



Implications of the European Strategy for Plastics for the Food Contact Materials

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Circular Economy Package

Legislative

Waste
Framework
Directive

WEEE

Packaging
and
Packaging
Waste
Directive

ELV

Landfill
Directive

Batteries

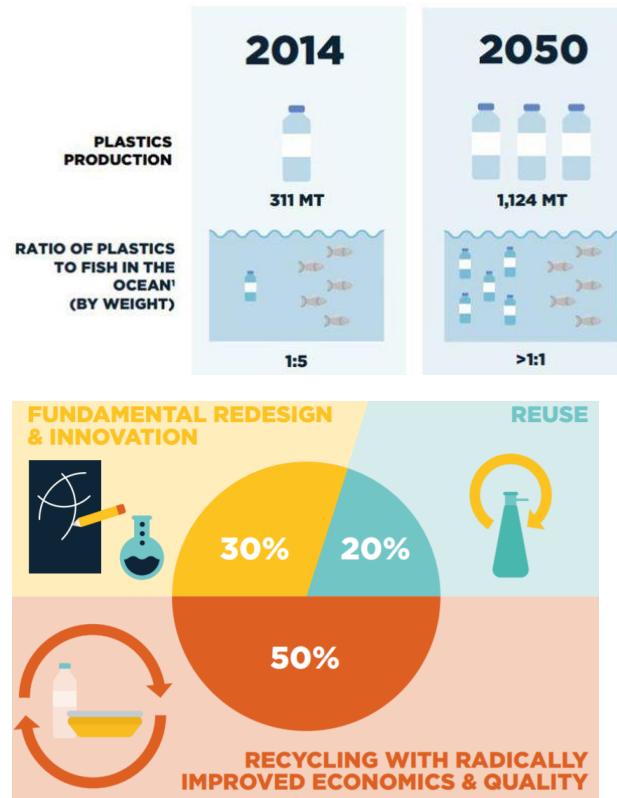
Non-legislative Action Plan

Priority Areas

- **PLASTICS STRATEGY**
- **NON-TOXIC ENVIRONMENT**
- **WASTE-TO-ENERGY**
- **FOOD WASTE & FOOD SAFETY**
- **CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS**
- **CONSTRUCTION DEMOLITION**
- **BIOMASS BIOBASED PRODUCTS**
- **INNOVATION/INVESTMENTS/**
- **OTHER HORIZONTAL MEASURES**

Background

- European Regulators (Commission, Parliament & Council) were widely influenced by media and negative images of plastics around the world
- Since 2015, many initiatives have widespread around the world and, at Member States level, many different implementation fill nowadays
- One quotation got big media coverage: **“more plastics than fish in the sea by 2050”**
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation “New Plastics Economy” has presented its view on the global governance of plastics
- The Foundation is founded by private parties and authored by McKinsey & Company



Plastics Strategy

- **Make recycling profitable for business:** New rules on packaging to improve **recyclability** of plastics used on the market and increase the demand for recycled plastic content; **standardised** system for the separate collection and sorting of waste across the EU
- **Curb plastic waste:** target **other single-use plastics** and fishing gear, supporting national awareness campaigns; measures to restrict the use of **microplastics** in products, and fix labels for **biodegradable and compostable plastics**.
- **Drive investment and innovation:** guidance for national & EU authorities on how to minimise plastic waste at source. **€100 million** financing the development of smarter and more recyclable plastics materials, making **recycling processes more efficient**, and **tracing and removing hazardous substances** and contaminants from recycled plastics.
- **Stop littering at sea:** New rules on port reception facilities will tackle sea-based marine litter
- **Spur change across the world:** As the European Union does its own homework, partner for global solutions and develop international standards.



Plastics Strategy

The *Communication of the European Commission on the Plastics Strategy & three Annexes* published on January 16th, 2018, together with:

- List of concrete measures per issue
- Monitoring Framework for the circular economy
- **Single use packaging : open consultation until 12 February, 2018 (tbd on May 2018)**
- Public event: Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform Conference on 20-21 February, 2018 (Brussels)
- ECHA Call for evidence on the use of intentionally added microplastics particles: open until 11 May, 2018
- **Pledge campaign for stakeholders: open until 30 June, 2018**
- Communication on the Non toxic Environment (Waste, product & recyclates)
- **Tax on plastics announced by Budget Commissioner to be defined by May**
- Latest EP proposal: **modulation of VAT on products containing recyclates**



