

# **PETCORE COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN**







# **Starting Point**

### **Observation of Market**

- Misunderstanding or absence of knowledge of the merits of PET
- Increasing negative pressure from the European Parliament on PET
- Distorted negative perception of PET through popular shows (BBC Attenborough, ...)







# Campaign

- Set up a **communications campaign** with PET industry
- Mission:

To achieve holistic recognition of the performance of PET to be a material of choice for packaging and other end-uses, meeting environmental, sustainability and performance criteria expectations of the consumer and other stakeholders.

- 17 paying Petcore Europe member companies
  - budget 480 000 Euros with 45 000 Euros where we are still looking for support (possibly yours).
  - Core Group/Steering Group
  - Participation/consultation of other industry stakeholders (UNESDA, PRE, EFBW, ...)



# Overview of Fehr Advice and Fleishman Hillard Reports (December 2020)





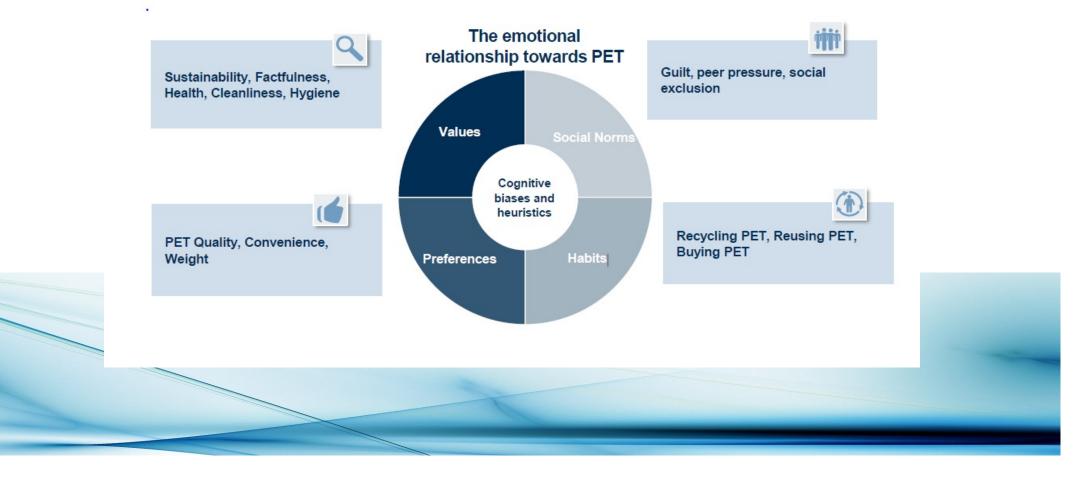
# **Fehr Advice**



- Fehr Advice
  - Swiss behavioral economics agency specialized in psychological understanding of consumers' behavior
  - Interview of 15 industry stakeholders
  - Online survey in IT, GER and FR to gauge people's drivers towards PET
  - Online experiment will be used on website and possibly for policymakers
  - Establishing a hypothesis used by Fleishman Hillard



## **Fehr Advice**





# **Fehr Advice**

UNDERSTANDING THE EMOTIONAL RELATIONSHIP TOWARDS PET What does the emotional relationship towards PET look like today?

Most people have a rather **neutral emotional relationship towards PET**. For them, PET is **not yet an emotional topic**. However, there is a **vocal minority** that voices their negative emotions towards PET and impact public discourse.

A first key driver of the emotional relationship towards PET is if **PET** is disposable or reusable. Presenting **PET** as reusable strongly impacts the emotional relationship towards PET, but it needs additional measures to turn it completly positive. The impression of **PET** as disposable strongly compromises the emotional relationship towards PET.

