



PPWR

RETAIL AND HOSPITALITY SECTORS URGE CLARIFICATION ON “PRODUCER” DEFINITION

Retail and hospitality industry representatives are calling on the European Commission to clarify the definition of “producer” within the EU’s packaging regulation. In a letter published on June 4 by Hotrec, Independent Retail Europe, and Euro Coop, the organizations warn that the current interpretation could classify retailers and hospitality operators as packaging producers simply because their brand or logo appears on the packaging.

They argue that this approach is problematic, as many of these businesses neither design nor manufacture the packaging, while suppliers continue to control the materials used. The groups stress that such a broad interpretation would impose disproportionate obligations on companies that are not directly involved in packaging production.

The concern is particularly significant for small and medium-sized enterprises in the retail and hospitality sectors, which often lack the resources to meet the regulatory requirements associated with producer status. The organizations also criticize the Commission’s guidance document published at the end of March, describing it as inconsistent and not sufficiently helpful in clarifying responsibilities.

In response, they are urging the European Commission to explicitly state in its guidance or FAQ that retailers and hospitality operators should not be considered packaging producers under the regulation.

[Read more](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 05/06/2026

BROAD COALITION OPPOSES CALLS FOR DELAY AND REVISION

More than 120 companies and industry associations are pushing back against recent calls to revise and delay the EU’s packaging regulation. In a letter sent on June 3 to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, and European Council President António Costa, the signatories—including major companies such as Shell, Ikea, Veolia, and Suez, as well as key industry groups—defend the current framework and urge swift implementation.

The letter responds to an earlier appeal made at the end of April by around 100 business leaders advocating for a partial revision and postponement of the regulation. In contrast, the new coalition stresses that the regulation provides a necessary framework to accelerate recycling efforts, particularly for plastics, and should not be reopened.

Instead, the signatories argue that attention should now shift toward effective implementation. They call for the development of clear, robust, and evidence-based secondary legislation, drafted in close collaboration with industry stakeholders and technical experts. According to them, maintaining the integrity of the main regulatory framework is essential.

They also underline the importance of regulatory stability and predictability, warning that reopening the legislation could undermine investor confidence. A consistent policy environment, they conclude, is crucial to securing investments and expanding recycling capacity across Europe. [Read more](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 04/06/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADVANCES ON EPR REFORM AS DRAFT REPORT PROPOSES TARGETED RELIEF

The European Parliament is moving closer to establishing its position on the Commission's proposal to revise Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules under the environmental omnibus package. Rapporteur Ingeborg Ter Laak has now published her draft report, marking a key step forward in the legislative process.

The proposal aims to reduce the administrative burden on companies subject to EPR obligations. Notably, the Commission suggested suspending, until 2035, the requirement for companies operating in one EU member state to appoint an authorized representative in another member state in order to comply with national EPR schemes. This measure is intended to simplify cross-border compliance for businesses operating within the single market.

EPR schemes require companies to contribute financially to the management of waste generated from the products they place on the market, covering categories such as packaging, electronics, batteries, and textiles. These systems are organized at national level, often through producer responsibility organizations, resulting in significant variations in structure and fee calculations across the EU. Harmonization of these schemes is a key objective of the Commission's broader simplification agenda. Within Parliament, discussions are already underway. Members of the Internal Market Committee (IMCO) have begun reviewing the proposal, contributing early input into the legislative debate. Ter Laak's draft report reflects some of these discussions and introduces important modifications to the Commission's approach.

In particular, she proposes limiting the temporary suspension of the authorized representative requirement to micro and small enterprises, arguing that medium-sized and large companies are generally better equipped to comply with existing obligations. This narrower scope aims to ensure that relief is targeted at businesses with fewer resources while maintaining responsibility for larger market players.

The rapporteur also suggests aligning the end date of the suspension with the implementation of the forthcoming Circular Economy Act, which is expected to introduce further changes to EPR rules. The Commission is anticipated to present this new legislative proposal after the summer, making it a key reference point for ongoing reforms.

Additionally, the draft report seeks to maintain strict requirements for non-EU producers. It ensures that companies based outside the EU must continue to appoint authorized representatives within member states, while removing the possibility for national authorities to introduce alternative enforcement mechanisms.

To develop her report, Ter Laak consulted a range of stakeholders, including industry groups and companies such as the Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance, Lego Group, the Danish Chamber of Commerce, and the Italian National Packaging Consortium. [Read more](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 04/06/2026

BARROSO LITHIUM PROJECT FACES LEGAL CHALLENGE AS COURT REVIEWS APPROVAL PROCESS

The Barroso lithium mining project in northern Portugal has encountered another significant obstacle, as a national court has agreed to examine a legal case filed by local residents opposing the development. The case will focus on whether proper legal procedures were followed when the Portuguese government authorized Savannah Resources to carry out preliminary activities, including drilling, borehole creation, and geotechnical assessments.

