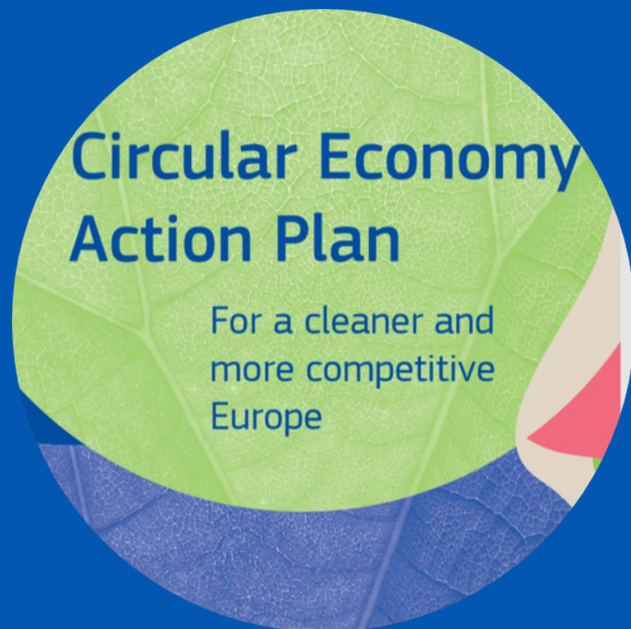


Plastics in the circular economy



*Emmanuelle Maire
European Commission*

European Union Policies on plastics





**A climate-neutral,
resource-efficient and
competitive economy**



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



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

The EU Zero pollution action plan targets for marine litter reduction

1. By 2030, reduce by 50% plastic litter at sea and by 30% microplastics released into the environment
2. Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) will be essential for the delivery of the targets and monitoring.
3. Regional sea conventions around Europe (for example Barcelona Convention in the Mediterranean) are adopting similar targets; close interaction, including through measures' coordination
4. EU, represented by Commission, supports regional efforts, e.g. in the Mediterranean through dedicated projects addressing also microplastics

The plastics strategy (2018)



Key product value chains: *Plastics*



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



Implementation of the EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

Next steps on plastics





Revision of packaging and packaging waste directive

PPWD 94/62EC

Proposal for revision in 2022

- Prevention and reuse
- Recyclability and compostability
- Recycled content
- Enabling measures
GPP, labelling ...

Framework for biobased plastics and biodegradable & compostable plastics

Sourcing, labelling and use of biobased plastics

- Biobased content
- Sustainable sourcing

Use of biodegradable plastics

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

Use of compostable plastics

- Limit cross-contamination of waste streams
- Update of harmonized standard to consider real-life conditions
- Limited list of packaging types to be compostable (PPWD)

**Communication
by 2022**

Recycled content

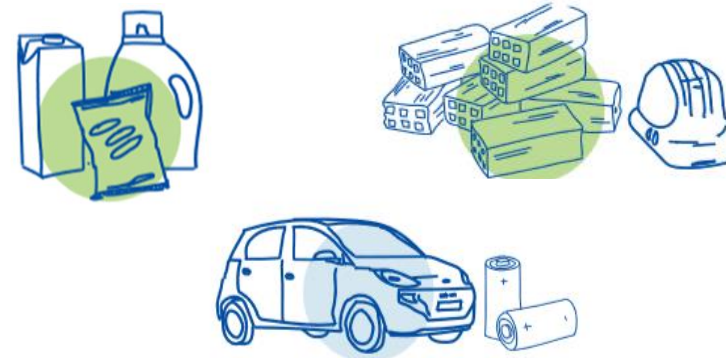
Aim of the Plastics Strategy:

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



Measuring recycled content:
Single use plastics directive
Implementing act (2022)

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



Microplastics

2023

Microplastics added to products (cosmetics, detergents, etc)

- Restrictions on the basis of the EU Chemical legislation (REACH)
- Proposal [Commission's comitology register website](#) (search with reference D083921)

Microplastics related to the use of products (Pellets, Tyres, textiles, paints, geotextiles, detergent capsules)

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

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:

- Horizon Europe’s mission: “Healthy oceans, seas, and coastal and inland waters”
- substitution & elimination of hazardous substances => “safe by design”
- closing the gaps on scientific knowledge related to the risk and occurrence of microplastics in the environment
- exploring potential of chemical recycling

Leading efforts at global level

⇒ **a global agreement on plastics by 2024**



Towards a legally binding global instrument



- Historic decision by the fifth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly
- Negotiating committee successfully established
- Legally binding instrument with both legally binding and non-legally binding elements
- Agreement should address plastic pollution, including in marine environments, through a life-cycle approach
- Promote sustainable consumption and production, including through circular economy approaches
- Mandate to finalise work within 2024

refuse



share



reuse



return
&
collect



sort



recycle



Learn more about the plastics and the circular economy:

[Circular economy action plan \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/documents/press_corner/infographic/2020/07/1920200720_circular_economy_action_plan_en.pdf) & [Plastics \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/europlastic/)



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