

## From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, every small packaging and aluminum coffee capsules can be sorted via the blue bag!

**BRUSSELS, 9 DECEMBER 2022** – *From January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, every small aluminum packaging (individual portions of cheese, chocolate wrapping, bottle caps, lids, etc.) and coffee capsules can be sorted in the blue bag to be recycled.*

Since 2016, AREME, the Association for the recycling of light metal packaging and items, promotes this efficient solution for a more circular economy. This extension of waste collection, and the improvement of sorting and recycling of these products will allow to recycle more aluminum, a material of choice for circular economy as it is infinitely recyclable.

Thanks to our members' involvement and a successful collaboration with Fost Plus, the organization in charge of the collection, the sorting and the recycling of household packaging in Belgium, we are honored to announce that from January 1<sup>st</sup>, every aluminum packaging, big and small, can be sorted in the blue bag, either at home or at work, everywhere in Belgium.

Once they are collected, coffee capsules and small aluminum packaging will be recovered in PMD sorting centers thanks to the installation of new equipment. Then, they will be sent to a dedicated recycling system.

This solution – which facilitates the sorting habits for Belgians and stimulates innovation to preserve natural resources – was only possible thanks to the financial commitment of Nestle Nespresso and JDE Peet's which finance the entire cost of the collection, sorting and recycling of the aluminum coffee capsules.

The collaboration between the packaging sector and the coffee capsules producers allows to create synergies and improve aluminum recycling, to the benefit of the circular economy.

*A few words from our members:*



(Founding member)

“Since the launch of our collection and recycling system in 2011, our goal has always been to increase the recycling rate of capsules. We are convinced that being able to sort your capsules in the blue bag will make recycling easier for our consumers. We also invite all other capsule producers or distributors to take part in this new system, initiated by Nespresso.” **Oliver Perquy, Managing Director Nespresso Belgium and Luxembourg**



(Founding Member)



“At JDE Peet’s, we are proud to provide excellent coffee and moments of connection to all Belgians, in particular with our L’Or and Douwe Egberts brands. Reducing our environmental impact is at the heart of our strategy and it is our responsibility to be an agent of change. Regarding the recycling of aluminum capsules, it seemed obvious to us that the best way to achieve this was to join forces”. **Sonja Wegscheider, General Manager Retail of Jacobs Douwe Egberts Belgium and Luxembourg.**



(Founding member)

« European Aluminium is very pleased with the extension of the ‘Metals’ (M) part of the Belgian PMD blue bag system, which will include as from the 1st of January 2023 also coffee capsules made of aluminium. This will help to reinforce the collection and recycling of all small aluminium packaging items such as foil lids, chocolate wrappings and foil for portion packs and we hope that this can be further enlarged in the near future with the admission of aluminium household foil. » **Maarten Labberton, Director Packaging Group of European Aluminium**



« The very lightweight aluminium foil – only a few grams – used for coffee capsules and small aluminium packaging is critical for the good preservation of the food products (coffee, cheese, chocolate...). It is also fully recyclable, but it needs first to be collected and sorted. EAFA (European Aluminium Foil Association) welcomes the new instructions for Belgium citizens to collect coffee capsules and small aluminium packaging in the blue bag; this will permit their recycling and contribute to a circular economy. » **Jean-Paul Duquet, Director Sustainability of Alufoil**

**For more information, please contact:**

**Elise Regairaz**  
AREME Coordinator  
+32 (0)491 51 23 28  
[elise.regairaz@areme.eu](mailto:elise.regairaz@areme.eu)

**[www.areme.eu](http://www.areme.eu)**