

EUROPEAN
OFFICE
FURNITURE
MANUFACTURER

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# EOL's commitment to sustainable development

EOL is a French office furniture designer and manufacturer, and as such, we make two-thirds of our ranges at our factories in France and source over 97% of our materials from Europe. As a company, we have a duty to pursue sustainable development. It's what our customers want, and what our world needs. We believe that our corporate strategy can – and should – encompass both economic and environmental performance.

When creating new product lines and updating existing ones, we seek to manufacture locally at our own facilities, and ensure that our materials are sourced responsibly. Recently we have also incorporated repurposed, reused and recycled materials into several of our ranges.

All our investments in equipment and machinery are designed to serve multiple objectives, such as increasing efficiency, providing more flexibility, improving working conditions, and saving energy.

We value diversity and strive to create an inclusive workplace where people feel welcome irrespective of their gender, background, or beliefs. We offer numerous employment opportunities in the areas where we operate, and facilitate internal mobility insofar as possible as this boosts employee engagement and performance.

Conscious that our impact extends beyond our own operations, we seek out socially and environmentally responsible suppliers and partners so that we can work together to create more sustainable supply chains.

This report presents just a few examples of our ESG commitments. There are of course many other initiatives and actions we could have cited, and we are constantly embracing and implementing new ideas. Sustainable development is an ongoing process of learning and improvement to which all EOL employees can contribute as we move forward together.