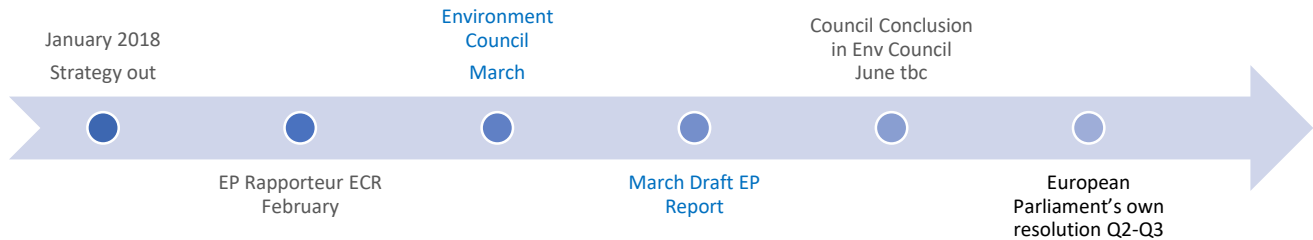
Brussels, 16.1.2018
COM(2018) 28 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

{SWD(2018) 16 final}

Plastics Strategy



*What is the best approach to promote a substantial **increase** in the use of **recycled plastics** as well as in the capacity of the plastic recycling industry thus rendering the European market for secondary raw materials profitable?*

*Decisions at Member State level (for instance, on taxation and public procurement) also play a significant role in the transition to circular economy. Which measures at EU level can provide **economic incentives** for businesses to develop more **sustainable plastic products**?*

Plastics Strategy – what & when? Packaging

Annex I – List of future EY measures to implement the Strategy. Most already ongoing or foreseen to start in 2018:

Actions to improve product design:

- Preparatory work for **future revision of PPWD**: all packaging to be reused or recycled in a cost-effective manner
- **Eco-design** measures to support the recyclability of plastics

Actions to boost recycled content:

- **FCM: swift finalisation of pending authorisation procedures for plastics recycling processes, better characterisation of contaminants and introduction of monitoring system**

Actions to reduce single-use plastics:

- public consultation (open until 12/2/18) to determine the scope of a legislative initiative on single-use plastics

BETTER PRODUCT DESIGN

MAKES PLASTICS RECYCLING EASIER



**Saving 77-120 EUR
for each tonne**
of plastic waste collected

Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2016)

Plastics Strategy – what & when? FCM

Actions to boost recycled content:

- **FCM: swift finalisation of pending authorisation procedures for plastics recycling processes, better characterisation of contaminants and introduction of monitoring system**
- **EP: safeguard of public health and food safety**

*As regards the use of recycled plastics in food-contact applications (e.g. beverage bottles), the objective is to **prioritise high food safety standards**, while also providing a clear and reliable framework for investment and innovation in circular economy solutions. With this in mind, the Commission is committed to **swiftly finalise the authorisation procedures** for over a hundred safe recycling processes.*

*In cooperation with the European Food Safety Agency, the Commission will also **assess whether safe use of other recycled plastic materials could be envisaged, for instance through better characterisation of contaminants.***

Plastics Strategy – what & when?

Actions on compostable and biodegradable plastics:

- start work to develop harmonised rules on defining and labelling compostable and biodegradable plastics
- **LCAs** to identify conditions where their use is beneficial, and criteria for such application
- start the process to **restrict the use of oxo-plastics** via REACH

Although not part of the Strategy, Commission is revising the Directive on the quality of tap water also in a effort to reduce water plastic bottles

Other stakeholders (see paper) see a danger in the document as it seems to prefer recycled plastics above other material

While NGOs fears that biobased/biodegradable can lead to heavier pollution of the environment, despite good intentions

Plastics Strategy – what & when?

Annex I – List of future EY measures to implement the Strategy. Most already ongoing or foreseen to start in 2018:

Actions to improve product design:

- follow-up the Non-Toxic Environment Strategy: improve the **traceability** of chemicals and address the issue of **legacy substances** in recycled streams;
- new **eco-design measures**: consider requirements to support the recyclability of plastics;

Actions to boost recycled content:

- launching an **EU-wide pledging campaign** targeting industry and public authorities (see *Annex II – List of measures recommended to national authorities & industry*);
- **Regulatory incentives** for uptake of recycled content



Only **6%** of new plastic materials come from recycling



95% of the potential economic value in plastic packaging currently goes to waste



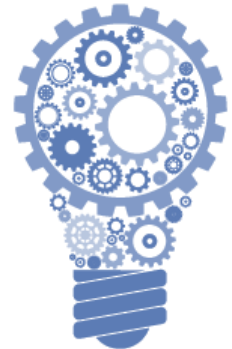
Failure to recycle costs the European economy **€105 billion each year.**

Plastics Strategy – what & when?

