Increasing the substitution of virgin plastics in products: the quest of SUEZ

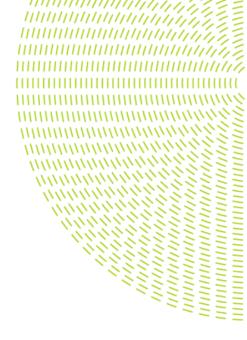
Peter Segers
Business Innovation Manager

12 November 2015



### Content

- Introduction to SUEZ
- Waste plastic activities
- A quest or mission?
- Collection
- Sorting and recycling
- Plastic converters & OEM's
- The newest plastic project of SUEZ: QCP
- Summary





### Introduction to SUEZ

Key figures 2014

#### SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, GLOBAL LEADER

Dedicated to the Water and Waste Management



TURNOVER WATER & WASTE: 14.3 Billion €

**29%** OF TURNOVER GENERATED OUTSIDE EUROPE

MAJOR ACTOR IN WASTE AND MATERIAL MANAGEMENT No. 1 IN FRANCE, No. 2 IN EUROPE, No. 3 WORLDWIDE

GLOBAL WASTE TURNOVER: 7.5 Billon €

15 MILLION TONS RECOVERED WASTE



### Waste plastic activities

Recycling

**400 kt/y** Plastics waste, flakes and pellets sold and traded in Europe

**130 kt/y** Plastics processed in own (or JV) material recycling plants

• PP, PE, PA flakes

PE-LD pellets (granules) and bags from recycled PE-LD

PP pellets and agglomerates

PET food grade pellets and washed flakes

PVC pellets and micronized

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

Sorting of household packaging waste (>400 kt/y)

Plastic-to-oil in the UK, packaging licensing by BellandVision in Germany

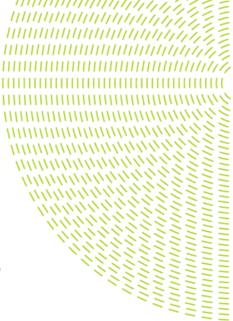
Installation of **PLAST lab**®, a laboratory dedicated to recovering plastics

#### **ONGOING INVESTMENTS:**

Doubling of sorting capacity Rotterdam plant

Partner in a greenfield PP/PE compounds production plant

(http://www.qcpolymers.com)













**CURRENTLY YEARLY 19 MTONNE PLASTIC WASTE IS LANDFILLED/BURNED** 

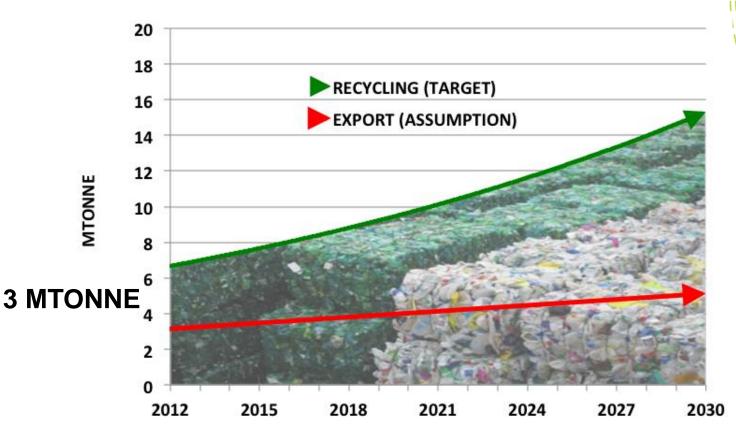
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S MEASURES\*:** 

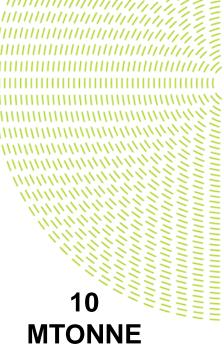
**BAN ON LANDFILLING RECYCLABLE PLASTICS BY 2025** OBJECTIVE TO LIMIT INCINERATION TO NON-RECYCABLE MATERIALS **RECYCLING TARGET OF 60% FOR PLASTICS BY 2030** 

<sup>\*)</sup> THE NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S (EC) CIRCULAR ECONOMY PACKAGE WILL BE RELEASED ON DECEMBER 2, 2015