Arnaud Barral Managing Director





# This ESG report presents our principles in three key areas:



Certifications, labels and standards



Social responsibility



Environmental protection and sustainability

## Certifications, labels and standards

# 11 certifications, labels and standards













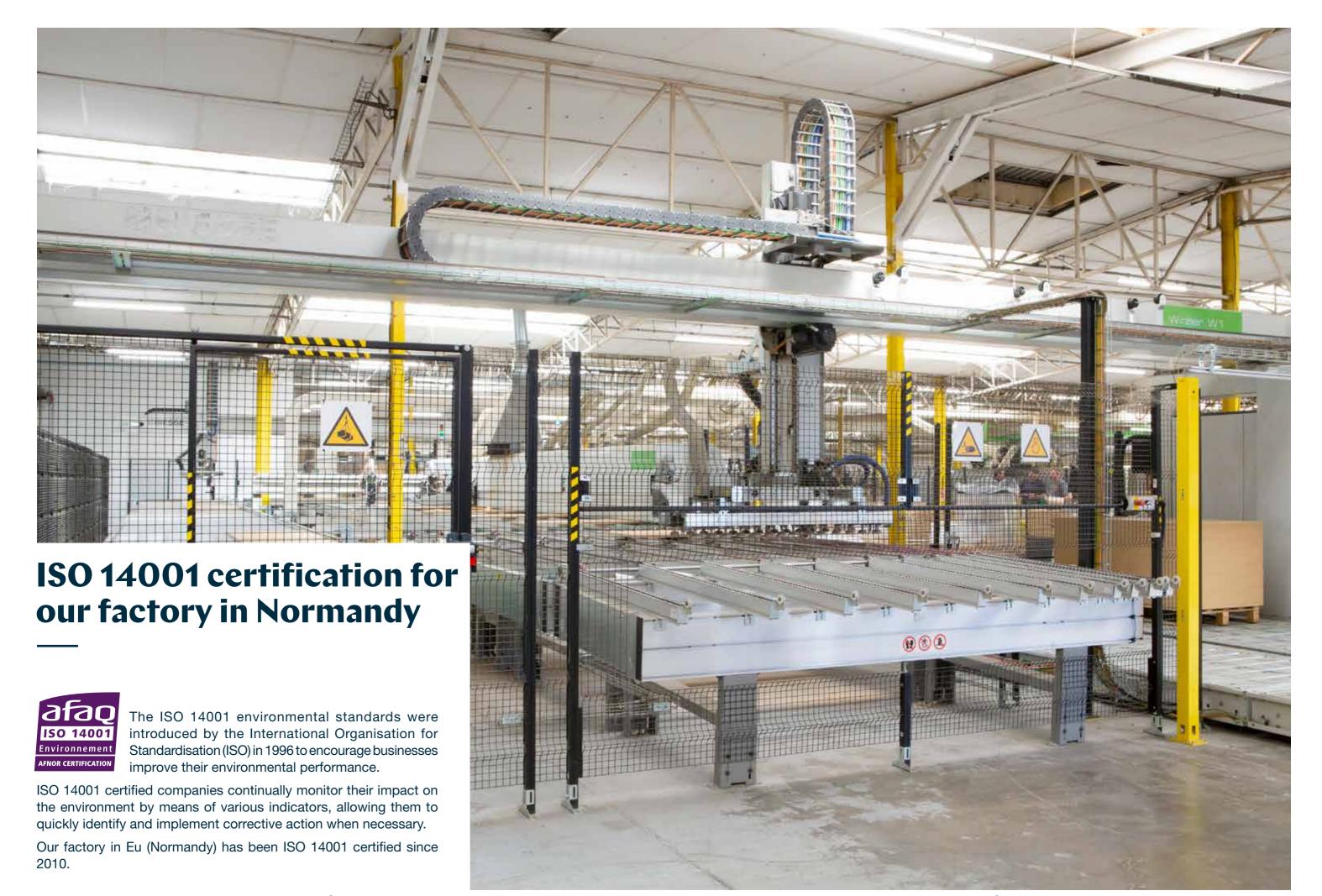












#### Certifications, labels and standards



#### **European REACH regulation**

EOL fully complies with the REACH regulation. REACH stands for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals and is an EU regulation that was introduced in 2007 to better protect human health and the environment against the risks associated with chemical substances. Since 01 January 2021, it is UK REACH that regulates the use of chemicals in Great Britain, as EU REACH continues to apply in Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Protocol.



#### Zero use of carcinogenic substances

To protect the health of both our staff and the end users of our products, our factories do not use any substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, or toxic for reproduction (CMR). In addition, we only use adhesives that are water-based and free from toxic substances, and all the epoxy coatings we use are solvent-free.



#### All our melamine panels are PEFC-certified and have a formaldehyde emissions rating of E1

**PEFC** is the world's leading forest certification system and largest source of eco-certified forest products.



From August 6, 2026, Europe prohibits the selling of furniture whose concentration of formaldehyde released exceeds 0.062mg/m³, which is an **E05 classification**.

All the melamine decors offered by EOL already respect this new European directive and are classified E05.



#### All the fabrics and foam used in our office chairs are OEKO-TEX certified

To be OEKO-TEX certified, materials must not contain any substances that are harmful to human health or the environment. This includes formaldehyde, heavy metals, pesticides, chlorinated phenols, phthalates and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

#### **Social responsibility**

#### **OUR PRINCIPLES**

At EOL, all our activities and strategic decisions are underpinned by a "people first" approach. We strive to offer our employees an attractive working environment by ensuring the highest standards of health and safety, taking employee wellbeing seriously, continually improving working conditions, and providing equal access to training and development opportunities.

