September 11, 2026

POLICY MONITORING BRIEF

PPWR

COMMISSION RAISES REVENUE PROJECTIONS FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING AND E-WASTE LEVIES

The European Commission has revised upwards its revenue forecasts for two key EU own resources linked to waste generation: the levy on non-recycled plastic packaging waste and the future contribution based on uncollected waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). The updated projections, published in two Commission documents, form part of the financing strategy for the EU's 2028-2034 budget and suggest significantly higher revenues than previously anticipated.

Under the revised estimates, the levy on non-recycled plastic packaging waste, in force since 2021, will increase from €0.80/kg to €1.00/kg from 2028 and will subsequently be indexed annually to inflation, resulting in an average rate of €1.07/kg over the budget period. The Commission now expects the measure to generate approximately €9.5 billion per year across the EU. This represents a substantial increase compared with 2023, when the levy generated €7.2 billion, accounting for around 4% of total EU revenue.

The Commission has also updated its projections for the proposed own resource based on uncollected electronic waste. A uniform rate of €2.00/kg is expected to apply from 2028, rising progressively with inflation to €2.29/kg by 2034, for an average rate of €2.14/kg over the period. According to the new estimates, this mechanism would generate close to €18 billion annually on average between 2028 and 2034.

The revised forecast is significantly higher than the Commission's initial estimate presented alongside its draft EU budget package in July 2025. Revenue expectations for the e-waste-based contribution have increased by approximately €3 billion per year, reflecting updated assumptions on waste generation and collection performance across Member States.

The updated projections underline the growing role that environmental levies are expected to play in financing the EU budget, while also reinforcing policy incentives to increase recycling rates, improve waste collection systems and support the transition to a more circular economy. Read more and Read more

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 10/09/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

PFAS RESTRICTION UNLIKELY TO COVER PESTICIDES, COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAYS

Pesticides are "highly unlikely" to be included in the EU's forthcoming PFAS restriction, according to Paul Speight, Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment, who is overseeing work on the proposal. Speaking at a European Parliament event on 10 September, Speight stated that pesticides are subject to a separate regulatory framework and are therefore unlikely to be addressed through the horizontal PFAS restriction. While acknowledging that existing procedures for banning pesticides may not move quickly enough, he noted that the Commission's health department is aware of the issue. This position would diverge from preliminary recommendations by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), whose risk assessment committee has questioned whether current pesticide regulations are sufficient to reduce PFAS emissions, particularly releases of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), a PFAS-related substance increasingly detected in drinking water. ECHA's socio-economic assessment committee has also indicated that excluding pesticides and biocides from the restriction may not be justified. Final opinions from both committees are expected by the end of 2026, ahead of the Commission's legislative proposal. Read more.

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 10/09/2026

COMMISSION WEIGHS POSSIBLE TWO-STEP APPROACH TO PFAS RESTRICTIONS

The European Commission is still considering how to structure its future PFAS restriction proposal, including whether it could be divided into separate measures targeting consumer and industrial uses. The debate follows comments from Commissioners Jessika Roswall and Stéphane Séjourné, who have suggested prioritising restrictions on PFAS in consumer products while taking a different approach to industrial applications. However, Commission officials stress that no decision has yet been made. Speaking on 10 September, Paul Speight said it was "too early" to discuss the legal strategy underpinning the proposal, emphasising that work remains focused on developing a robust and evidence-based framework. Environment Commissioner Roswall has committed to presenting a proposal shortly after ECHA delivers its final scientific opinion, expected at the end of 2026. Speight also noted that the Commission has temporarily reduced stakeholder engagement in order to focus resources on drafting the proposal, which aims to target the most significant sources of PFAS emissions. He acknowledged, however, that the final outcome will ultimately involve political decisions and compromises as the EU seeks to balance environmental protection with economic and industrial considerations. Read more.

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 10/09/2026

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EU FINALISES CSRD REPORTING STANDARDS, BRINGING REGULATORY CERTAINTY FOR BUSINESSES

The European Union has completed its overhaul of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) framework, ending more than 18 months of uncertainty for companies subject to sustainability reporting requirements. The revised European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), published by the European Commission in July, have successfully passed the scrutiny period without objections from either Member States or the European Parliament. As a result, the updated standards are now final, providing businesses with long-awaited clarity on their future reporting obligations.

The changes are part of the EU's broader Sustainability Omnibus initiative, aimed at reducing administrative burdens and improving the competitiveness of European companies. One of the most significant reforms is the narrowing of the CSRD's scope, with reporting requirements now limited primarily to the largest companies. According to the Commission, the revisions reduce the number of businesses covered by around 90%, substantially easing compliance obligations across the market.

