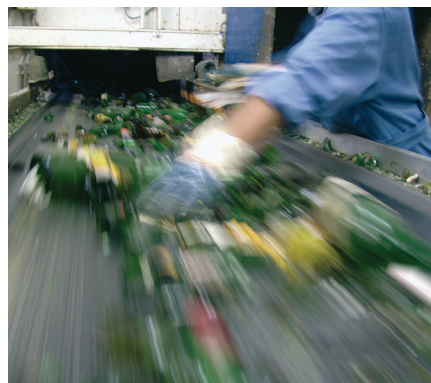
FERVER contacts the European institutions to stress the importance of high value glass recycling, instead of so-called down-cycling. Glass, as a material, is perfectly, totally and for ever recyclable. Once glass is used for other purposes, such as in the construction sector (foundation of roads & buildings, etc.), the circle of recycling is broken and so the circular economy stops. FERVER works towards continuing improvement of the European legislation in order to have clear definitions, targets and rules



How is FERVER structured in terms of staff and members?

FERVER is a federation of private and independent (not owned by glass manufacturers) recycling companies. The Board of FERVER is composed of the President, the Vice-President and the Chairman of the Steering Committee.

The steering committee meets at least four times a year to manage the activities of FERVER. All members are welcome on this committee if they are able to assist on a regular basis. The General Assembly takes place in June in the country of one of its members, whilst the plenary meeting meets at the end of November



to the expertise of its representatives, this Regulation is until now the only one which has been adopted without any difficulty by Europe. Now that the Regulation has been published, FERVER has taken several initiatives at European as well as at national levels to ensure the certification process of such EOW Cullet.

FERVER also initiates studies and campaigns to develop, for example, common sampling procedures and to control the chemical quality and stability of recycled glass.

FERVER is also in permanent contact with the federations of the glass industry, FEVE for container glass, and Glass for



resulting in an efficient collection and an effective recycling of glass waste.

FERVER also makes contact with the take-back schemes to promote the selective collection of glass, which is the first condition for high quality recycling. The focus is often put on the quantity, but it is even important to ensure the quality of collected glass. In the building sector, for example, it is crucial to collect windows on deconstruction sites in clean containers, as once glass is mixed with stones and concrete, it is not recyclable anymore.

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In the automotive sector, the European legislation on 'End of Life' vehicles is unclear, and leaves the field open for down-cycling.

What types of glass do your members collect and recycle?

FERVER members are recycling all types of glass, provided that they can really be recycled into glass products. That covers container glass, flat glass, automotive glass, photovoltaic glass, foam glass, and fibre glass.

Due to the European legislation on extended producer responsibility for

packaging and packaging waste, the higher volume of collected glass is clearly represented by container glass. There is a high demand from the glass industry to use recycled glass instead of virgin material.

How much glass do members of FERVER recycle each year?

We consider that FERVER members recycle roughly 70% of the container glass put on the European market. This represents about 7 million tons of glass each year. Data on flat glass is not available at a European level, since that is not covered by directives comparable with the packaging and packaging waste Directive. FERVER has started to collect its own statistics, in order to monitor the undoubted increase in recycling of building and automotive glass over the coming years.

Do you have any targets in place to increase this rate of recycling?

As FERVER (and its members) do not hold the reins of power, it cannot fix targets. But, FERVER works together with partner federations (FEVE, Glass for Europe, FEAD, etc.) to develop KPI's based on available statistics. The upcoming new circular economy package of the European Commission will give a boost to recycling in Europe, certainly for container glass. FERVER will also take additional initiatives in the B2B sector to increase the collection and recycling rate of flat glass in the building and automotive sector. ■

www.ferver.eu

▲ A Fast Plus sorting centre, in Belgium. Fast Plus is a not-for-profit association that sees to the promotion, coordination and financing of selective collection, sorting and recycling of household packaging waste in Belgium.