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Written comments from PETCORE EUROPE, an accredited observer organization

Second Informal In-Person Heads of Delegation Meeting — Thailand, 27 to 30 September, 2026

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

Date: 23 September 2026

Submitted by: Antonello Ciotti, Chairman

Organization: PETCORE EUROPE

PET packaging plays an essential role in delivering food, beverages, and healthcare products safely and efficiently, while also offering one of the most established and scalable recycling pathways in the plastics economy. As one of the most recyclable and recycled plastics globally, PET plastic demonstrates how material innovation and circular systems can work together to reduce waste, lower emissions, and conserve resources.

PETCORE EUROPE urges negotiators to prioritize policies that expand these systems and avoid approaches—such as blanket bans or punitive taxes—that may unintentionally increase environmental impacts and undermine circular economy goals.

In particular we welcome the adoption of a global binding legislation enforcing:

Global Design for Recycling Guidelines:

“Each Party shall take measures to ensure that plastic products placed on its market are designed to facilitate their collection, sorting and recycling, with a view to promoting circularity, resource efficiency and the use of recycled materials.

Each Party shall establish or apply design-for-recycling requirements or criteria, taking into account relevant internationally recognized, regional or national technical standards, guidelines and assessment methodologies.”

Extended Producer Responsibility:

“Each Party shall establish and implement extended producer responsibility schemes for packaging, in accordance with national circumstances and capabilities, with the objective of supporting the collection, sorting, recycling and environmentally sound management of packaging and promoting circular product design.

Such schemes should include a clearly defined scope of covered materials and producers, clear roles and responsibilities for relevant stakeholders, transparent reporting and



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monitoring requirements, effective enforcement mechanisms, and eco-modulated fees reflecting recyclability and other relevant design characteristics.”

Avoidable and problematic plastic applications:

“Each Party shall take measures to identify and address avoidable or problematic applications of plastic using transparent and evidence-based criteria. Such criteria should consider recyclability, leakage risk, necessity and function, the availability and environmental performance of alternatives, technical feasibility, affordability, national and local circumstances and the waste hierarchy. No application should be subject to restriction solely on the basis that it contains plastic where the application can be effectively collected, sorted and recycled and where available alternatives would result in greater overall environmental impacts.

