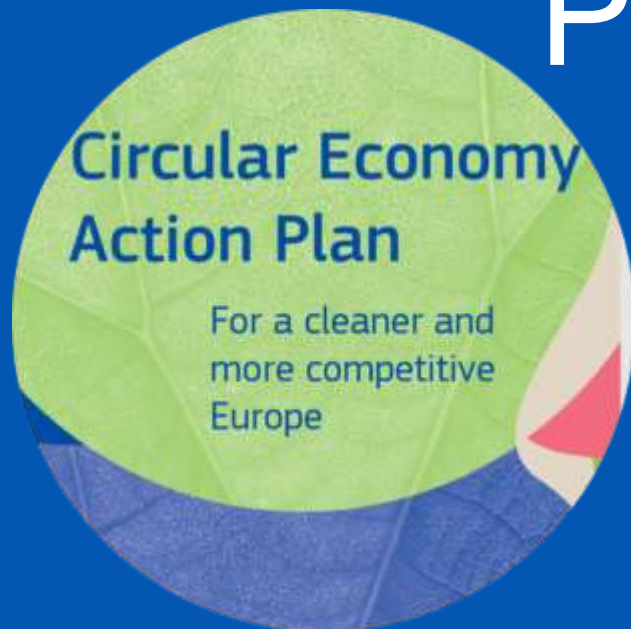




Plastics strategy in the new circular economy action plan Plasticsconference2021



*Paulo Lemos
DG Environment*

Existing legislation and policies on plastics

The plastics strategy (2018)



Directive on single use plastics & fishing gear: Reducing marine litter

10 most common plastic objects found on European beaches



Many of these items are packaging for food and drink and most were designed to be used only once ("single-use plastics"). That's a waste of valuable resources.



Waste Framework Directive as amended in 2018

- Member States to take measures on (marine) litter
- Harmonised calculation method for recycling targets

Plastic packaging recycling target (PPWD):

- 50% by 2025
- 55% by 2030



A new vision for Europe



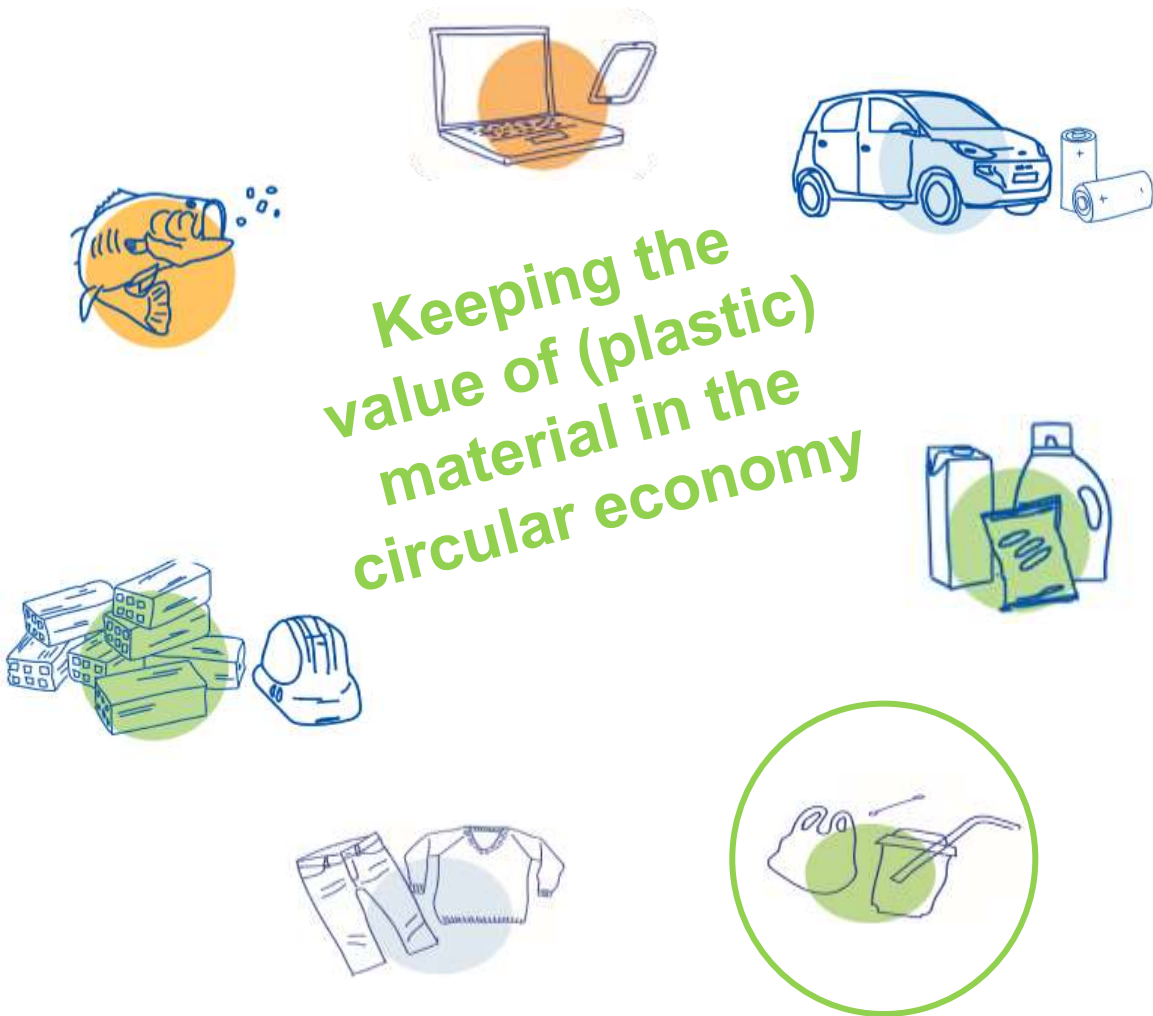
35 actions along the entire life cycle of products, to:

