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## **EUROPEAN AGENDA**

### **COMMISSION LAUNCHES NEW PUSH TO TACKLE PFAS POLLUTION**

The European Commission has stepped up efforts to address pollution from PFAS, often referred to as "forever chemicals", through a high-level dialogue led by Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall on June 15. The meeting brought together more than 20 stakeholders, including industry representatives, researchers, NGOs, water operators and affected communities, to discuss the environmental and health challenges posed by PFAS contamination.

Discussions focused on the full range of PFAS-related issues, from pollution sources and health impacts to monitoring, remediation and the development of safer alternatives. The dialogue forms part of the Commission's broader strategy to reduce PFAS emissions and support the transition away from these highly persistent chemicals.

The Commission confirmed that work is progressing toward a future EU-wide restriction on PFAS. Following the European Chemicals Agency's final scientific assessment, expected by the end of 2026, the Commission plans to propose measures aimed at minimising PFAS emissions. It is also considering a ban on PFAS in consumer products, while allowing limited industrial uses where no viable alternatives currently exist.

Alongside regulatory action, the EU is investing in innovation and clean-up efforts. New Innovation and Substitution Hubs launched in March 2026 will help identify and develop safer alternatives to PFAS, while preparations are underway for a potential public-private initiative focused on detection and remediation technologies. The Commission is also developing an EU-wide monitoring framework to better track pollution hotspots and support remediation efforts.

PFAS are widely used in industrial and consumer applications due to their durability, but their persistence in the environment and the human body has raised significant concerns about long-term health and ecological impacts. The Commission reiterated its commitment to reducing PFAS pollution while balancing environmental protection with the needs of key industrial sectors. [Read more.](#)

*SOURCE: EU COMMISSION NEWSLETTER 15/06/2026*

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### **EU COUNCIL ADVANCES ENVIRONMENTAL OMNIBUS COMPROMISE ON INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS**

EU member states have reached a compromise on several elements of the Environmental Omnibus package, including proposed changes to the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). The agreement, brokered by the Cypriot Presidency of the Council, aims to simplify certain regulatory requirements for industry while maintaining key environmental obligations.

Under the compromise, industrial operators would be allowed to prepare Environmental Management Systems (EMS) covering multiple installations rather than producing separate plans for each site. The requirement for companies to develop industrial transformation plans has been removed, and businesses would no longer be obliged to publish EMS information online.

The Council also decided to retain the chemical inventory requirement, reversing an earlier proposal by the European Commission to eliminate it. However, the obligation has been significantly narrowed compared to the 2024 directive. The inventory would now focus only on hazardous substances likely to be released in significant quantities, taking into account their nature, risk profile and potential to transfer pollution between environmental media.

In another notable change, member states have proposed excluding organic poultry farming installations from the scope of the directive. Supporters argue that this would reduce administrative burdens on smaller and more sustainable agricultural operations.

The compromise reflects broader efforts to streamline EU environmental legislation while preserving core pollution-control measures. Discussions on the Environmental Omnibus package remain ongoing in the European Parliament, where negotiations continue on several files, including provisions related to batteries and the Inspire Directive.

The outcome of the legislative process will shape how the EU balances regulatory simplification with its environmental and industrial policy objectives in the years ahead. [Read More.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 29/06/2026

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## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### EPP CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT BEFORE EXPANDING EU CARBON MARKET TO WASTE INCINERATION

The European People's Party (EPP) has urged caution over proposals to extend the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) to waste incineration, arguing that any decision should be based on a comprehensive and independent impact assessment. The position was outlined in a draft note published ahead of discussions on the ETS review scheduled for 15 July.

According to the EPP, the potential inclusion of waste incineration in the EU carbon market cannot be properly assessed without a rigorous analysis of its economic, environmental and social consequences. The group insists that the European Commission's impact assessment should examine socio-economic effects, the net impact on emissions, potential carbon leakage risks and possible conflicts with the EU's circular economy objectives.

Particular attention should also be given to the diversity of waste management systems across member states. The EPP argues that a one-size-fits-all approach could have uneven consequences, depending on national waste treatment infrastructure and existing recycling policies.