#### **IN PRACTICE**

#### Our social commitments focus on five key areas:

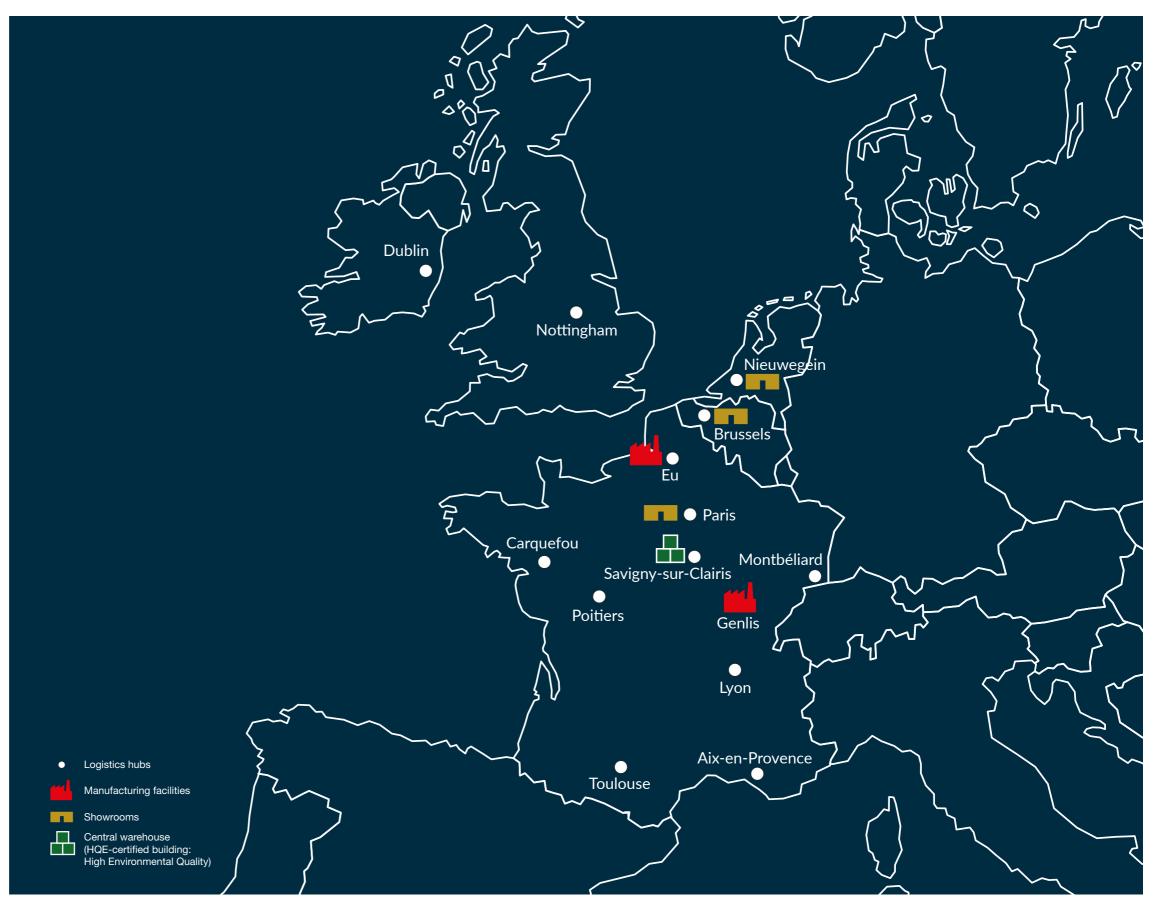
- Contributing to local economies by providing employment opportunities
- Combating social exclusion and discrimination
- Fostering personal and professional development
- Ensuring safety and wellbeing in the workplace
- Creating attractive working conditions

## Contributing to local economies

WE SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMIES BY PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS OUR NETWORK

- 2 manufacturing facilities (Eu and Genlis)
- 1 head office (Saint-Denis)
- 3 showrooms (Paris, Brussels and Nieuwegein)
- 12 logistics hubs (France, Europe and the UK)







#### **EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES**

In line with our social commitments, we hire workers with disabilities and regularly work with ESATs\* near our two manufacturing facilities.



