

## **VANDEMOORTELE PLASTIC PACKAGING SOURCING CHARTER**

### **CONTEXT**

Vandemoortele buys plastic materials, mainly for primary packaging purposes coming in direct contact with the product. The most important functionality of this packaging is to protect the product throughout the whole supply chain against many external factors (e.g. water, gasses, moulds, bacteria, yeasts and foreign bodies), in order to minimize food waste.

Plastics are fundamental in our everyday life. But with 8 million tonnes of plastic currently entering the ocean each year, urgent action is needed. Clean-up efforts are not enough, and plastic waste needs to be eliminated at its source.

A shift is therefore needed from a linear to a circular economy in which plastic never becomes waste. A circular plastics economy is one where we get the maximum value from the plastics we use by keeping them in closed loops if possible, either through reuse or recycling. Plastics are an effective and sustainable material when reused or recycled properly.

### **A STRONG COMMITMENT**

At Vandemoortele, we see it as our responsibility towards our customers, consumers and society to ensure our products do not contribute to plastic pollution. We take accountability in several ways.

Firstly, we are continuously looking for smart packaging design alternatives which keep the consumed resources in our packaging to a minimum. This can be by minimizing material consumption or by implementing new packaging concepts.

Secondly, we strive to increase the use of recycled plastic materials in our packaging. If recycled plastic materials are not an option (for example due to direct contact with food), we opt for virgin plastic materials that are recyclable, reusable or compostable.

When using bio based plastic materials, we focus on second generation bio based plastic materials made from waste streams (e.g. cellulosic feedstock or waste from vegetable oil). For biodegradable plastic materials we will only consider home compostable plastics instead of industrial compostable plastics. Only for Food Service we consider industrial compostable plastics, given the specific waste collection systems that apply.

Furthermore, Vandemoortele signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment from The Ellen MacArthur Foundation in order to help transform the plastic packaging sector towards 100% circularity. Our goal is that by the end of 2025 all our plastic packaging will be recyclable, reusable or compostable. In addition, we commit to include 25% recycled PET in our branded bottles.

**Yvon Guérin – CEO**

