

Press Release

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5th KI Group – Summit K 2019: Transition to circular economy / Plastics markets undergoing change through recycling

Bad Homburg, 5 November 2019 – The world’s leading trade fair for plastics, K 2019 in Düsseldorf / Germany, is over and the bottom line is that the plastics industry will radically change over the next few years. On 17 October 2019, these disruptions were the topic of many fundamental considerations and concrete practical examples presented at the high-calibre “5th KI Group – Summit” that traditionally accompanies the “K 2019” trade fair. Plastics recycling is becoming increasingly important and is challenging the industry. “We need to conserve our resources if we want to maintain our prosperity, and we must bring China, India and the US on board”, Ton Emans, President of Plastics Recyclers Europe (RPE), appealed to around 250 visitors. Plastics recycling has become a global challenge which, in view of the rapidly growing population, requires rapid measures with costs in the billions. Mr. Emans considers it unlikely that public entities will be able to raise these sums and therefore appeals to private investors.

But instead of strict prohibitions, KI editor-in-chief Daniel Stricker calls for positive incentives for recycling and a recyclable product design. Particularly in view of Europe’s increasing dependence on imports of feedstocks and polymers, plastics recycling is recognised as a strategically important step towards securing and protecting raw material reserves. There are already several successful examples of plastics recycling and products made from recyclates, for example in Germany.

RIGK GmbH presented a concept for the agricultural sector that allows to collect and sort used plastics in a meaningful way, since these two steps are the basic prerequisite for successful recycling. Borealis and Ineos Styrolution presented two promising recycling concepts, while Albis Plastic GmbH and Galloo Plastics are already producing their first stable high-quality products made of recycled plastic. The summit was rounded off with the successfully sustainability approach for the packaging industry presented by the Mondi Group. The 5th KI Group – Summit thus offered a comprehensive overall view of all plastics

recycling issues and makes one thing very clear: The solutions for the rapidly growing volumes of plastics are still in their infancy, but the industry is working tirelessly to establish plastics recycling as a permanent key process.



Image 1: The 5th KI Group – Summit at the K 2019 fair was clearly focusing on plastics recycling



Image 2: Mr. Ton Emans highlights the urgency of plastic recycling at the 5th KI Group – Summit

About KI Group

With its subsidiaries Kunststoff Information Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, KunststoffWeb GmbH and Kunststoff-Profi Verlag GmbH & Co. KG, the KI Group is providing decision makers in the German and European plastics industry with critical business information since 1971. The current range of services includes extensive online portals in German and English, print newsletters, the trade magazine K-PROFI, the official German-language fair newspaper K-AKTUELL for the K plastics fair as well as the highly topical daily visitor information K-PROFI at the Fakuma trade fair. The information provided comprises up-to-date contract and spot prices for plastics, trading reports, capacity databases, market and user reports, daily news, E-Mail alerts and newsletters and specialised analytical tools for price research and comparisons. It is complemented by a wide range of services in consulting, further training, seminars and market research on all aspects of plastics purchasing. Since its foundation, the KI Group has occupied a leading position in the field of plastics prices. With a unique network of producers, distributors and processors, it stays in close contact with hundreds of market players to gather price and market data. KI Group's price indices are accepted throughout the industry and are included in the escalator clauses of countless supply contracts. More than 5,500 European companies already trust in our data and reports.

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