- Make **sustainable products** the norm in the EU
- **Empower** consumers and public buyers
- **Focus also on key product value chains**
- Ensure **less waste, more value**
- Make circularity work for **people, regions** and **cities**
- **Lead global efforts** on circular economy

Upcoming work on plastics: the new Circular Economy Action Plan



Key product value chains



Plastics in a Circular Economy

- Mandatory requirements for recycled content and waste reduction measures
- Address the presence of microplastics in the environment:
 - ✓ Cosmetics, detergents, paints
 - ✓ Pellets, tyres, textiles
- Policy framework on bio-based, compostable and biodegradable plastics
 - => establish the beneficial uses

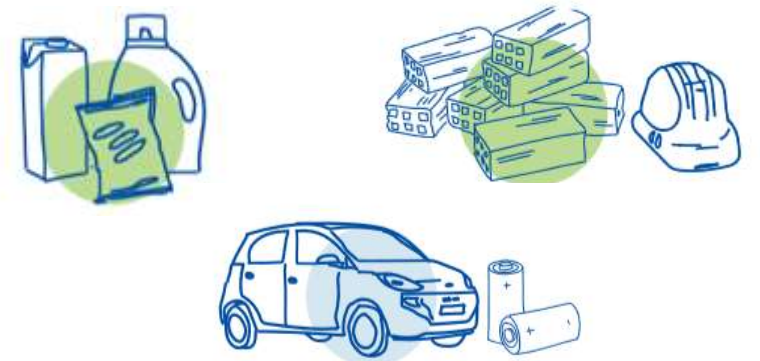
Recycled content

Aim Plastics Strategy:

10 million tons of recycled plastics in new products on the EU market by 2025



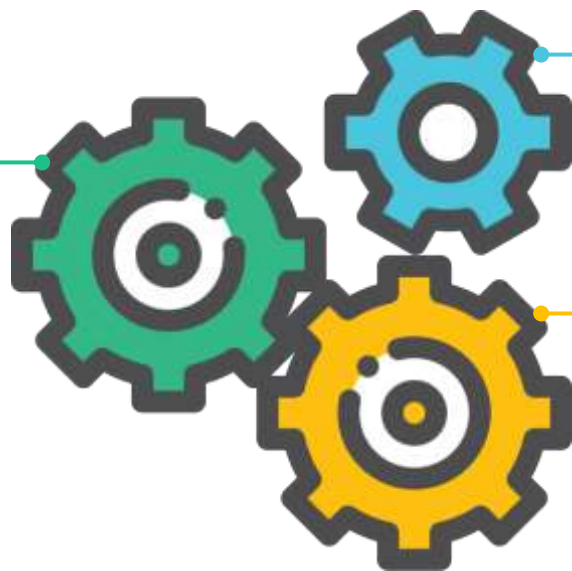
Mandatory requirements for key products such as packaging, construction materials and vehicles



Single Use Plastics: implementation

Standardisation

- Tethered caps
- Circularity of fishing gear



- **Guidelines:** SUP definitions, product categories
- **Guidelines:** criteria on costs of litter clean up

9 Implementing acts:

- 4 by 2020: marking, separate collection target calculation & reporting, reporting of fishing gear & waste collected
- 2 by Jan. 2021: measuring consumption reduction, reporting consumption reduction
- 3 by Jan. 2022: **measuring & reporting on recycled content**, reporting of post consumption waste tobacco products

Microplastics

Cosmetics, detergents, paints

- Towards a ban through REACH restriction dossier: by 2021?

Tyres

- Revision Tyre Labeling Regulation
- Standard on tyre abrasion

Pellets

- Chain certification & Permitting
- Operation Clean Sweep

Textiles

- Standard on measuring microplastics releases
- Washing machines

Microplastics in water

- Science related to risk & occurrence
- Legislation: water & marine

Framework for bio-based and biodegradable plastics

Sourcing, labelling and use of **bio-based plastics**

- ⇒ Study on feedstock (LCA)
- ⇒ Study on sustainable sourcing and content

Use of biodegradable plastics

“no license to litter”

- ⇒ Study by Chief Scientific Advisors
- ⇒ Study on agricultural plastics

Use of compostable plastics – criteria

Limit cross-contamination of waste streams

Study finalised:

- Environmental benefit over alternative
 - Product not recyclable or reusable
 - Capture of bio-waste
- Quality of compost – contamination with non-compostable plastics

Less waste, more value



- ✓ **Preventing waste, but if created, transform into high-quality resources**
- ✓ **A toxic-free environment**
- ✓ **A well-functioning EU market for secondary raw materials**



- Review rules on waste shipments
 - To facilitate recycling or re-use within the EU
 - To restrict exports of waste that cause negative environmental & health impacts



Cross-cutting issues

Getting the economics right

⇒ a new own resource for EU budget based on the amount of non-recycled plastic packaging waste



Innovation – Europe to support:

- substitution & elimination of hazardous substances based on “safe by design” approach
- development of new production and recycling technologies, incl. exploring potential of chemical recycling

Leading efforts at global level

⇒ a global agreement on plastics



EU Recovery Plan & circular economy

Next Generation EU



A new recovery instrument of **€ 750 billion**, boosting the EU budget with financing raised on the financial markets

Multiannual Financial Framework



A reinforced long-term budget of the EU for 2021-2027 (€ 1.100 billion)



supporting the transition towards a circular economy



Member States
to invest on circular economy



Stakeholders
to take advantage of the new circular economy funding opportunities



Learn more about this Directive, the plastics strategy and the circular economy:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm



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