



Tasks and Activities of the Verpackungskoordinierungsstelle (VKS)

VKS should be understood as a unit which has to coordinate the interest of the different parties in the field of collecting packaging waste

Introduction

- The foundation of the VKS was necessary due to the liberalisation of the producer responsibility scheme for packaging by EU-regulations
- Legal basis of the VKS is § 30a of the Austrian Waste Management Act 2002
- The formal foundation of the VKS took place in June 2014 by decision of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)
- A completely new organisation was set up and started the first activities in January 2015

Organisation

- The VKS is owned by the Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Umweltbundesamt GmbH itself is owned by the Federal Republic of Austria)
- The VKS has
 - 1 Managing Director and 7 employees
 - a Supervisory Board of 5 members
 - a Consulting Committee of 7 stakeholders
- All producer responsibility organisations have to contract with the VKS as obligatory requirement to get approved by the BMK
 - all costs of the VKS are borne by these organisations

Business Mission

- The VKS sees itself as a neutral service provider for all producer responsibility organisations for packaging in Austria which has also to ensure fair competition between the different collecting and recycling systems
- The VKS is
 - not a regulator but a supporter of the PROs being contracted based on civil law
 - no authority in the sense of a legal court but keeps an eye on fair competition

Activities of the VKS (I)

- Household Sector
 - coordination how users (consumers) have to be informed about packaging waste collection
 - collaboration towards cost-effective packaging waste collection
 - calculate the mass of packaging in residual waste which has to be compensated by payments from PROs to municipalities
- Commercial Sector
 - to create and provide a so called „Anfallstellenregister“ (this is an electronic database where commercial users may register and report the type and mass of packaging waste they expect to have as necessary settlement data for disposal companies)

Activities of the VKS (II)

- Commercial & household sector
 - to organise and coordinate the necessary analysis of packaging waste (e. g. sorting analysis of household packaging waste, ...)
 - to organise and coordinate the controls of those who have to pay the duty for the waste collection (= licence fees of first distributor on the market of packaging material)
 - if necessary: to create arbitration procedures if there are different opinions between the PROs or other stakeholders (e. g. communities, municipalities, ...)

Activities of the VKS (III)

- Another role of the VKS results to the fact that the PROs have to pay 0.5 % of their licensing revenues for waste prevention measures. The VKS administrates these subsidies as trustee and organises the selection of the best waste prevention projects by an independent jury. Calls for proposals are open twice a year. The VKS contracts with the selected funding recipients, evaluates the project success and carries out the control of expenses.

EPR system and the VKS

