



PPWR

INDUSTRY GROUPS CALL FOR TEXT-FREE, MONOCHROME PACKAGING LABELS ACROSS THE EU

A coalition of around fifteen industry associations is urging the European Commission and Member States to adopt a more “pragmatic” approach to future harmonized labelling rules under the EU’s packaging regulation. In a letter published on June 12, the signatories, representing sectors such as household appliances, toys, soft drinks, cosmetics, detergents, textiles, and wine, argue that the current fragmentation of labelling requirements across Member States is a significant barrier to the single market.

They warn that companies are currently forced to adapt packaging and labels for each national market, resulting in operational inefficiencies, increased costs, and unnecessary waste. While supporting the idea of harmonized EU-wide labels, the groups caution that these could create new constraints if they systematically require text or specific colors on packaging.

To address this, the signatories advocate for a system based on text-free pictograms, available in achromatic or high-contrast monochrome formats. They also call for more flexible use of digital labelling solutions, including QR codes or digital product passports, where sectoral legislation allows. [Read more](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 17/06/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

EU GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS EDGE UP IN 2025

The European Union failed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions in 2025, with preliminary data showing a slight increase compared to the previous year. According to early estimates published by Eurostat on June 17, the bloc emitted 3.34 billion tons of CO₂ equivalent, marking a 1 percent rise from 2024 levels of 3.31 billion tons.

Despite this uptick, the longer-term trend remains downward, with emissions falling by 17 percent since 2015. Emissions in 2025 also remained slightly below 2023 levels. However, the latest figures indicate that progress in reducing emissions has slowed in recent years.

This slowdown comes even as emissions from the power sector continue to decline, driven by the expansion of renewable energy. The data suggests that further reductions will require stronger efforts to electrify sectors such as transport and heating, which still rely heavily on fossil fuels. The European Commission is expected to propose an EU-wide electrification target in the coming months.

While industry and electricity emissions continued to fall in 2025, other sectors have lagged behind. In particular, transport emissions have remained largely unchanged, limiting overall progress. Analysts also point to colder weather as a contributing factor, as increased demand for gas-fired heating led to higher emissions.

The EU has committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. In 2024, emissions were already 40 percent below 1990 levels, marking the lowest point on record. The bloc has also set an interim target of reducing emissions by up to 90 percent by 2040, highlighting the scale of the challenge ahead as progress begins to plateau. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: EUROSTAT 17/06/2026

CHEMICALS OMNIBUS REACHES KEY NEGOTIATION STAGE

Negotiations on the long-awaited EU chemicals omnibus are expected to reach a finish point, as Member States, European Parliament lawmakers and the European Commission meet in Strasbourg to resolve the final outstanding issues. According to participants, a single trilogue session scheduled for 9 p.m. may be the only formal discussion, with hopes that a deal can be finalized. Officials involved in the talks indicate that significant technical progress has already been made, leaving only a limited number of political questions to address across the different proposals covering cosmetics, fertilizers, and chemical classification, labelling and packaging.

Discussions are set to focus in particular on rules for phasing out hazardous substances, including cancer-causing chemicals in cosmetics. Member States have pushed for stricter criteria when defining acceptable alternatives, as well as appropriate transition periods to allow industry to adapt. Lawmakers have also emphasized the need to strike a balance between maintaining safety standards and preserving the competitiveness of European industries.

Outstanding issues also remain in relation to the revision of classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) rules. Key points under debate include the use of QR codes on inner packaging, deadlines for relabelling products, and requirements on font size for labels. These technical elements are expected to play a central role in the final negotiations, following changes proposed by the European Commission during earlier discussions.

Despite these remaining sticking points, negotiators have expressed cautious optimism about reaching an agreement. Lead Parliament negotiators highlighted that only a few issues are still unresolved and stressed that a constructive, compromise-driven approach from both institutions could allow the file to be successfully concluded. [Read More.](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 04/06/2026

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

MODULATED ECO-CONTRIBUTIONS IDENTIFIED AS KEY DRIVER OF PACKAGING RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

The modulation of eco-contributions is the primary factor influencing packaging recycling performance, according to a study published on June 18 by Circpack (a Veolia subsidiary) for Europen. The analysis, covering all 27 EU Member States, finds that systems applying differentiated fees based on material, format and recyclability achieve higher recycling rates than those relying on simpler contribution structures.

However, the study concludes that the level of contributions alone does not lead to a reduction in the volume of packaging placed on the market. It also highlights that no packaging category currently meets the large-scale recyclability requirements set out in the EU packaging regulation across all Member States, due in particular to insufficient sorting and recycling capacity, as well as limited industrial end-markets.

The findings further point to a positive correlation between data transparency and recycling performance. At the same time, the study identifies a major weakness in the current system: the lack of visibility on how extended producer responsibility (EPR) funds are used after being transferred to local authorities and waste management operators. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 18/06/2026

SCIENTISTS WARN FOOD SAFETY OMNIBUS UNDERMINES PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

A group of scientists from research institutes across all 27 EU Member States has raised concerns that the proposed food safety omnibus could weaken the EU's precautionary principle. In an article published in Science on June 18, they warn that the measures could have negative consequences for both public health and the environment.

For contact: info@citpa-europe.org

According to the researchers, the proposal risks undermining “essential protective mechanisms” in the pesticide authorization process. They particularly criticize the removal of regular re-evaluations for most active substances, the extension of grace periods, and the requirement to rely solely on available European scientific literature.

As an alternative, the scientists call for increased investment in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), estimating that an additional €15 million would allow the agency to eliminate its backlog within three years. They also recommend that the European Commission take responsibility for assigning the Member State responsible for evaluations, as well as harmonizing assessment criteria across the EU. The group further argues that the burden of proof should be clearly placed on industry and that all studies should be made publicly available to support independent research. They also suggest systematically cross-checking data submitted by farmers against existing monitoring data and increasing measurements of pesticide residues in the environment. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 18/06/2026

CLIMATE POLICY

NGOS CHALLENGE COMMISSION’S DEFINITION OF PERMANENT CARBON REMOVAL

Nine environmental organizations, including WWF and Carbon Market Watch, are contesting the European Commission’s methodologies for defining permanent carbon removal under the EU certification framework. In a statement issued on June 15, they argue that the approaches adopted in February are “not fit for purpose” and are calling for an internal review.

The NGOs specifically criticize the methodologies related to biogenic carbon capture and storage, as well as carbon removal through biochar. According to them, these approaches fail to reflect current scientific knowledge and international standards, while overlooking impacts on forests and agricultural land. They also raise concerns about unaccounted methane emissions and indirect land-use change effects.

More broadly, the organizations warn that the proposed framework could undermine the integrity of the EU’s carbon removal strategy and weaken its climate objectives. In their view, the methodologies risk incentivizing activities that may increase CO₂ emissions rather than effectively removing them.

The European Commission now has 22 weeks to decide whether to accept the requested review and must justify its position. If the request is rejected, the NGOs have indicated they may bring the case before the Court of Justice of the European Union. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 15/06/2026