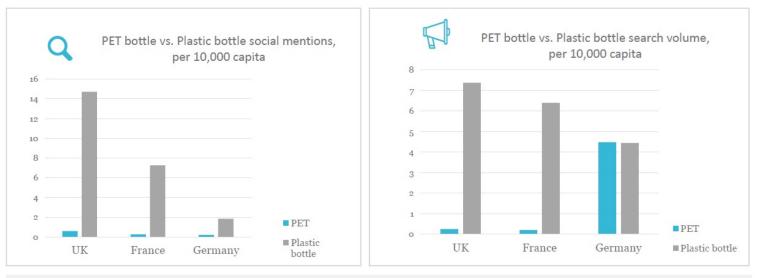
Demographic differences have a minor impact on the relationship towards PET. However, people with a higher education tend to have a more negative emotional relationship towards PET.

The French, Italian and German market vary in the existing emotional relationship towards PET. The German market is overall most critical regarding PET while it is also most polarized. The difference to the Italian and French market can mostly be explained through the rejection of disposable PET.





### 1. PET HAS LOW AWARENESS EXCEPT IN GERMANY, WHERE THERE IS CONFUSION





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PET bottles see much lower discussion volumes in social media, and much fewer searches than 'plastic bottles' in UK and France. This shows that the public do not distinguish PET as different to other plastics.

In Germany there is much higher search volume around PET, and it is in common usage. However, it is used interchangeably with 'plastic bottle' as a synonym, and not recognised as having different qualities to other plastics.



### 3. THE 'PLASTIC-FREE' MOVEMENT IS STRONGEST IN THE UK

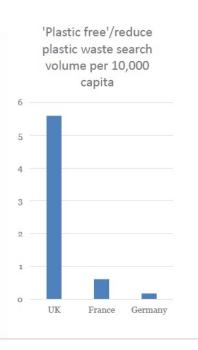
The trend for the avoidance of plastic is seen in all markets, but in the UK, 'plastic-free' is a movement and many people are searching for plastic-free shops and a wide-variety of products, including Christmas crackers, tea bags and deodorant. There is a campaign month – 'Plastic Free July' – promoting the avoidance of all plastics.

In France, many brands promote moving away from single-use plastics, and tips are shared to reduce single-use plastic.

In Germany, people share their anger on social media about products over-packaged in plastic.

Crucially, all plastics are grouped together in opinion, and so PET is not distinguished and treated differently.









### 4. OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION IS A KEY CONCERN TO ADDRESS

The physical pollution caused by plastic waste and littering is seen as the main problem with plastic in general. Associated carbon emissions are a much smaller issue.

This is seen across all 3 markets, but again is the biggest issue in the UK. This may be due to the influence of Sir David Attenborough and his TV programme *Blue Planet*, which covered the threat of ocean plastics to wildlife.

Avoidance of plastic completely has often been touted as the solution, while others recognise that responsible disposal via recycling is also a solution. The latter needs to be further promoted alongside the need to show that sometimes plastic packaging is essential.

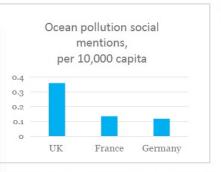
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Hugo Tagholm
Image: Constraint of the second s



11:20 AM - Jun 26, 2020 - Twitter for iPhone

97 Retweets 18 Quote Tweets 171 Likes





NO PLASTIC IN MY SEA @noplasticfrance

Notre mission : réduire l'usage du #plastique et enrayer la #pollution des #océans. Stop au plastique à #usageunique : sac, verre, couverts, paille, bouteille... Translate bie

© France & noplasticinmysea.org III Joined October 2017 2,513 Following 4,786 Followers





#### **7. BRANDS ARE OFTEN BLAMED FOR PLASTIC POLLUTION**

Consumer brands are often blamed as the cause of plastic pollution and consumers want them to take more action to reduce waste, increase recycling and develop alternatives.

A popular Twitter campaign in the UK – #ReturnToOffender – encourages people to post photos of litter and tag the brands who produced the packaging, blaming the companies rather than the litter dropper.

In Germany, consumer brands are also criticised, particularly Coca-Cola and Nestle, for 'greenwashing'.

To a lesser extent, brands and manufacturers are also blamed in France, but there is also discussion of how they are part of the solution by encouraging a deposit return scheme.

