



From a macroeconomic perspective, the lubricants industry in Romania has been evolving to a highly dynamic emergent market. In the second quarter of 2016, Romania registered a 5.9% economic growth compared to the similar period of 2015, the highest economic growth in the European Union.

Apart from the macroeconomic considerations, the lubricants industry in Romania is a sectorial market absorbing the evolution trends of connected industries and simultaneously facing its own problems generated by the old and the new legislative framework.

Last year, the biggest challenge confronting our members was the legislation on the management of wastes in general and waste oils in particular. Waste oil is a type of waste with special characteristics and its effective management requires a legislative framework clearly regulating its juridical, processing and economic traceability. First of all, the law should clearly distinguish between fresh oil and collectable waste oil. Between 2011 and 2013, the legislation in force at that time did not distinguish between fresh oil and collectable waste oil, setting unsustainable collecting targets (for 2013, the collecting target was 80% per total quantity of fresh oil placed on the market, not per the values and categories of collectable waste oil). The way in which this law was applied created difficulties for most of our members considering that the authorities have lately been carrying out controls on the management of waste oils in 2011 – 2013.

We therefore consider that an approximation of the Romanian legislation with that of the EU on the management of waste oils is urgently needed to enable increased competitiveness for our industry and to solve the real problems relating to the protection of

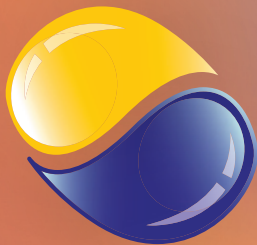
the environment. The most important initiative of our organization in 2016 was the collaboration with a prestigious Romanian academic institution – the Faculty of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemistry of the Petroleum - Gas University of Ploiești, which resulted in the *Study on the criteria to determine the collection level for waste oils in Romania*. As far as we know until now, it is the first study of its kind in Romania.

Optimizing the existing legislative framework is absolutely necessary for the progress of the business environment in our industry, not just as regards the management of waste oils and also of the packaging wastes, but in the fiscal and consumer protection areas as well. Companies need clarity in the regulation of their obligations to state institutions, and a unitary application of the law for all the economic operators. We also foreground the need to implement prevention-oriented legislation, clearly specifying the companies' obligations and not their sanctioning.

To conclude, the Romanian market in this area evolves under the impact of distinct inputs, some with opposed effects. It is a market undergoing full modernization following the renewal of its rolling stock, but also through the significant investments in all Romanian economic sectors. This emphasizes the need for a modern legislative framework, with clear and applicable provisions supporting the economic competitiveness and a fair competition environment for businesses.

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