November 20, 2026

POLICY MONITORING BRIEF

PPWR

FIRST TRILOGUE SCHEDULED ON ENVIRONMENTAL OMNIBUS EPR PROPOSAL

EU institutions have agreed to hold the first trilogue on 1 December on the Environmental Omnibus proposal, which includes the temporary suspension of certain Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) requirements across several waste streams. The proposal was introduced following significant implementation difficulties linked to the authorised representative obligations under EU waste legislation, particularly the PPWR. Negotiations are expected to focus primarily on packaging. While Parliament supports suspending the requirements for micro and small enterprises across all affected waste streams, the Council Presidency favours a narrower exemption limited to packaging producers placing less than one tonne of packaging annually on another Member State market. A political agreement before the end of the year would provide greater legal certainty for companies preparing for PPWR implementation. Read more

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 12/11/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

SIMPLIFIED EU SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING STANDARDS ENTER INTO FORCE

The European Commission's revised European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) have formally entered into force, significantly reducing reporting obligations under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). Following the Sustainability Omnibus package, the scope of the CSRD has been reduced by around 90%, while the number of mandatory reporting datapoints has been cut by more than 70%. The Commission argues that the simplification maintains sustainability objectives while reducing administrative burdens and improving competitiveness. However, experts note that compliance costs linked to external assurance and auditing requirements are likely to remain substantial. The Commission is also preparing separate reporting standards for non-EU companies, expected to be adopted in 2027. Read more

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 10/11/2026

COMMISSION PLANS STRONGER ANTI-GREENWASHING RULES THROUGH DIGITAL FAIRNESS ACT

Although the Commission recently withdrew its Green Claims Directive proposal after prolonged opposition in the Council, it intends to strengthen enforcement against misleading environmental claims through the forthcoming Digital Fairness Act (DFA). A draft version of the legislation shows that the Commission plans to build on existing consumer protection rules by introducing stronger sanctions. Companies found guilty of greenwashing could face fines of up to 6% of global annual turnover. By addressing environmental claims through broader consumer protection legislation, the Commission hopes to avoid the political resistance that ultimately stalled the Green Claims proposal. The final proposal is expected on 11 November. Read more

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 10/11/2026

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACT MIGHT FACE FURTHER DELAYS

The Commission's long-awaited Circular Economy Act risks missing another target date as the proposal has yet to enter the interservice consultation phase. The initiative, originally expected earlier this year, was delayed after receiving a negative opinion from the Regulatory Scrutiny Board before subsequently obtaining conditional approval. According to officials involved in the process, the Environment and Industry Directorates-General are ready to proceed, but internal coordination procedures continue to slow progress. Commissioner Jessika Roswall remains committed to presenting the package before the end of the year, although further delays cannot be excluded. The proposal is expected to play a central role in strengthening demand for secondary raw materials and circular products across the EU economy.
Read more.

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 18/11/2026

GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY NEGOTIATIONS REVEAL PERSISTENT DIVISIONS

Discussions on the future Global Plastics Treaty continue to expose significant differences between countries supporting ambitious measures on plastic production and those favouring a narrower focus on waste management. During COP31 discussions, treaty chair Julio Cordano stressed the importance of maintaining universal participation and consensus in negotiations.
The European Union reiterated its support for a comprehensive agreement covering the full lifecycle of plastics, including production. China has increasingly positioned itself as a potential bridge between higher-ambition and more reluctant countries. A revised negotiation text is expected before the end of the year, ahead of further informal discussions in early 2027 and the next formal negotiating session scheduled for March. Read more.

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 17/11/2026

CLIMATE POLICY

COMMISSION WARNS EU RISKS MISSING EMISSION REDUCTION TRAJECTORY

In its latest progress assessment, the European Commission has warned that the decline in EU greenhouse gas emissions is slowing, raising concerns about the bloc's ability to meet its climate objectives. Transport, buildings and agriculture continue to lag behind other sectors in reducing emissions.
The warning comes at a politically sensitive moment as discussions on the revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) intensify. Delays in implementing additional measures in underperforming sectors could increase the risk of missing medium-term climate targets and complicate preparations for the post-2030 climate framework. Read more.

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 10/11/2026

COUNCIL PRESIDENCY MAINTAINS PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE MUNICIPAL INCINERATORS IN EU CARBON MARKET

The Irish Presidency has maintained support for the inclusion of municipal waste incinerators in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), according to its latest compromise proposal on the ETS revision. The Presidency considers the measure both feasible and appropriate despite continued opposition from a number of Member States.

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The proposal would also provide greater flexibility for Member States wishing to benefit from a temporary opt-out until 2035, including recognition of equivalent national carbon-pricing mechanisms. The debate is likely to remain contentious as governments seek to balance climate objectives with concerns over waste management costs and local authority financing. Read more.

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 11/11/2026

CHEMICALS

EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS CRITICISES EU APPROACH TO PFAS REGULATION

The European Court of Auditors has issued a critical assessment of the EU's management of PFAS pollution, arguing that regulatory procedures are too slow and enforcement remains inconsistent across Member States. The report highlights major data gaps and notes that one-third of Member States did not carry out compliance checks related to PFAS restrictions between 2020 and 2025.

The findings come at a crucial stage in the ongoing evaluation of the proposed EU-wide PFAS restriction. Auditors warn that existing legislative processes are poorly suited to addressing the complexity and scale of PFAS contamination, often resulting in lengthy transition periods and numerous exemptions. The Commission has defended the current REACH framework but acknowledges the need for robust scientific assessment before adopting further restrictions. Read more.

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 19/11/2026