
PPWR

LAWMAKERS BACK EPR SIMPLIFICATION FOR SMALL COMPANIES

Members of the European Parliament's Environment Committee (ENVI) are expected to support a proposal under the Environmental Omnibus package to suspend certain Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations for micro and small companies. The measure aims to reduce administrative burdens by exempting these businesses from the requirement to appoint an authorised representative when selling products into Member States where they are not established.

Under existing EU legislation, companies placing products on foreign markets may be required to designate an authorised representative to fulfil obligations related to EPR schemes **covering packaging**, batteries, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), textiles and plastics. The European Commission proposed the suspension as part of its broader effort to streamline regulatory compliance and reduce red tape for smaller businesses.

A broad political majority is expected to support the compromise, with backing reportedly ranging from centrist Renew Europe to the Patriots for Europe group. MEPs involved in the negotiations have indicated particularly strong support for the provisions concerning packaging and textiles legislation.

Discussions are also progressing in the Council, although Member States are moving at a slower pace. Last week, EU ambassadors agreed to restart negotiations, but only with regard to the packaging-related provisions. Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall welcomed the decision and stressed the importance of reaching an agreement quickly.

The proposal could significantly simplify cross-border compliance requirements for small businesses while maintaining EPR obligations for larger market operators. For the packaging sector, the ongoing discussions may have implications for producer responsibility registration and compliance obligations across the EU. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 05/10/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

PARLIAMENT NEGOTIATES FAST-TRACK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS FOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

Negotiations in the European Parliament are intensifying over a proposed regulation aimed at accelerating environmental assessments for strategic industrial projects. Representatives of the Renew Europe, European People's Party (EPP), and Socialists & Democrats (S&D) groups met on 6 October in an effort to reach a compromise before the file advances in the legislative process.

Two of the most politically sensitive provisions remain unresolved. The first concerns exemptions from species protection rules, while the second relates to the list of strategic sectors that could benefit from accelerated permitting and assessment procedures. These issues have become a key fault line between centre-right and centre-left political groups.

A new compromise proposal from rapporteur Emma Wiesner (Renew) moves closer to the position of the EPP on biodiversity protection exemptions. While the original Commission proposal already considered the incidental death or disturbance of protected birds resulting from industrial operations as non-intentional where mitigation measures are in place, the latest compromise would extend this exemption to include the destruction and degradation of nests and eggs of protected species.

This shift has raised concerns among left-wing groups, which fear that Renew could form a majority with the EPP and the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group. To secure broader support, particularly from the S&D group, the compromise introduces additional safeguards, including requirements to assess the cumulative environmental impacts of multiple projects on nature before exemptions can be granted.

The debate reflects the broader challenge facing EU policymakers: balancing the need to speed up industrial investment and competitiveness with the protection of biodiversity and environmental

legislation. The outcome could influence future permitting procedures for projects linked to industrial policy, energy transition and strategic manufacturing.

The vote in the Parliament's Environment Committee has been postponed until 4 November, giving negotiators additional time to seek a compromise between environmental safeguards and accelerated permitting objectives. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 05/10/2026

PARLIAMENT BEGINS NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE EU BUDGET GREEN RULES

Political negotiations are starting in the European Parliament on one of the most significant environmental debates linked to the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The discussions concern the Commission's proposed performance regulation, which would establish key horizontal principles for the future EU budget, including the application of the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle and a target to allocate 35% of EU spending to climate and environmental objectives.

The Parliament's position is being developed through a joint report led by Niclas Herbst (EPP) and Jean-Marc Germain (S&D). This report will form the basis of Parliament's negotiating position on the environmental and sustainability safeguards attached to future EU funding.

Negotiations formally begin this week with a first shadow meeting involving members of the Budget (BUDG) and Budgetary Control (CONT) Committees, alongside rapporteurs responsible for related committee opinions. However, parliamentary groups are still awaiting the draft report from the lead negotiators, which is expected to be circulated shortly.

According to a provisional timetable, the draft report should be presented to the BUDG and CONT Committees on 19 October, followed by a committee vote on 30 November. A plenary vote establishing Parliament's position could then take place in December.

The central political divide concerns the future application of the DNSH principle, which prevents EU funding from supporting activities that undermine the Union's environmental objectives. While several right-leaning political groups have criticised the principle as a potential constraint on economic growth and competitiveness, the Socialists and Democrats have identified its preservation as a key red line in the negotiations.

The outcome of these discussions will help determine how environmental safeguards and climate spending targets are integrated into the next EU budget and is expected to become one of the major sustainability policy debates of the coming months. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 06/10/2026

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

COMPANIES CALL FOR REFORM OF BIODIVERSITY-HARMFUL SUBSIDIES AHEAD OF COP17

A coalition of 130 companies and financial institutions, including Decathlon, Nestlé, Danone, Unilever, H&M, L'Occitane and the asset management arm of BNP Paribas, has called on governments to reform subsidies and incentives that are harmful to biodiversity. In a joint letter published on 6 October, the signatories urged policymakers to ensure that public funding and public policies send clear market signals in support of nature protection.

