

EU Green Deal

New Circular Economy Action Plan

Summary

11.03.2020

Overview of the content and intention of the new action plan

Review of

- production,
- consume,
- waste management
- global shift to a circular economy



Towards a
circular Economy

General targets

- designing sustainable products
- empowering consumers,
- Creating a climate-neutral industry,
- Implementing a circularity in production processes,
- reduction of waste,
- Establishing a high quality secondary raw materials market

Focus on

- Electronics & ICT
- Batteries and vehicles
- Packaging
- Plastics
- Textiles
- Construction and buildings
- Food, water and nutrients

Synergies with

- EU Industrial Strategy,
- EU Eco-design Directive
- EU Biodiversity Strategy,
- Sustainable Built Environment Strategy,
- EU Strategy for textiles,
- Chemical Strategy for Sustainability,
- IED, REACH, RoHS, EU Plastic Strategy

Plastics

Overall goal

- Reducing its negative impact on the environment
- Continuation of the EU Strategy for Plastics
- Increasing the uptake of recycled plastics
- Implementation of a strong secondary material market

Most important regulations for plastics

- Mandatory requirements for recycled content in packaging, construction materials and vehicles (2021/2022)
- Reducing polymer number in packaging

Intention to a global agreement on plastics as of 2020

Plastic

Microplastics

- Restricting of intentionally added microplastics by 2021
- Labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures on unintentional release of microplastics (2021)
- Capturing content of microplastics at all relevant stages of products' lifecycle
- Harmonising methods for measuring unintentionally released microplastics (focus: tyres & textiles)

Bio-based and biodegradable/compostable plastics

- Developing a policy framework → where its use can be beneficial to the environment (2021)
- policy framework on sourcing, labelling and use of bio-based plastics (2021)

Fast implementing of the directive of **Single Use Plastics Products (SUPD)**

- Harmonised interpretation of named products
- Labelling of products
- tethering caps on bottles
- Developing rules on measuring recycled content in products
- Initiative to substitute SUPP by reusable products in food service

Design of products

Focus on

- Review the Ecodesign Directive
- Proposal for a sustainable product policy initiative (2021)
- Establish a European database for smart circular applications
- Durability, reusability, upgradability and reparability of products
- Reducing the presence of hazardous chemicals
- Restricting single-use
- Increasing recycled content in products
- Digitalisation of product information

Key products

Vehicles: EU Commission wants to review the ELV Directive (2021) concerning the mandatory *recycled content* for certain materials components

Packaging: All packaging should be reusable or recyclable by 2030, therefore → review of the directive for packaging and packaging waste with focus on following measures

- Reducing packaging and packaging waste → setting targets and waste prevention measures by 2021/2022
- Design for re-use and recyclability → restrictions on use of some material for certain applications;
- reduce complexity of packaging materials → **reducing number of materials and polymers**
- Rules for safe recycling into food contact materials of plastics materials other than PET
- Revision of legislation on packaging

Key products

Construction and buildings: longer life expectancy and optimising lifecycle performance

- Launching a new strategy for a sustainable built environment (2021)
- Revision of the construction product regulation → **Requirements for recycled contents for certain products**
- Revision EU legislation for construction and demolition waste → **concerning material recovery target**
- EU's attention on waste & circularity management of insulation materials

Nutrition and food:

- Replace single used cutleries and tableware by reusable products (→ SUPD)

Textiles: boosting the market for sustainable and circular textiles

- EU strategy for textiles by 2021
- Better and more sorting, re-use and recycling of textiles
- Developing Ecodesign measures

Waste management

Reducing waste

Overall goal

- Halve the amount of non recyclable residual waste until 2030
- Recycling of 50% of the municipal waste

Harmonisation (2022) EU-wide separate waste collection and improving the sorting systems by

- Harmonising waste bin colours and symbols of the key waste types, information campaigns, product labels
- Standardising and use of quality management systems for recycled materials
- Auditing EU-wide harmonised end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams and by-products (2021)

Clean recycling streams for stabilising and secondary raw material market

- Establish high quality sorting
- Removing contaminants from waste
- Minimising hazardous substances in recycled materials,
- Harmonise the system to track and manage information on substances (2021)
- Revision of the POP annex
- Assess the feasibility of establishing a market observatory for key secondary materials
- Implementation of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Waste management

Reducing waste

Further planned activities of the EU to enforce circular economy in the EU

- A new own resource for the EU budget based on the amount of non-recycled plastic packaging waste.
- Encourage the broader application of economic instruments e.g. environmental taxation, landfill and incineration taxes
- Revision of EU legislation on batteries, packaging, end-of-life vehicles, and hazardous substances in electronic equipment
- Establishing a benchmark for qualitative secondary materials → “Recycled in the EU”
- Enforcement a Global Circular Economy Alliance 2021

Timetable of key actions 2020

Titel
Leading efforts towards reaching a global agreement on plastics

Timetable of key actions 2021

Titel
Mandatory requirements on recycled plastic content and plastic waste reduction measures for packaging, construction materials and vehicles (2021/2022)
Restriction of intentionally added microplastics and measures on unintentional release of micro plastics
Policy framework for bio-based plastics and biodegradable or compostable plastics
Review to reinforce the essential requirements of packaging and reduce packaging and packaging waste
Initiative to substitute single-used packaging, tableware and cutlery by reusable products in food services
Review the rules of ELV
Scoping the development of further EU-wide end-of-waste and by-product criteria
Legislative proposal for a sustainable product policy initiative
Methodologies to track and minimise the presence of substances of concern in recycled materials and articles made thereof
Harmonised information systems for the presence of substances of concern
Review of the RoHS-Directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment and guidance to clarify its links with REACH and Ecodesign requirements
EU Strategy for Sustainable Built Environment
EU Strategy for Textiles

Timetable of key actions 2022

Titel

Waste reduction targets for specific streams and other measures on waste

EU-wide harmonised model for separate collection of waste and labelling to facilitate separate collection

Thank you for your attention !

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