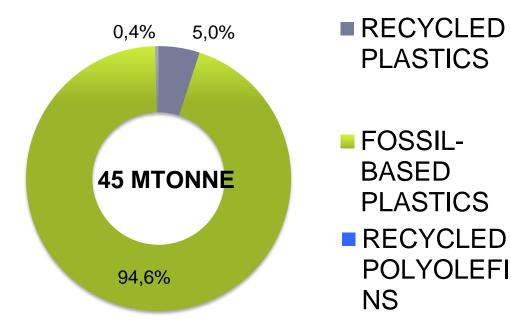


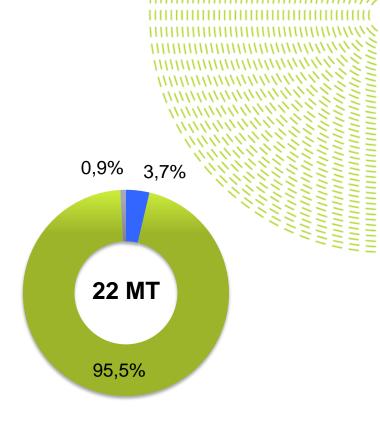


RECYCLING PERCENTAGE SHOULD GROW FROM 26% IN 2012 TO 60% IN 2030 TODAY 6.6 MTONNE OF PLASTIC WASTE COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING OF WHICH 3.2 MTONNE EXPORTED TO ASIA

<sup>6</sup>Source: European Plastics Recyclers/QCP







#### **EUROPEAN POLYMER DEMAND**

**EUROPEAN POLYOLEFIN DEMAND** 

- 3.4 MTONNE OF PLASTIC WASTE INPUT RECYCLED IN EUROPE
- CURRENT RECYCLING YIELD IS AROUND 60%
- SALES OF POLYOLEFIN RECYCLATE LESS THAN 1 MTONNE





### **Example Packaging Recycling**

To bring the recycling quota in Europe from 26% (2012) to 60% (2020) it takes...

- ... **50** additional big plastic packaging sorting plants with 80 kt/y capacity
- ... **140** additional plastic recycling plants with 25 kt/y input capacity
- ... **50** new applications for recycled plastics with a demand of 50 kt/y



### **Collection**

#### What works

- Extended Producer Responsibility
   Systems (EPR) with long-term contracts,
   hampering long-term investments
- Next to EPR, free competition should be allowed on the market for collecting and owning recyclable flows





#### **Branch Collections**

- Agricultural filmsPVC windowsPipes (construction)
  - . . .

Municipal Rigid Plastics Collections





### **Collection**

### Collect high volume plastics...



PET-bottles
Already collected in most of the EU countries



**PE-HD (PP)** blow moulds



PE-LD films & bags





**PP** pots, tubs & trays



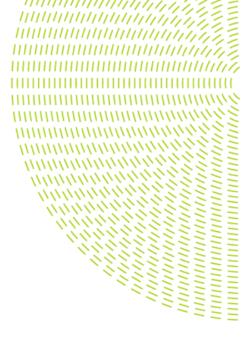


## **Sorting and recycling**

A Modern Light-Weight-Packaging Sorting Plant still has:

- > 50 % Mixed Plastics & Residues
- The mix can be recycled but quality is low
- For high quality recycling we need sorted plastics
- Better sorting with sophisticated technologies is needed
   Investments

Sorting comes with ECO-Design of Packaging





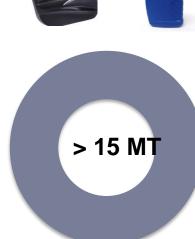
# **Sorting and recycling**

#### **SORTERS AND Recyclers need to innovate IN QUALITY**

Product characteristics

Low odor Colorability Mechanical properties Quality consistency







Virgin-like recycling market

Classical recycling market











## Sorting and recycling

#### Sorters AND Recyclers need to innovate IN PARTNERSHIPS



- Recyclers need to build alliances with OEMs, converters, chemical industry (virgin resins, additives) and waste management companies
- Recyclers need to increasingly think in terms of end applications (instead of waste treatment)
- Recyclers need to build up or improve virgin-customer-approach know-how



### **Converters & OEMS**

#### Help the recyclers!



#### **Converters & OEMs**

- Eco-design your products!
- Widen your vision: there is more than price!
   => Imagine you would have to make all your products from wood because nobody wants to buy plastic products anymore...
- Design your products to be made from recycled plastics!
- Teach and help recyclers to meet quality requirements!



### **QCP - QUALITY CIRCULAR POLYMERS**

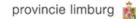
- FOUNDED IN APRIL 2014
- COMBINATION OF STRATEGIC AND REGIONAL PARTNERS
- o 100,000 TONNE PE AND PP COMPOUNDS
- FOCUS ON PACKAGING, HOUSEHOLD, E&E, BUILDING AND AUTOMOTIVE
- PARTNERSHIP WITH INNOVATIVE EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS
- COMPANY WITH ITS ROOTS IN THE VIRGIN POLYMER INDUSTRY
- STARTUP FIRST MODULE OF 35,000 TONNE IN Q4, 2015

