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## **PPWR**

### **PALLET WRAPPING AND STRAPS EXEMPT FROM 100% REUSE REQUIREMENT UNDER PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE REGULATION**

The exclusion marks the first application of a Delegated Act under the law.

The European Commission adopted a Delegated Act today (25 Feb) exempting wrapping and straps used to secure goods on pallets during transport from the EU's new 100% reuse requirement.

The Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) had previously set a 100% reuse target for the two items when used within companies and between companies in the same Member State, but both items will now be exempt from this rule.

In response to stakeholder feedback, the Commission carried out a study to assess the feasibility of an exemption. It concluded that the exclusive use of reusable pallet wrappings and straps for transport operations when used within the same company or among linked or partner companies, or for deliveries within the same Member State, could lead to disproportionate adaptation costs.

The PPWR stipulates that, from 1 January 2030, economic operators in the EU must ensure that at least 40% of transport and sales packaging is reusable. This requirement applies to formats such as pallets, foldable-plastic boxes, boxes, trays, plastic crates, intermediate bulk containers, pails, drums, and canisters, including pallet wrapping and straps.

The exemption ensures operators can meet the overall 40% reusability target without facing undue burdens associated with specific packaging components, aligning sustainability goals with current technological and financial realities.

This balanced approach reinforces the EU's commitment to advancing a circular economy while acknowledging operational feasibility. [Read more](#)

*SOURCE: OPP 25/02/2026*

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### **COUNCIL SIGNS OFF SIMPLIFICATION OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING AND DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENTS TO BOOST EU COMPETITIVENESS**

With a view to boosting EU competitiveness, the Council gave today its final green light to a simplification of the sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements for companies. This legislation simplifies the directives on corporate sustainability reporting (CSRD) and corporate sustainability due diligence (CS3D) by reducing the reporting burden and limiting the trickle-down effect of obligations on smaller companies.

The Omnibus I simplification package reduces complexity and unnecessary barriers, cuts red tape, enhances efficiency, and introduces more flexibility for companies that remain subject to its scope to boost EU competitiveness, especially in a constantly changing geopolitical framework. [Read more.](#)

*SOURCE: COUNCIL OF THE EU PRESS ROOM 25/02/2026*

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## **EUROPEAN AGENDA**

### **START PLANNING FOR CATASTROPHIC GLOBAL WARMING, TOP ADVISERS TELL EU**

Europe is heading for extreme levels of warming, and the EU must make detailed plans to adapt, official report warns.

The EU must start drawing up concrete plans to cope with life on a continent made 4 degrees Celsius hotter by climate change, the bloc's scientific advisers said Tuesday.

That would mean accepting that the world is on track for a catastrophic temperature increase that will far exceed the targets agreed under the Paris climate accord and will massively disrupt life for Europeans.

"Europe's climate is rapidly changing. It is not a distant or an abstract risk," said Ottmar Edenhofer, the chair of the European scientific advisory board on climate change.

As the planet warms, weather extremes such as floods and droughts are posing a growing threat to Europe's society, economy, and ecosystems. In recent years, tens of thousands of Europeans have died in heat waves and hundreds more when rivers burst their banks; the annual repair bill for climate disasters has reached an average of €45 billion.

But the EU's efforts to prepare for both current and future impacts of global warming are insufficient and fragmented, lacking a coherent vision, Edenhofer warned.

"The EU lacks a shared understanding of what it should collectively prepare for, leading to inconsistent climate risk assessments that often undermine risk management," he said.

In the board's view, the bloc should protect itself on the assumption that the continent will be 4 degrees Celsius warmer by 2100 than in the pre-industrial era. The advice echoes a recent French government plan to prepare for a 4 C hotter France.

Aside from establishing a common baseline of preparations, the board recommends four other measures to climate-proof Europe, from setting binding preparation targets to suggesting the EU plan its budget around climate risks.

With their requests for more targets and assessments, many of the board's recommendations run counter to the deregulation fever gripping Brussels. In the report, the researchers even reprimand the EU executive for weakening green reporting requirements. [Read more](#)

SOURCE: POLITICOPRO 17/02/2026

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## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### PACKAGING REGULATIONS: STILL NO 'GUIDANCE', STAKEHOLDERS GROWING IMPATIENT

Although a new draft, seen by Contexte, has been circulating since the end of January, the final version of this document, which aims to interpret a number of provisions in the packaging regulations, has yet to be published by the Commission. This is even though certain requirements will begin to apply in August, less than six months from now. 'Companies are still unaware of key elements required to comply,' said Nicholas Hodac, Director General of Unesda, representing the non-alcoholic beverages sector, expressing his concern. He is calling for 'realistic transition periods and compliance deadlines that only begin once the guidelines [...] are available'. Compared to the draft unveiled by Contexte in December, this new version further clarifies the definition of packaging and manufacturer, as well as the exemptions applied to micro-enterprises and reusable packaging. Regarding the ban on the marketing of packaging containing PFAS, the European executive continues to indicate that there will be no transition period, but adds that those placed on the market before 12 August will not need to be withdrawn. When questioned, the Commission's services indicated that the notice will be published 'in due course'.

