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## POLICY ISSUES

### FINAL PACKAGING REGULATION TEXT REVEALED

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EU lawyers and linguists have released the final text of the bloc's new rules to reduce waste and boost recycling in the packaging sector, a [version of which was obtained by POLITICO](#). The EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), which was approved by the European Parliament back in April, still had to go through the so-called "corrigendum procedure" before becoming law.

During this procedure lawyers check the text for any legal inconsistencies after the law has been officially translated into the 24 official EU languages. The rules include strict packaging reduction and reuse targets, bans on certain types of single use plastics, and require almost all packaging to be recyclable. Most of these measures would come into force in 2030. Lawmakers will have a final vote on the text to approve the corrections during the European Parliament plenary in November.

Source: Politico, 11/10/2024

### PARLIAMENT TO AGREE TO ACCELERATED PROCEDURE ON EUDR

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The European Parliament's environment committee is expected to agree this afternoon to use the urgency legislative procedure to enact the one-year delay of the bloc's anti-deforestation rules. The European Commission will today also formally present its proposal to postpone the application of the regulation and answer MEPs' questions. You can [follow it here](#). If agreed in committee today, the decision to use the urgency procedure will then be announced at the next plenary session, expected on Oct. 21-24, and voted on at the following plenary session, set for Nov. 13-14. Only after that will MEPs officially sign off on the postponement of the new rules. The urgency procedure can only be used "as a result of unforeseen developments" and accelerates work on a particular file. Under this procedure, the committee chair suggests that the proposal be adopted without amendments and that discussion on the file be kept to a minimum. The co-legislators (the Parliament and the Council) will nonetheless have to agree on the same text, which in this case can either be the Commission's proposal without changes or another version that modifies the Deforestation Regulation and on which they agreed amendments. Once the co-legislators have a deal, the delay will become official.

Source: Politico, 14/10/2024

### CHEMICAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY - NOTE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL

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The Hungarian [Presidency circulated a background note](#) on the 'Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability' to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in preparation to its exchange of views on— State of play and way forward' on 14 October 2024. The note is including questions and inform the exchange should "support the speeding up of the delivery of the strategy's implementation."

Source: General Secretariat of the Council 15/09/2024

### WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) PUBLISHED ITS LATEST FORECASTS FOR MERCHANDISE TRADE IN 2024 AND 2025

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On Thursday 10 October, the World Trade Organization (WTO) published its latest forecasts for merchandise trade in 2024 and 2025. It forecasts an increase in the volume of merchandise trade of 2.7% for 2024, which is slightly higher than the previous estimate of 2.6%. Forecasts for 2025,

meanwhile, have been revised downwards, to 3% growth instead of the 3.3% initially forecast. Link to the October 2024 update of [Global Trade Outlook and Statistics](#).

Source: Agence Europe, 11/10/2024

## EU ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS AGREE POSITION TO TAKE AT CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY, PLASTICS SUMMITS

The [EU's 27 environment ministers are gathering in Luxembourg](#) today to discuss and adopt conclusions detailing the position the EU should take at the upcoming climate COP29 and biodiversity COP16 summits. During the COP16 biodiversity summit starting on Oct. 21, the EU will push the private sector and other rich countries to increase their financial contributions to nature conservation but also to create more synergies with global action on climate change and desertification.

The draft conclusions for COP29 dated Oct. 9 have the EU calling for more ambition on reducing emissions and echo [last week's vague conclusions](#) from economy ministers on climate finance. Ministers will also discuss and prepare the next round of talks for the creation of an international treaty to fight plastic pollution, as a deal is expected by the end of the year. The EU is backing a push to reduce the production of primary plastic polymers, which is a key element of the treaty — and a source of tension, especially with producing countries. EU ministers will also talk about the implementation of the bloc's strategy to reduce chemical pollution, and give the European Commission some priorities to address in the new mandate

Source: Politico, 14/10/2024

## ANTI-GREENWASHING LAWS ACTUALLY WORK, DATA SHOWS

The number of companies facing greenwashing risk is declining, but the risks are more severe, which suggests “a potential shift in corporate behavior driven by heightened regulatory measures,” new research from the ESG data firm RepRisk finds. RepRisk noticed a 12 percent decline overall in the number of greenwashing cases but “the severity of these risks has increased this year,” said Alexandra Mihailescu Cichon, chief commercial officer at RepRisk. About 30 percent of companies affected by greenwashing risk this year were also exposed last year, she added. The report also notes that in the EU's financial services sector, climate-related greenwashing incidents declined by 20 percent in 2024, “a likely consequence of stricter regulations” in the bloc.