The appeal comes ahead of COP17 on Biodiversity and focuses on the need to identify, reform and phase out incentives that contribute to biodiversity loss. The businesses argue that governments should launch reform processes within the next 12 months and state that they are ready to support the development and implementation of such plans.

The request is closely linked to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes a target to identify and reform environmentally harmful subsidies by 2025 and reduce them by at least USD 500 billion per year by 2030. However, according to recent assessments and statements by public authorities, neither France nor the European Union are expected to meet this objective within the agreed timeframe.

The initiative also takes place amid growing political debate over the future of the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle, which requires EU funding not to undermine the Union's environmental objectives. While biodiversity and sustainability advocates view DNSH as an essential safeguard, the

principle is facing increasing opposition from some political groups in the European Parliament and from several Member States.

The signatories argue that reforming nature-harmful subsidies is necessary to align public spending with biodiversity goals, improve market certainty for sustainable investments, and support the transition towards a nature-positive economy. [Read more](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 06/10/2026

EU CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS PROJECTS FACING DELAYS

The European Commission is launching a new round of strategic critical raw materials projects to help reduce dependence on China and strengthen Europe's supply of minerals needed for the green transition, technology and defense sectors.

However, doubts are growing about whether the EU can meet its 2030 targets. According to environmental and industry assessments, many approved projects are delayed, stalled or at risk, and only a limited number appear to be progressing as planned.

While the Commission remains confident that targets for lithium, cobalt and rare earths can be achieved, challenges persist for other materials, particularly nickel and manganese.

Industry leaders also point to ongoing obstacles, including financing difficulties and lengthy permitting procedures, raising questions about whether the "strategic project" label alone is enough to accelerate development. [Read more](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 09/10/2026

CLIMATE POLICY

NGOS URGE EU WATER INITIATIVE TO FOCUS ON RESILIENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Ursula von der Leyen's announcement of a new EU water initiative during the September State of the Union address has sparked uncertainty among policymakers and stakeholders about its scope and how it relates to existing water legislation. According to reports from Brussels, both stakeholders and officials within the European Commission are still seeking clarity on how the initiative will interact with the planned revision of the Water Framework Directive and the implementation of the EU's 2025 Water Resilience Strategy.

Environmental coalition Living Rivers Europe, which includes organisations such as WWF, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Surfrider Foundation Europe, has called on the Commission to prioritise implementation rather than reopening the legislative framework. In a position paper published on 1 October, the coalition argues that the new initiative should build upon the Water Resilience Strategy and accelerate practical measures to improve water security across the EU.

Among its recommendations, the coalition proposes that Member States establish targets for "sponge landscapes" designed to improve water retention and reduce the impacts of droughts and floods. The NGOs also call for an EU-wide assessment of current water retention capacities and faster development of targets to improve the efficiency of water distribution networks.

The organisations place particular emphasis on agriculture, a sector highlighted by Ursula von der Leyen as a priority in future water policy. They propose the creation of dedicated watershed managers to support farmers, coordinate land management practices, strengthen water retention, and reduce soil erosion across river basins.

The debate illustrates the growing importance of water resilience on the EU policy agenda as Europe faces increasing pressure from droughts, floods, and climate-related water challenges. Stakeholders are now awaiting further details on whether the Commission's forthcoming initiative will focus on implementation measures, legislative changes, or a combination of both. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 06/10/2026

DEFORESTATION REGULATION: U.S. URGES THE EU TO RECONSIDER IMPLEMENTATION

In a LinkedIn post published on 6 October, Andrew Puzder, the U.S. Ambassador to the EU, called on the European Commission to act before the EU Deforestation Regulation takes effect at the end of the year.

His intervention follows concerns raised by FEFAC (the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation), which recently warned that the Regulation could disrupt imports of feed materials used by the European livestock sector. Based on FEFAC's estimates, the ambassador argued that the resulting supply constraints could increase the price of everyday products such as cheese, eggs and meat.

Ahead of the meeting of EU agriculture ministers on 28 September, FEFAC sent a letter to the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU. In that letter, the organisation called for a targeted revision of the Regulation to preserve access to imports of soybean meal and palm kernel meal, both of which are widely used in animal feed and currently fall within the scope of the legislation.

If such a revision is not considered, FEFAC has requested a temporary and partial suspension of the requirements for these products.

The United States, together with Brazil and Argentina, is one of the world's leading soybean-producing countries and therefore has a significant interest in how the Regulation is applied. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 08/10/2026