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 18/02/2026

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### CITPA SIGNED A JOINT INDUSTRY POSITION INITIATED BY EUROPEN, ON THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACT, FOR A SINGLE INTERNAL MARKET-BASED APPROACH

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In a letter sent to the Commission and Member States on 24 February, 70 organisations representing stakeholders in the packaging value chain (Europen, Plastics Europe, VinylPlus, EuPC, Cepi, EuroCommerce, etc.) called on the executive to base its future legislation on the single market. The key issue is the harmonisation of national waste management legislation. For the signatories, 'the lack of harmonised rules not only compromises Europe's ability to collectively achieve these [circularity] objectives, it also prevents the creation of a true single market for secondary raw materials.' According to them, this situation leads to 'increased external dependencies'. The alternative, favoured by NGOs, is a dual legal basis, based on [Article 114](#) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which governs the single market, and [Article 192](#), relating to environmental protection, which allows Member States to derogate from European rules if their national measures are more beneficial to the environment. The Commission, which is more in favour of the legal basis based on the single market, has not yet made a decision. This political and legal battle is a recurring one and had already taken place over the packaging regulation. [Read statement](#).

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 24/02/2026

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## CLIMATE POLICY

### EUROPEAN CHEMICAL GIANTS PLOT TO WEAKEN EU'S FLAGSHIP CLIMATE POLICY

The ultra-polluting sector says the EU's carbon price is putting it out of business. Europe's huge chemicals sector is campaigning to weaken the European Union's most important climate policy, and Brussels is listening. At a meeting in Antwerp on Wednesday, industry chiefs will attempt to persuade European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and national leaders to water down the Emissions Trading System (ETS), a cap-and-trade strategy to cut greenhouse gas emissions. They come with a well-rehearsed pitch: Their sector, one of the biggest in Europe, is in crisis. Factories are being squeezed by a perfect storm of high energy prices, intense competition from China, weak demand from downstream industries, and the world's most expensive carbon pricing scheme. Virtually no other jurisdiction in the world faces carbon costs as high as the EU, they argue: If current plans to strengthen the scheme go ahead, Europe's chemicals industry could be dead within a decade. "Our competitors abroad don't face comparable ETS regimes," Markus Steilemann, CEO of German chemicals producer Covestro, told POLITICO, calling for "an urgent reform of the EU ETS to align climate ambition with competitive reality." For environmental advocates, however, touching the ETS is akin to sacrilege. The 20-year-old scheme, which puts strict limits on the amount of planet-warming gases industry can emit, and covers nearly half of the bloc's emissions, is the bedrock of EU climate policy, forcing industry to find cleaner energy sources. Industries currently pay around €80 for every ton of carbon they emit, and by 2039 will no longer be allowed to emit any carbon at all.

SOURCE: POLITICOPRO 10/02/2026

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### FOREVER CHEMICALS TO COST EUROPE HALF A TRILLION EUROS BY 2050, EU SAYS

Europe is on track to pay at least €440 billion to deal with the pollution and health impacts from toxic PFAS chemicals by the middle of the century, according to [a study](#) released Thursday by the European Commission.

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The cost could soar to nearly €2 trillion under more ambitious clean-up goals, the analysis warns, describing the roughly half-trillion-euro estimate as a baseline for addressing PFAS pollution across the European Economic Area.

PFAS or "forever chemicals" (man-made chemicals used in a wide variety of industrial processes and consumer products) have been linked to a range of health problems, including cancer and fertility problems.

The EU is preparing to propose a ban on their use later this year, with exemptions for "critical sectors", a position likely to draw pushback from industry and some political groups.

But even a full ban would leave Europe with costs of €330 billion by 2050, the report warned.

"Providing clarity on PFAS with bans for consumer uses is a top priority for both citizens and businesses," said EU environment chief Jessika Roswall. "That is why this is an absolute priority for me to work on this and engage with all relevant stakeholders. Consumers are concerned, and rightly so. This study underlines the urgency to act."

Bureau. "The EU must turn off the tap now through an ambitious EU restriction of PFAS present in consumer products and used in industrial processes."

*SOURCE: POLITICOPRO 29/01/2026*

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