



Future EU regulatory action on Plastics

Plastics Conference 2022



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The European Green Deal

A climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy



Circular Economy Action Plan

For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

Maintaining the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible, & minimising the generation of waste



A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PLASTICS IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Improving the economics and quality of recycling & curbing plastic waste & littering

Key product value chains: plastics



Implementing the Plastics Strategy

- Mandatory requirements for recycled content
 - ✓ 10 million tons of recycled plastics in new products on the EU market by 2025
- Addressing microplastics in the environment
- Policy framework on biobased & biodegradable plastics
- Implementing Single Use Plastics Directive:
Not against plastics, but tackling its unsustainable use

Microplastics

Cosmetics, detergents, paints

- Towards a ban through REACH restriction dossier: Possibly by 2022

Tyres

- Revision Tyre Labeling Regulation
- Standard on tyre abrasion
- Measures along the value chain

Pellets

- Chain certification & Permitting
- Operation Clean Sweep

Textiles

- Standard on measuring microplastics releases
- Measures along the value chain

Microplastics in water

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

Framework for biobased plastics (BBP) and biodegradable & compostable plastics (BDCP)

Sourcing, labelling and use of **biobased plastics**

- Biobased content?
- Sustainable sourcing?



Use of compostable plastics

- Limit cross-contamination of waste streams

Use of biodegradable plastics

- “no license to litter”
- Effective biodegradation – system perspective

Web-based consultation in Dec 2021 – policy framework in Spring 2022

What is the objective?



Keeping the value
of (plastic)
material in the
circular economy

To address emerging sustainability challenges

Sourcing, labelling and use of BBP:

to assess where their use can bring genuine env. benefits beyond GHG reduction

Labelling and use of BDCP: to assess

- where their use can be beneficial to the environment (applications and criteria for such applications)
- how testing, labelling and certification can help avoid possible unintended negative effects (e.g. wrong disposal, increased littering)

Key product value chains: packaging



All packaging on the EU market to be reusable or recyclable by 2030

- Reinforce the mandatory essential requirements for packaging: design for reuse & recyclability
- Facilitating the correct separation of packaging waste
- Rules for the safe recycling into food contact materials of plastic materials beyond PET

Plastic packaging recycling target:

- ✓ 50% by 2025
- ✓ 55% by 2030

Revision of packaging and packaging waste directive

Proposal for revision in 2022



- Reduction, over-packaging & reuse
 - MS target reduction target – void space in e-commerce
- Design for recycling
 - DfR methodology (**TRAFFIC LIGHTS SYSTEM**)
 - Harmonisation of EPR fee modulation criteria
- Recycled content: Targets for plastic packaging
 - Differentiated according to application & contact sensitivity
 - ↑↓
 - Applied to all plastic packaging placed on the EU market
- Labelling

Role for chemical recycling

- Only considered for waste targets if it produces plastics and not fuel
- Complementary to mechanical recycling
- Potential for eliminating toxic elements & “hard-to-recycle” plastics
- Life-cycle analysis needed for benefits & risks, incl. energy & climate impacts
- Pilot projects to be expanded to have a representative picture of potential

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 reuse or recycling within the EU (simplification and digitalization)
- To restrict exports of waste that cause negative environmental & health impacts
- To fight against illegal transnational traffic of waste



Way forward

Circular economy

Keeping products, materials & resources in the loop, and their value, for as long as possible

Plastics

- NO littering
- Recyclability, collection & recycling, uptake of recycled content

Packaging

- Applying these principles
- Focus on prevention, design for reuse & recyclability