**6.41%** of the workforce in 2023





Men

**55 %**Women

#### **MULTINATIONAL**

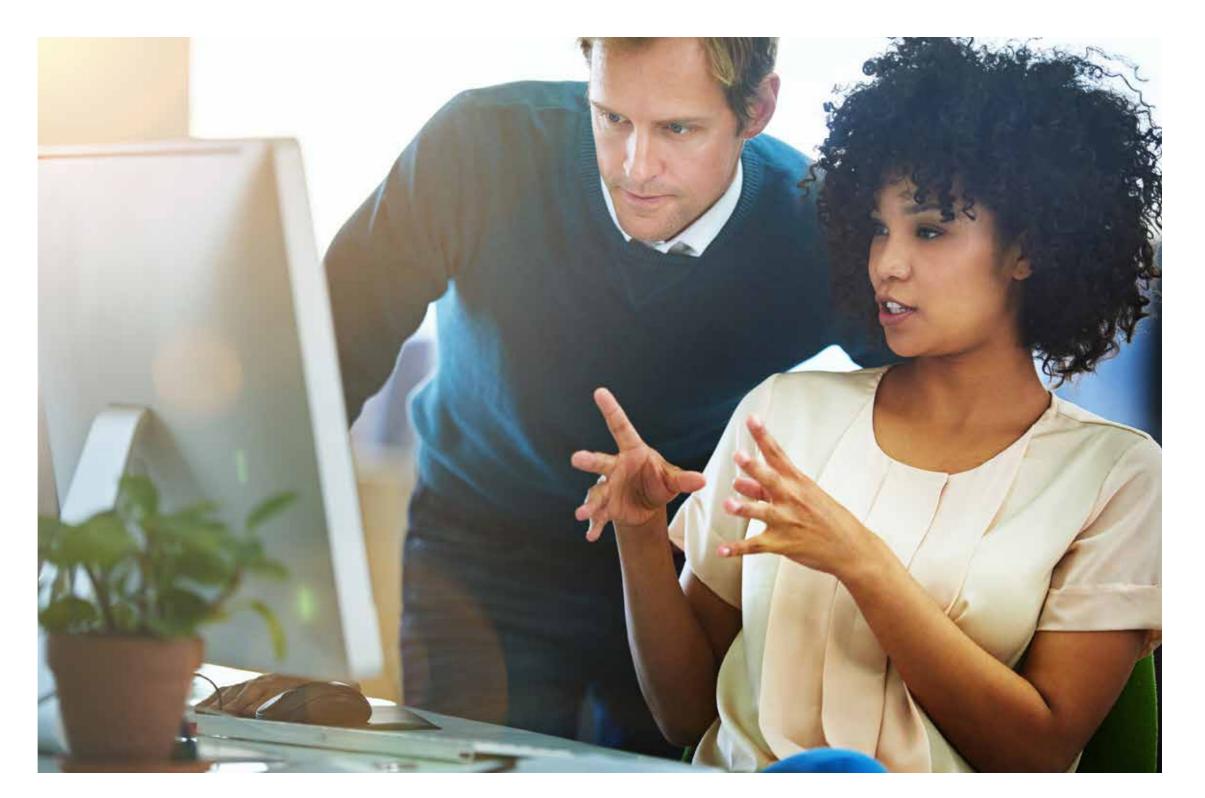
EOL's employees represent

**14** different nationalities

#### **GENDER BALANCE\***

EOL promotes equal opportunities for men and women

\*ESAT: Établissements ou services d'aide par le travail: Companies offering sheltered employment for persons with disabilities



# Fostering personal and professional development

#### **ONBOARDING**

At EOL all new recruits benefit from a comprehensive onboarding process. Receiving a warm welcome and appropriate training from the word go helps employees quickly settle in quickly and get to grips with their new role.

#### **INTERNAL MOBILITY**

Internal mobility is very important at EOL as it benefits both the company and its employees, whether at head office or at our manufacturing sites. When employees move into new roles they not only develop new skills, they also bring fresh ideas and perspectives with them. When recruiting, we encourage applications from internal candidates so that we can draw on the experience of existing employees and offer opportunities for promotion.

#### **INTERNS & APPRENTICES**

Every year, EOL offers internships and apprenticeships for young people—the workforce of the future. As well as providing trainees with valuable on-the-job experience, these work placements create a talent pool we can tap into for future recruitment.

#### **STAFF TRAINING**

All companies must invest in staff training if they are to grow and adapt to changes in the market. Through training, employees develop their technical expertise and soft skills, which in turn boosts productivity.



1200 hours of training undertaken in 2023

18
v.eol-group.net
www.eol-group.net

# Ensuring safety and wellbeing in the workplace

#### **BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS**

We regularly upgrade our employees' workstations to make them more ergonomic and reduce physical strain.

Regular health and safety meetings are held at all our sites to ensure ongoing improvements to our employees' working environment.

Similarly, working conditions are continually monitored to reduce the risk of accidents, and we regularly invest in equipment to increase safety for our staff.









