

Waste oil recycling, CONOU–ENDIALE: Italy–Greece axis for higher EU standards

Rome-Athens, June 23rd 2026 – To recognise and promote circular economy best practices through the advancement of sustainability initiatives at both national and European level, focusing on the systematic collection of all waste oils and the optimal production of base oils from used oils. With this objective, the Italian consortium CONOU and the Greek collective system ENDIALE S.A. today launched a strategy outlined in a memorandum of understanding signed respectively by President **Riccardo Piunti** and CEO **George Deligiorgis**.

The memorandum of understanding sets out a range of activities, including research and promotion, exchange of experience and know-how, verification of the proper implementation of European regulations, the submission of joint studies and proposals for the adoption of regulatory measures. It also provides for the planning and implementation of joint communication actions on the circular economy, alongside the promotion of research and technological development, as well as broad initiatives aimed at expanding cooperation with other European Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems.

To this end, the agreement provides for the establishment of a Coordination Committee to oversee the actions set out in the memorandum of understanding.

“This synergy,” comments Piunti, “is the result of a process that began less than a year ago. Together with our colleagues at ENDIALE, we share a common vision, likely rooted in a strong cultural affinity as well as in the excellent circularity performance achieved by both organisations. We are committed to doing our work to the highest standard because we consider it essential for the well-being of the communities we serve. In the field of the circular economy, we would like to see a more active role for Europe than is currently the case: unfortunately, in our sector there is no common European quality standard nor a shared circularity target; therefore, much remains to be done to ensure European coherence. Moreover, we need strong partners to address and overcome together the complex challenge posed by hazardous pollutants.”

“Our goal,” confirms Deligiorgis, “is to promote the concept of the circular economy in Europe in the field of used mineral oils. I am very pleased to meet my Italian colleagues: together, we aim to pursue this mission also with the support of other EPR systems, in order to further disseminate the circular economy model across Europe.”

ENDIALE

Founded in 1998 and authorised in 2004 by the Greek Ministry of the Environment as the National Collective System for the Management of Waste Lubricating Oils (WLO), ENDIALE plans and implements the management policy for waste lubricating oils at national level.

Key figures of the Greek system:

Producers and importers of lubricants cover at least 97% of the Greek market
44 independent collectors of waste lubricating oils
7 regenerators of waste lubricating oils
Over 40,000 collection points covering collection needs across Greece, including the islands.

CONOU

The National Consortium for Used Oils has been operational since 1984, the first national environmental body dedicated to the collection, treatment and management of hazardous waste. Its current name (National Consortium for the management, collection and treatment of used mineral oils) is formally defined in the Environmental Code (Legislative Decree 152/2006).

Key figures of the Italian system:

58 collection companies
Two companies (three plants) involved in regeneration
Approximately 120,000 holders of used oil across Italy, including the islands.