- development of **quality standards for sorted plastics waste and recycled plastics** in cooperation with the European Standardisation Committee;
- **Ecolabel and Green Public Procurement**: Further incentivise the use of recycled plastics, including by developing adequate verification means

Actions to improve separate collection of plastic waste:

- issue **new guidelines on separate collection and sorting** of waste (2019);
- ensure **better implementation** of existing obligations on separate collection, including through ongoing review of waste legislation;
- Commission guidance on the **eco-modulation of EPR fees** (2019);



Plastics Strategy – what & when? Overall

Major transversal & horizontal measures:

- Reduction of microplastics (also via REACH for detergents & cosmetics): including pellets spills via voluntary certification scheme
- Special EU Funds for R&D
- Global actions for EU institutions & national authorities
- LCA of alternative feedstocks
- International collaboration for standards on sorted plastic waste and recycled plastics
- improved monitoring and mapping of marine litter, including microplastics, on the basis of EU harmonised methods
- support to Member States on the implementation of their programmes of measures on marine litter under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, including the link with their waste/litter management plans under the Waste Framework Directive



Plastics Strategy – industry role?

Annex II – List of measures recommended to national authorities & industry:

- take concrete steps to improve dialogue and **cooperation** across the value chain, in particular on **material and product design aspects**
- make **voluntary commitments** in support of the strategy's objectives, in particular as regards the uptake of recycled plastic
- To work with national authorities, for **better EPRs and/or deposit system**
- increase infrastructure and R&D investment in areas of direct relevance to achieving the strategy's objectives
- contribute to work on setting up a **private investment fund** to offset the environmental externalities of plastic production
- Play an active part in supporting an integrated, cross-border circular plastics economy, including through the development of a **global protocol for plastics**

Plastics Strategy – single use plastics

Plastics account for 84% of the plastics found on beaches, of which half is made of single use items

Most found item (top ten) according to JRC Study of 2016 “Marine Beach Litter in Europe – Top Items”:

- Cigarette butts
 - **Drink bottles & caps (alleged cause of microplastics, a coming study WHO 2018)**
 - Cotton buds sticks
 - Sanitary towels
 - **Bags**
 - **Crisps packets & sweet wrappers**
 - **Straws & stirrers**
 - Balloons and balloons stick
 - **Food containers**
 - **Cups & lids**
 - **Cutlery**
- **Public consultation: closed in February, expected action by May 2018**



Plastics Strategy – single use plastics

Items already captured today in separate collection schemes (mainly packaging: such as drink bottles).
 -> improve collection rate.

Items which could be replaced by more sustainable alternatives (e.g. take-away food containers, disposable cups, possibly caps and lids, cotton buds, cutlery, straws and stirrers).
 -> substituted by more sustainable alternatives (e.g. reusable cups) or reduced by targets or design requirements (e.g. replacement by materials, such as paper or wood, which degrade quickly in the natural environment, or design of lids and caps in a way that they cannot be detached from the bottle), or requirements for Member States to implement a charge at the point of sale.

Items for which there are no readily available alternatives (non-packaging: cigarette butts, sanitary applications, etc.)
 -> awareness campaigns, EPR schemes or labelling requirements targeting consumers



Non-toxic Environment

Analysis of the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation and identification of policy options

Communication of the European Commission

It covers the issue of substances of concern, legacy additives and when waste ceases to be considered waste in light of REACH, CLP and other regulations.

1. **Information** on presence of substances of concern is not readily available to those who handle waste and prepare it for recovery
2. **Legacy:** Waste may contain substances that are no longer allowed in new products
3. **No harmonization: EU's rules on end-of-waste are not fully harmonised, making it uncertain** how waste becomes a new material and product
4. **Uncertainty:** Rules to decide which wastes and chemicals are hazardous are not well aligned and this affects the uptake of secondary raw materials

	Activitiy	Deadline
1	Feasibility Study to assess different information systems & working procedures for substance not authorized for use	2019
2	Specific decision-making methodology based on cost-benefit analysis	Mid-2019
3	Harmonise through cooperation, Repository of applied criteria, Study on MS practices	-
4	Guidance on waste classification	2019



Thank you for the attention

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