The revised ESRS, which determine the sustainability information companies must disclose under the CSRD, introduce major simplifications. Key changes include more flexible requirements for greenhouse gas emissions reporting and the removal of certain human rights incident disclosure obligations. Overall, the number of required datapoints has been reduced by more than 70%, while compliance costs are expected to fall by over 30% per company.

Despite the simplification effort, the CSRD remains a cornerstone of the EU's sustainable finance framework. The legislation is intended to improve transparency on environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance, while ensuring investors have access to reliable and comparable sustainability data for investment and reporting purposes. The finalisation of the ESRS comes as the EU continues to review other key sustainable finance legislation, including the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR).

Looking ahead, Member States have until March 2027 to transpose the revised CSRD into national law. While countries including Austria, Croatia, Finland, Lithuania and Slovenia are already making progress, larger economies such as Germany, the Netherlands and Spain remain behind schedule after missing the original implementation deadline.

Questions also remain regarding the application of the rules to non-EU companies, particularly U.S.-based businesses. While a full exemption appears unlikely, policymakers are still discussing possible adjustments or delays for third-country reporting requirements. The debate comes amid continued pressure from the United States, which has repeatedly urged the EU to significantly reduce sustainability reporting obligations and enforcement measures affecting American companies. Read more

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 07/09/2026

COMMISSION CLARIFIES TETHERED CAP RULES FOR ALUMINIUM FOIL LIDS ON PLASTIC BEVERAGE PACKAGING

The European Commission has updated its guidance on the Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD), clarifying that aluminium foil lids sealed onto plastic beverage containers are excluded from the Directive's tethered cap requirements. The update provides greater legal certainty for producers using mixed-material closures, particularly in sectors such as dairy packaging, where aluminium foil seals are commonly combined with plastic caps.

Under Article 6 of the Single-Use Plastics Directive (EU) 2019/904, beverage containers of up to three litres may only be placed on the market if their caps and lids remain attached to the container throughout the product's intended use. However, the requirement does not apply to glass or metal beverage containers fitted with plastic caps and lids, nor to certain products intended for special medical purposes.

The clarification, introduced through Commission Notice C/2026/4813, updates the Commission's guidance on the implementation of the Directive and provides additional examples of closures that are either covered by or exempt from the tethering obligation. Under the revised interpretation, where a plastic beverage container features both a plastic cap and a sealed aluminium foil lid, only the plastic cap is subject to the tethering requirement. The aluminium foil lid is excluded because it is not considered a plastic component for the purposes of Article 6(2) of the Directive.

The update resolves an important compliance question for manufacturers using combined plastic and aluminium closures, an area that had not been explicitly addressed in previous versions of the guidance. The clarification is expected to be particularly relevant for dairy, beverage and food packaging producers assessing their obligations under the SUPD.

The Commission's latest guidance comes amid continued debate over tethered caps across Europe. While policymakers have promoted the measure as a way to reduce litter and improve plastic collection rates, some consumers and industry stakeholders have raised concerns regarding usability, accessibility and convenience. Criticisms have included difficulties resealing containers, discomfort during use and challenges for certain consumer groups.

The clarification also arrives as broader packaging legislation continues to evolve. The Commission has recently missed its own deadline for publishing implementing acts under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) covering harmonised labelling requirements for recycled content, reusable packaging and consumer sorting instructions. The delay has prompted concerns from stakeholders about the increasingly tight timeline for compliance with upcoming packaging rules. Read more

SOURCE: PACKAGING EUROPE 09/09/2026

CLIMATE POLICY

COMMISSION TO UNVEIL CLIMATE RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK AHEAD OF COP31

The European Commission is expected to present its long-awaited Climate Resilience Framework on 28 October, according to the agenda of upcoming meetings of the College of Commissioners published on 8 September. Prepared by the Directorate-General for Climate Action under the leadership of Climate Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra, the initiative is set to combine both legislative and non-legislative measures aimed at strengthening the EU's resilience to the growing impacts of climate change.

The framework is expected to include a mix of binding proposals and a broader policy communication, reflecting the Commission's ambition to reinforce adaptation efforts across the Union. According to reports, the executive aims to publish the package before the start of COP31, the UN Climate Change Conference scheduled to take place in Turkey from 9 to 21 November, ensuring the EU enters the negotiations with an updated climate resilience strategy.

The initiative follows a public consultation process launched earlier this year, during which stakeholders were invited to provide input on how the EU should address increasing climate-related risks, including extreme weather events, water scarcity, infrastructure vulnerability and economic disruption. The framework is expected to outline measures to improve preparedness and adaptation across key sectors while supporting long-term climate resilience objectives.

Also on the Commission's agenda is the presentation of its 2027 Work Programme, currently scheduled for 20 October. Read more.

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 09/09/2026