The draft paper highlights concerns that putting a carbon price on incineration could unintentionally increase the use of landfill sites if higher operating costs make incineration less competitive. This argument is frequently raised by the waste management sector, although environmental organisations have challenged the claim, arguing that stronger waste prevention and recycling measures should offset such risks.

Beyond waste incineration, the EPP is also advocating a more gradual approach to the reform of the ETS. The group supports slowing the annual reduction of carbon allowances and extending the timeline for phasing out free emissions permits for sectors covered by the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

The debate reflects broader tensions within EU climate policy between maintaining the bloc's decarbonisation ambitions and addressing concerns about industrial competitiveness, waste management costs and the practical implementation of carbon pricing measures. As negotiations continue, the future scope of the ETS is likely to remain a key point of discussion in the EU's climate and industrial policy agenda. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 29/06/2026

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### 14 EU COUNTRIES CALL FOR STRONGER ACTION AGAINST ULTRA-FAST FASHION

A coalition of 14 EU member states has urged the European Commission to take stronger measures to address the rapid growth of ultra-fast fashion, highlighting concerns over its environmental and social impacts. The initiative, originally launched by France, Germany and the Netherlands and later joined by Denmark and Slovenia, has now gained the support of nine additional countries, including Belgium, Italy, Finland, Austria and Poland.

The signatories are calling on the Commission to develop a common EU definition or set of criteria for ultra-fast fashion and to ensure the concept is better reflected in future European legislation. They argue that a clearer regulatory framework is needed to address business models based on the constant release of low-cost clothing collections and high-volume consumption.

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The discussion comes as the Commission advances work on new ecodesign requirements for textiles under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation. Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall confirmed that work is progressing and that the new requirements are expected to be finalised in 2027. Once adopted, these standards will provide a basis for adjusting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees, allowing producers with more sustainable products to face lower costs.

The Commission is also preparing broader measures as part of its upcoming Circular Economy Act, expected later this year. In addition, market surveillance is set to be strengthened through new product regulations scheduled for adoption by the end of 2026, helping authorities ensure compliance with EU sustainability requirements.

The growing support among member states reflects increasing concern over the environmental footprint of the fashion industry, which is a major source of waste, resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. By targeting ultra-fast fashion, governments hope to encourage more sustainable production and consumption patterns while creating a level playing field for businesses operating in the EU market.

[Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 28/06/2026

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## CLIMATE POLICY

### EU DEFORESTATION LAW EXPANDED TO COVER MORE PALM-DERIVED CHEMICALS

The European Commission is preparing targeted changes to the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), expanding its scope to include a wider range of palm oil-derived chemicals while excluding leather products from the regulation. The proposals, outlined in a draft delegated act, aim to strengthen the effectiveness of the legislation as it begins to apply from the end of 2026.

The EUDR requires companies placing certain commodities and derived products on the EU market to demonstrate that they are free from deforestation. While the regulation already covers products linked to seven key commodities, including palm oil, the Commission now plans to broaden coverage to additional oleochemicals used in products such as cosmetics, detergents, food emulsifiers and soap.

According to the Commission, the expansion is intended to ensure consistency throughout the palm oil supply chain and prevent companies from shifting deforestation risks to downstream products not currently covered by the rules. However, certain exemptions would apply, including palm-derived chemicals used in human and veterinary medicines, as well as waste palm oil derivatives used as biofuel feedstock.

At the same time, the draft text confirms that leather products will be excluded from the scope of the regulation, following previous consultations with stakeholders. Soybeans intended for sowing would also be exempt, with the Commission citing their limited trade volumes and potential links to the EU's forthcoming protein strategy.

To give businesses and authorities time to adapt, the Commission proposes delaying the application of the newly added product categories until 30 December 2027. Meanwhile, requests to remove products such as prepared beef and cocoa by-products from the regulation were rejected, and the Commission also declined calls to reintroduce printed books, newspapers and other printed materials that were removed from the EUDR during earlier legislative negotiations.

Once formally adopted by the Commission, the delegated act will be subject to scrutiny by the European Parliament and the Council, which will have two months to object before the changes enter into force.

The revisions reflect the EU's ongoing efforts to strengthen anti-deforestation measures while providing greater clarity for affected industries. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: EUROACTIVE 29/06/2026

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