The dispute centers on a 228-hectare site near the Spanish border where preparatory work was approved by the Secretary of State for Energy, Jean Paulo Gil Barroca. Local communities argue that much of the land in question is classified as baldio (a form of communal land ownership unique to rural Portugal) and claim that construction activities have already begun. They are calling for restrictions on the company's access to the full site until judicial oversight is completed.

The concept of baldio lies at the heart of the conflict. While the term may suggest abandoned land in an urban context, in this case it refers to land collectively owned and managed by local communities.

Residents emphasize that this land is neither state-owned nor privately held, and plays a vital role in sustaining local livelihoods, adding a layer of social and economic sensitivity to the dispute.

Despite the legal challenge, the Barroso project remains strategically important for the European Union. It has been identified as a key initiative under the Critical Raw Materials Act, adopted in May 2024, and is expected to contribute to the EU's goal of sourcing at least 10 percent of its lithium domestically by 2030. According to Savannah Resources, the site could produce enough lithium each year to supply hundreds of thousands electric vehicle batteries.

The court's review adds further uncertainty to a project already seen as pivotal to Europe's energy transition, highlighting the ongoing tensions between local environmental and community concerns and the EU's ambitions to secure critical raw materials. [Read More.](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 04/06/2026

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EU TRADE PARTNERS RAISE CONCERNS OVER PROPOSED CHANGES TO ANTI-DEFORESTATION LAW

The European Commission is facing mounting pushback from international trade partners over its latest revisions to the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), following the close of a public consultation that gathered nearly 5,000 submissions. The proposed updates, aimed at simplifying the regulation and adjusting its scope, have triggered strong reactions from several key exporting countries.

The Commission recently suggested removing certain products (such as leather, refurbished tires, and some packaging materials) from the regulation's scope, while adding others, including instant coffee and palm oil derivatives like soap. The EUDR is set to enter into force at the end of 2026, making these adjustments particularly consequential for global supply chains.

The proposed inclusion of instant coffee has proven especially contentious. Several producing countries argue that extending the rules to soluble coffee could disrupt trade and impose disproportionate compliance burdens. Colombia, for instance, has called for longer transition periods, highlighting the strategic importance of instant coffee for its economy. Similar concerns have been echoed by Indonesia and India, while Brazil's instant coffee industry has acknowledged the regulatory rationale but requested additional support, including clearer guidance and more time to comply with traceability and due diligence requirements.

Opposition has also emerged regarding the inclusion of palm oil derivatives. Authorities in Indonesia and Malaysia argue that the logic behind excluding leather—due to the complexity of its supply chain—should equally apply to products like soluble coffee and palm oil derivatives. They see the current approach as inconsistent and potentially unfair.

Argentina, while welcoming the removal of leather from the regulation, remains concerned about the continued inclusion of commodities such as soy and beef. Its government has stressed the importance of ensuring that exporting countries are realistically able to meet the regulation's strict requirements, particularly the obligation to demonstrate a negligible risk of deforestation.

Meanwhile, the United States has reiterated its broader opposition to the EUDR, continuing its push for the creation of a "zero-risk" category for certain countries. U.S. representatives argue that the regulation could drive up consumer prices for everyday goods such as coffee, chocolate, and beef, warning that additional compliance costs may ultimately be passed on to households at a time of rising living expenses.

Despite these criticisms, the European Commission has signaled that it does not intend to reopen the core elements of the regulation, including its country classification system. The ongoing debate highlights the tension between the EU's environmental ambitions and the concerns of global trade partners over feasibility, fairness, and economic impact. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 03/06/2026

CLIMATE POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION UNVEILS PLAN TO POSITION EU AS GLOBAL LEADER IN OCEAN OBSERVATION

The European Commission has presented its roadmap to establish the European Union as a global benchmark in ocean observation by 2035. On June 3, the College of Commissioners endorsed the rollout of “OceanEye,” an initiative first outlined by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in early March and now formalized through an official communication.

The initiative aims to address the current fragmentation of ocean data systems across Europe by creating a more coordinated and efficient framework. To achieve this, the Commission proposes the development of a dedicated governance structure alongside a centralized interface designed to connect data needs, particularly for policymaking and environmental protection, with existing information sources.

While the communication sets out the overall vision, it provides limited detail on how the system will operate in practice. More concrete measures are expected to be introduced in the forthcoming Ocean Act, scheduled for presentation later this year, which will formally establish the governance framework for OceanEye.

In parallel, the Commission confirmed its intention to launch an international alliance to strengthen global ocean observation efforts, extending collaboration beyond EU borders. The initiative reflects the EU’s ambition not only to improve access to marine data but also to play a leading role in shaping global standards and cooperation in this field.

To support the project, the Commission has committed €92 million in funding, drawn from various streams within the Horizon Europe programme, underlining its strategic importance for research, environmental monitoring, and policy development. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 04/06/2026