### Shareholders











### Technology providers a.o.















## Located in the LOGISTIC AND POLYMER HOTSPOT of





# An experienced team



Huub Meessen CEO



Marc Houtermans COO



Raf Bemelmans CSCO



Marcel van Enckevort Account & Application Development Manager



François Essers Innovation Manager



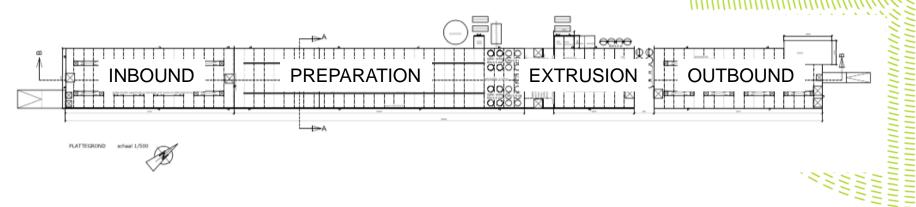
Gilbert Janssen Finance Manager



John Venerius Operations Manager



# Single integrated plant using leading technology



#### FULLY INTEGRATED AND AUTOMATED PLANT:

- PREPARATION INCLUDING COLD & HOT WASH
- COLOR SORTING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE COLORABILITY
- INTENSIVE HOMOGENISATION OF INTERMEDIATE PRODUCT (FLAKES)
- COMPOUNDING IN LINE WITH MELT FILTRATION (CASCADE)









### Hot-washed versus cold-washed





- USING A HOT-WASH REACTOR IMPROVES THE CLEANLINESS OF FLAKES
- IMPROVING MECHANICAL PROPERTIES, BASE COLOR AND SMELL



## **Improving Colorability**

#### INPUT FRACTION

#### LIGHT FRACTION





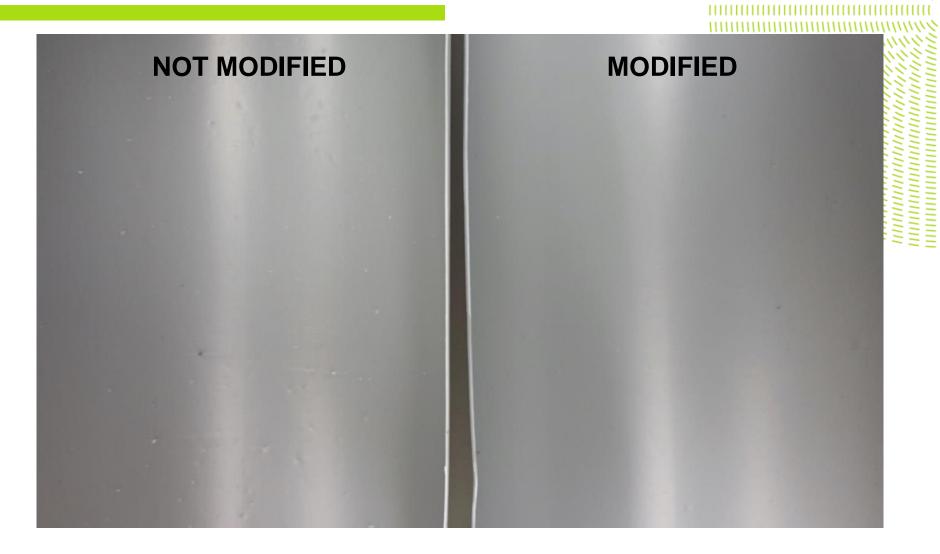




- COLOR SORTING TO ENHANCE COLORABILITY
- LIGHT FRACTION FOR LIGHT COLORS AND DARK FRACTION FOR DARK COLORS



# In-line compounding to improve properties



PHOTOS TAKEN OF THE INSIDE OF A 1 LITRE HDPE BOTTLE



## **Products to replace virgin resins**

- DEVELOPMENT ON INPUT OF BRAND OWNERS AND MOLDERS
- PRODUCTS BASED ON POST CONSUMER (AND POST INDUSTRIAL) WASTE
- NON-FOOD APPLICATIONS DUE TO USE OF POST CONSUMER WASTE
- SPECIFIED COMPOUNDS
- HDPE FOR BLOW MOULDING AND PIPE APPLICATION
- PP FOR INJECTION MOULDING APPLICATIONS (MFR 10 AND HIGHER)









### **QCP - QUALITY CIRCULAR POLYMERS**



- INTEGRATED/AUTOMATED PLANT
- o CAPACITY OF 100,000 TONNE
- BACKWARD INTEGRATED (SUEZ)
- o SPECIFIED PP/PE COMPOUNDS
- INTENSIVE CLEANING
- VACUUM DEGASSING
- COLOR SORTING

- **▶** COST COMPETITIVE
- CERTAINTY OF SUPPLY
- ▶ MEETING CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS
- ▶ IMPROVED COLOR & SMELL
- IMPROVED COLORABILITY



### **Summary**

- Focus on improving household packaging recycling => highest volume impact
- Extend separate collections of plastics
- Improve sorting quality => sort into material fractions (PP, HDPE,...)
- Adapt legislation to stimulate investments in sophisticated sorting and high-quality recycling technologies
- Recyclers to improve virgin-customer-approach know-how and quality
- Converters/OEMs to use more recycled plastics in their products