Automatic loading/unloading system used on the worktop edge banding line

27.39
Accident frequency rate in 2023





#### **QUALITY OF LIFE AT WORK**

In its 2 factories, EOL is implementing concrete actions to improve the work environment continuously. Thus, a plan to renovate its changing rooms and rest areas was carried out successfully. Added to this are actions concerning different workstations in order to reduce arduousness, such as reducing travel with nearby storage or further development of the small series station.

#### A WORKING SHOWROOM

The EOL head office in Saint-Denis is also our showroom, bringing customers and staff together and making the latter both our first users and best ambassadors. Working in a pleasant, attractive environment boosts employees' wellbeing and enhances their sense of belonging and pride in the company.

#### **REMOTE WORKING**

In 2019 we introduced a policy to allow employees to work from home two days a week (role permitting).



## Environmental protection and sustainability

#### **OUR PRINCIPLES**

We have been actively seeking to reduce our impact on the environment for a number of years now.

To measure our performance we carry out life cycle assessments (LCAs) for our products.

The purpose of an LCA is to analyse the environmental impacts of a product throughout its lifespan, from design through to end-of-life handling. The results show us how and where we can reduce our carbon footprint.

#### **IN PRACTICE**

#### Our actions focus on:

- Promoting short supply chains
- Using materials and components with a high level of recycled content
- Optimising manufacturing and logistics processes:
- Reducing scrap and rejection rates
- Saving energy
- Optimising road transport
- Developing eco-friendly products:
- Seeking certifications and labels for our product ranges
- Creating new products made entirely from recycled materials
- Reusing packaging
- Sending used furniture for recycling

## Promoting short supply chains

#### MADE IN FRANCE & EUROPE

Because we aim to keep supply chains as short as possible, we source the materials for our French factories from France or other countries in Europe

Made in France





97%

of our materials
and components come
from Europe, with
70% coming
from France

# 43

Average amount of recycled materials in EOL products

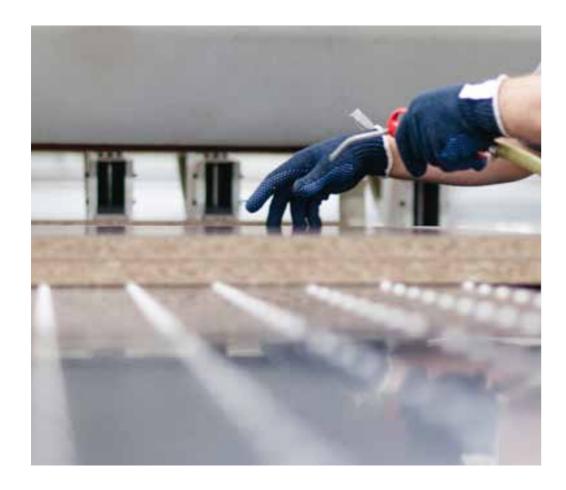
# Using materials and components with a high level of recycled content

Our teams are always on the lookout for ideas to increase the amount of recycled materials in our product ranges.

In fact, some ranges now even include products made entirely from recycled materials.



## Reducing scrap and rejection rate



#### **LESS WOOD WASTE**

Wood cuts are optimized thanks to specialised software and more effective tools.

Scrap rate for wood ≤ 17.3%



#### **LESS FABRIC WASTE**

Our state-of-the-art cutting machine helped us maintaining our scrap rate for fabrics at 13.4% in 2023.

Scrap rate for fabrics
≤13.4%

#### **LESS STEEL WASTE**

Our scrap rate for steel has dropped by 3 percentage points (20.2% to 17.0%) since we installed a laser cutter in 2019.

In 2023, we improved even furher our scrap rate for steel by 0.8pts.

Scrap rate for steel ≤ 16.2%



#### **Saving energy**

We use epoxy powder coatings because they dry much more quickly than conventional coatings and thus reduce our electricity and gas consumption.

In 2018 we installed a system of reverse-cascade rinse tanks that deliver water savings of over 1.500 m³ per year.

Each year, we allocate 2% of our annual turnover to upgrading and replacing production equipment.

Every change we make is designed to enhance the quality of our products, improve working conditions for our staff, and reduce our energy consumption.



