



PPWR

REPLACE FLEXIBLE PLASTICS WITH PAPER, SUGGESTS ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

A new Ellen MacArthur Foundation report highlights paper as a promising alternative to flexible plastic packaging, if produced responsibly. While paper flexibles can be more easily recycled and biodegrade in the environment, the report warns that poor sourcing and production could lead to deforestation, water stress, and higher emissions.

The Foundation outlines six criteria to ensure paper packaging delivers real environmental benefits, including responsible sourcing, safe materials, recyclability, and alignment with circular-economy systems. The report stresses that paper is not a silver bullet, but one tool alongside reuse models to reduce the pollution caused by small-format plastic packaging, especially in countries with limited waste infrastructure.

Endorsed by 44 organisations, the report calls for innovation and policy action to scale paper-based solutions without creating new environmental problems. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: PACKAGINGEUROPE 10/03/2026

PLASTIC INDUSTRY CALLS FOR EXEMPTION OF PLASTIC TRANSPORT PACKAGING FROM 40 PERCENT REUSE TARGET

More than 80 industry groups have urged the Commission to exempt plastic film and pallet strapping from the 40 percent reuse target in the packaging regulation. In a letter dated March 10, the organisations note that these items are already exempt from the 100 percent reuse target by 2030, but not from the intermediate 40 percent requirement.

They argue that reuse is technically unfeasible for these formats. Pallet wrapping film must be cut upon delivery, which destroys its structural integrity. Pallet straps are also designed for single use and cannot maintain performance after removal. The signatories ask the Commission to adopt a delegated act that formally exempts these materials from the 40 percent target. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 11/03/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

EU CHEMICALS AGENCY FINALIZES OPINIONS ON PFAS BAN

ECHA's Socio-Economic Analysis Committee has agreed on its draft opinion supporting a broad EU restriction on all PFAS. The draft will soon open for a 60-day consultation. This follows the Risk Assessment Committee's final opinion on 2 March. Both opinions will inform the European Commission's eventual proposal for an EU-wide restriction.

The restriction aims to curb PFAS emissions, highly persistent chemicals that contaminate water, accumulate in living organisms, and can cause serious health effects. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: ECHA NEWSLETTER 11/03/2026

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EUROPEAN COUNCIL PUSHES FOR COMPLETION OF KEY “OMNIBUS” REGULATORY PACKAGES BY 2026

Draft conclusions for the March 19 and 20 European Council meeting call on co-legislators to accelerate work on major simplification files. Member States ask the institutions to finalise all ongoing omnibus packages by the end of 2026. These include packages on chemicals, cosmetics, the environment, and pesticides.

Leaders also request additional omnibus initiatives to streamline permitting rules and speed up progress on the electricity networks package and the industrial acceleration regulation. The Commission is invited to review existing legislation to remove obsolete or inconsistent provisions, and to withdraw proposals where necessary. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 11/03/2026

RECYCLERS WARN AGAINST POSSIBLE LIMITS ON RECYCLED PAPER EXPORTS

Recycling Europe has raised concerns about potential future restrictions on exports of recycled paper. Their note from March 4 responds to signals that the Commission might consider limits similar to those proposed for aluminium under the RESourceEU plan.

The group warns that recycled paper exports are sometimes framed as a risk to industrial sovereignty but argues that paper recycling is a long-standing European success. Europe produces more recycled fiber than its paper industry can use. If exports were restricted, recyclers fear price drops, overstocking, and weaker incentives for collection.

Instead of limiting exports, Recycling Europe calls for clearer criteria to remove recycled paper from waste status so that it can circulate more easily within the internal market. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 10/03/2026

CLIMATE POLICY

EU INDUSTRIAL ACCELERATOR ACT FRAMED AS INDUSTRY POLICY BUT DRIVEN BY CLIMATE GOALS

The European Commission’s new Industrial Accelerator Act is presented as a strategy to revive manufacturing, but it is fundamentally a climate policy. The act directs public spending toward low-carbon materials and net-zero technologies made within the EU, ensuring guaranteed demand for greener products that currently face higher costs. For example, a share of construction steel purchased by public authorities must meet new green criteria.

The climate dimension has been downplayed. Earlier references to decarbonization were removed from the act’s name, and climate leaders were absent from its presentation. This reflects a wider shift away from explicit Green Deal language amid political backlashes.

The act aims to complement existing pressure from the Emissions Trading System by offering financial incentives that support industrial decarbonization and counter competition from heavily subsidized foreign producers. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO 04/03/2026

EU CLIMATE ADVISERS CALL FOR LOWER MEAT CONSUMPTION AND A TAX ON FARM EMISSIONS

The EU's Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change recommends major changes to food and farming to help meet the bloc's climate goals. In a new report, the board urges Europeans to eat less meat and calls for taxing agricultural emissions. It also advises phasing out subsidies that support climate-damaging farming practices, including payments linked to livestock and farmland size.

The advisers say agriculture must cut emissions to reach climate neutrality by 2050. They also propose using revenue from carbon pricing to support farmers in adopting greener practices and coping with climate impacts such as droughts. The recommendations could influence upcoming revisions of the EU budget, farm subsidies, and new green legislation. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE : POLITICO 11/03/2026