Reading between the numbers: The EU has seen a decrease in the overall number of incidents but it's still the region with the most incidents. There is certainly “a correlation between the number of greenwashing regulation initiatives” like the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive and the Green Claims Directive and the decrease in overall volume of greenwashing incidents. “We have to monitor the direction of travel to see if that continues next year”, Cichon added.

Source: Politico, 9/10/2024

## COMMISSIONERS HEARINGS TIMETABLE

The hearing of Jessika Roswall, the commissioner-designate for the environment and circular economy, is expected to take place either on Nov. 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. or on Nov. 11 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., according to draft timetables obtained by my colleagues Eddy Wax and Mathieu Pollet. The conference of political group presidents of the European Parliament will discuss and agree the final schedule during their meeting on Thursday. Also on the agenda: Costas Kadis, who will be tasked with fisheries and ocean policy, will be grilled by MEPs either on Nov. 6 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. or on Nov. 7 from 9 p.m. to noon.

What is this about? Before starting their new mandate, commissioners-designate need to get the approval of the European Parliament. During the hearings, MEPs aim to check whether the candidates are fit for the job and the portfolio they've been assigned. Ahead of the hearing, parliamentary committees also send written questions to the commissioners-designate in an attempt to set the scene and get a first impression ahead of the real grilling. After the hearing, committees draft a report stating whether they think the candidate should be approved or not. If rejected, the member country will have to put forward someone else.

Source: POLITICO 09/10/2024

## **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF THE EU DISCUSS PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF DEFORESTATION REGULATION**

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On October 9, the subject was on the agenda of the Coreper meeting of EU ambassadors. The European Commission detailed its proposal to revise the deforestation regulation, with the aim of postponing its application until December 2025, or even 2026. The proposal was then quickly discussed. Discussions "will continue internally" during October, so that the Council can adopt a position "as soon as possible", confirm several institutional sources. An exchange of views with the Commission is also scheduled for October 14 in the European Parliament's Environment Committee. However, the Environment Committee will not be called upon to give its opinion: as the coordinators of the various political groups decided at the start of the week to deal with the dossier under the urgent procedure, the text and any amendments to it should be voted on directly by all MEPs in plenary session.

Source: Contexte, 9/10/2024

## **COMPETITIVENESS OF ENERGY PRICES AT TOP OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF EU MINISTERS ON 15 OCTOBER**

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Europe's energy ministers will meet in Luxembourg on Tuesday 15 October for the first Energy Council under the Hungarian Presidency of the EU Council, with a number of items on the agenda, including winter preparations and the competitiveness of energy prices in Europe. The first item concerns the recommendations of Mario Draghi's report on the future of European competitiveness. Link [Energy Council](#)

Source: Agence Europe, 14/10/2024

## **EUROPEAN COUNCIL, 17-18 OCTOBER 2024**

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EU leaders will meet in Brussels to address the following topics: Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the EU's support to Ukraine and its people, the situation in the Middle East, migration, EU's competitiveness, EU's position ahead of COP29 and other foreign policy issues. [Read more](#)

Source: Council's Website, 11/10/2024

## **EU SHOULD DOUBLE RATE OF GROWTH IN RENEWABLE CAPACITY BETWEEN 2024 AND 2030**

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According to the new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA) entitled '[Renewables 2024](#)', which analyses the deployment of renewable energy, the world could achieve the target set at COP28 in Dubai of tripling capacity by 2030 (thanks to supportive policies and favourable economic conditions).

Source: Agence Europe 11/10/2024

## POSITION PAPERS

**European Commission (JRC):** [JRC Technical Report: Estimating food waste generated and packaging placed on the market at national level](#)

**Eurostat** [Marked increase in EU exports of recyclables in 2023](#)

**Corporate Leaders group:** [CLG Europe's Materials & Products Taskforce launch their new report at the European Parliament](#)

**ESWET:** [The hazards in landfills and the promise of Waste-to-Energy](#)

**EEB:** [Frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) about the universal PFAS restriction](#)

**Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)** announced that [September 2024 was the second-warmest September ever registered in Europe](#), with an average temperature 1.74°C above the 1991-2020 average. Only September 2023, with an excess of 2.51°C, was warmer.

**CHEMTrust:** [UK committee recommends protective value for BPA 1000 times higher than the EU](#)

**CropLife Europe :** [Pledge to Reduce Plastic Waste](#)