Increase due to redundancy of machines as part of their modernization which will + 13% result in lower consumptions in 2024, as well as replacement result in lower consumption of gas carts by electric versions



Reduction of our gas consumption by **64 Mkw** from 2022 to 2023





#### **INCREASED LORRY FILL RATES**

Inbound: factory → central warehouse

Our carriers environmental approach includes using B100 fuel on up to 94% of kilometers traveled, i.e. 252 tonnes of CO2 saved.

Outbound: central warehouse → regional hubs → last-mile delivery

Moreover, wherever possible, we deliver direct to customers from our factories, cutting out unnecessary mileage and reducing loading/unloading times.

We also use transport providers who adhere to eco-friendly shipping practices.



+6%

Inbound

47 Iorries

saved between 2022 and 2023

047 Lauria

217 lorries between 2022 and 2023

**Outboun** 

170 Iorries

+13%

saved between 2022 and 2023

#### Seeking certifications and labels

#### SHOWCASING OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY, QUALITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Our eight flagship ranges carry labels attesting to their safety, quality and/or ecocredentials (the French NF Environnement Ameublement eco-label for furniture; the NF Office Excellence quality mark; EN1335 certification). These labels and certifications showcase our commitment to providing high-quality, eco-friendly products.

#### PRODUCT LABELS AND CERTIFICATIONS









## Developing eco-friendly products

#### **REUSE, RECYCLING & REPURPOSING**

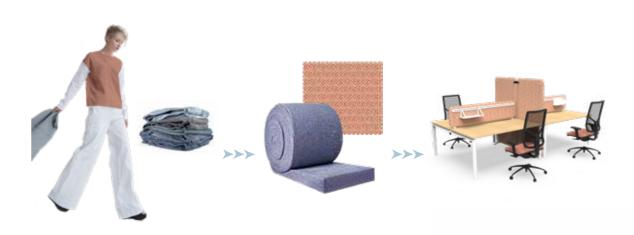
Through our RE-SOURCE initiative, we are seeking ways to integrate the principles of reuse, repurposing and recycling into our ranges:

- Turning production rejects and offcuts into wood panels for sofa structures
- Recovering panels from temporary structures like exhibition stands and turning them into desk worktops
- Using insulation made from recycled cotton clothing in our acoustic desktop screens
- Partnering with companies that transform plastics into materials that we can use to make desk worktops or other products

These examples show how materials and products can be given a new life, either by reusing them directly or making minor modifications so they can be used to create ecofriendly versions of existing products or even develop new ranges.



Alternative solutions for more sustainable manufacturing





#### Chloé

### REUSE EXISTING PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR DESTRUCTION AND GIVE THEM A SECOND LIFE BY RENOVATING

Reused, this old community chair was recovered, sanded and then repainted. Available in black green, Chloé brings a vintage touch to collective spaces.







#### **REUSING PACKAGING**

Pallets, corner protectors, chair packaging boxes, void fillers – all our packaging components are made partly or entirely from recycled materials. What's more, all packaging is saved by our delivery/installation teams and sent back to our factories where it's sorted by local ESATs\* and returned for reuse wherever possible.

more than
238 000

packaging components reused in 2023



120 000

Black plastic corner protectors



100 000

Polystyrene corner protectors



3 000 Cardboard

boxes



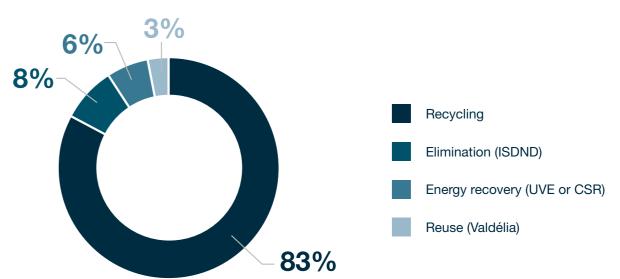
15 000

Pallets



EOL is a member of Valdelia, a French eco-organisation that collects, repurposes and recycles professional furniture waste.

10 skips are made available to our platforms by VALDELIA in order to to ensure the recycling of items recovered from our customers, for a total of 765 tonnes collected in 2023.





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