

## **EUMEPS welcomes the launch of a ground-breaking EPS recycling facility in the Netherlands**

**BRUSSELS, Belgium 16 June 2021**

The PolyStyreneLoop recycling facility in Terneuzen, Netherlands, today is opening a pioneering new plant in the Netherlands that will recycle expanded polystyrene (EPS) demolition waste.

The plant is the first of its kind and proves the feasibility of a large-scale, closed-loop solution for the recycling of EPS building and construction waste.

Additionally, the legacy additive HBCD and other impurities such as construction residues or cement will be safely removed during the process while recovering valuable bromine.

The Dutch plant will get its insulation waste from the Netherlands, Germany, and other countries, and it will be able to recycle 3,300 metric tonnes of polystyrene foam insulation waste that might otherwise not be recycled.

Thus, this plant shows the possibility of recycling EPS building and construction waste.

EPS is a lightweight foam composed of 98% air and 2% technology with outstanding protective and thermal insulation properties.

In addition to building and road construction uses, it is widely used in packaging to protect everything from heavy white goods to sensitive electronics, fresh fruit and vegetables, vaccines and even bees.

EUMEPS is one of the 74 members of the PolyStyreneLoop Cooperative, the novel non-profit entity that built the plant.



Other members include representatives of the whole polystyrene foam value chain.

The Cooperative received a European Union LIFE programme grant to help in the construction of the facility.

“We have been supporters of this project since its infancy,” said Klaus Ries, the Chairman of the Board of EUMEPS, the European Union of Manufacturers of Polystyrene, which also includes EPS recyclers. “We hope the PolyStyreneLoop plant will inspire similar facilities to pop up and boost EPS recycling rates all over Europe.”

### **About EUMEPS**

EUMEPS is the association and voice of European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS).

Its members cover the entire EPS value chain from raw material suppliers to EPS converters and recyclers as well as supporting industries including machinery and additive suppliers. Members include individual companies as well as 22 European national EPS associations. This unique representation of the entire value chain ensures that EUMEPS represents both large companies and small- and medium-sized converters and recyclers. Altogether its membership represents more than 1,000 companies, most of them small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and employs more than 80,000 people. Follow us on Twitter or LinkedIn or learn more at <https://eumeps.org/>.

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