#### Deutsche Umwelthilfe

#Vittel-Miniflaschen von #Nestlé mit französischem Mineralwasser sind unnötig! Macht mit uns und GelannesJaenicke gemeinsam Druck: Diese #Plastik[flaschen braucht niemand und sie gehören nicht in die Einkaufsregale. Change.org/nestleplastik...@ChangeGER #MehrwegstattEinweg

#### Translated from German by Google

#Vittel-Mini bottles of #Nestlé with French mineral water are unnecessary! → Do with us and @HannesJaenicke common pressure: this one #Plastik | Nobody needs bottles and they don't belong on the shelves. → change.org/nestle-plastik ...@ChangeGER #MehrwegstattEinweg



23 Retweets 3 Quote Tweets 85 Likes

#### Di Déchets Infos

Pour ceux qui se demandent pourquoi Coca-Cola, Danone et Nestlé veulent absolument la consigne sur les bouteilles plastiques... Parce qu'ils veulent éviter cela. Pas les bouteilles sur les plages. Mais qu'on dénonce les marques mentionnées dessus, et qui font contre-publicité...

For those wondering why Coca-Cola, Danone and Nestlé absolutely want the deposit on plastic bottles ... Because they want to avoid it.

Not the bottles on the beaches. But that we denounce the brands mentioned above, and which are counter-advertising ...

 Mateo Castro @ @ENGmateocastroe - Dec 25, 2019 CONGRATULATIONS to @CoceCola for being named Worst Plastic Polluter in the World for 2nd Year in a Row in a global audit of plastic waste released by the Break Free From Plastic NGO.



27 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 49 Likes



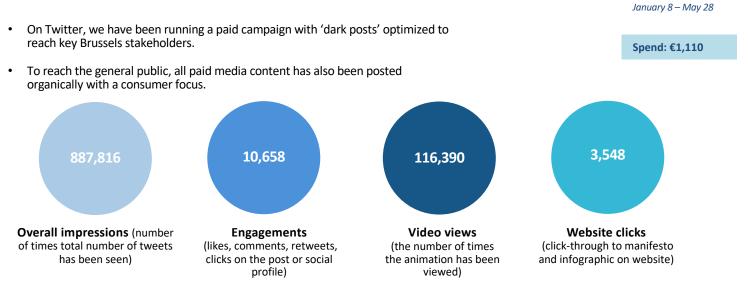
- Infographic https://www.petcore-europe.org/images/2021/petcore\_infographic\_v3\_final\_21122020-n.pdf
- Twitter and LinkedIn campaign to Brussels stakeholders







### **OVERALL TWITTER RESULTS**





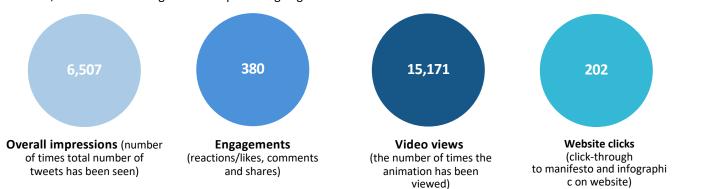


#### in OVERALL LINKEDIN RESULTS March 26- May 28

Spend: €0

• On LinkedIn, we have thus far opted to post organically. The intention is to reach prominent industry leaders and other policy influencers.

• We have been less active on LinkedIn in the campaign so far, but given the positive results, we will be increasing use on this platform going forward.







Animation

(https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:676736789 6185352193)

- **Research reports** from both agencies
- **Political manifesto** (<u>https://www.petcore-</u> europe.org/images/2021/petcore-manifesto-final-version.pdf)







- Website (expected for May this year)
- Webinar with MEP (end June)
- Test markets: France and Germany







Euractiv Article (https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/the-plastics-problem-theres-value-in-waste/)

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## The 'plastics problem': there's value in waste

DISCLAIMER: All opinions in this column reflect the views of the author(s), not of EURACTIV Media network.





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