PPWR

MORE PPWR PRESSURE:

Austria, supported by the Czechs and Estonians, took aim at the newly in-force Packaging and Package Waste Regulation in Luxembourg Monday, asking for a “swift suspension” of the requirement to appoint an authorized representative as part of extended producer responsibility schemes, as proposed in the environmental omnibus.

Good support: Several countries including Belgium, Croatia, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Spain, Slovakia, Poland, and Portugal backed Austria’s proposal. France and Germany agreed burdens should be lifted, but only for the smallest companies.

Close the omnibus deal: Vienna called on the Irish Presidency to “get this moving forward.” While the omnibus is “not everything, it’s an important first step,” Austria’s environmental minister Norbert Totschnig said.

Black Friday deadline: The Commission has its own deadline in mind for PPWR reliefs — Nov. 27 (a.k.a. Black Friday). “I think it’s very important for the Council to move fast now, because we need to have simplification before Black Friday and Christmas shopping,” Jessika Roswall told Fiona in Luxembourg yesterday. The EU’s environment chief said she is hopeful the Council will succeed, as ministers are also under pressure from companies.

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 13/10/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

GERMANY, ITALY REQUEST ‘EMERGENCY BRAKE’ POWER TO STOP NEW EU LAWS

EU capitals must be able to intervene to stop new legislation from Brussels if they say it’s too burdensome for governments and businesses, the leaders of Germany, Italy and Belgium wrote on Monday.

In a letter addressed to European Council President António Costa, the three leaders said the bloc needs an “emergency brake” mechanism to help boost its flagging economic competitiveness.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Belgian Prime Minister Bart de Wever also called to “significantly accelerate planning and approval procedures,” suspend “certain regulatory areas for a specified period” under a new “priority rule.”

“We call for further ambitious simplification packages to decisively advance the cutting of red tape in the European Union,” they wrote, adding that the Commission must ease the burden “first and foremost” on small and medium-sized businesses.

“More broadly,” the letter reads, “our common objective should be to prevent unnecessary regulatory burdens and related costs from causing permanent losses of European industrial capacity and further weakening investment and competitiveness.”

Coming days before an EU leaders’ meeting, the call echoes demands first stated in March after a summit focused on European competitiveness, and it comes amid worsening signs for the bloc’s industrial sector.

Leaders will debate the EU’s long-term budget, energy prices, and support for Ukraine when they gather in Brussels on Thursday for a two-day European Council summit.

SOURCE: POLITICOPRO 13/10/2026

FEFCO
Corrugated Packaging

ENVIRONMENTAL OMNIBUS

SEE YOU IN 2027, ENVIRONMENTAL OMNIBUS

The Environmental Omnibus may not be finalized this year, as the Irish Presidency wants to negotiate the four parts of the package together rather than through separate interinstitutional tracks. This means Parliament and Member States would need to complete work on all four files by late November or early December to reach an agreement before year-end.

SOURCE: POLITICOPRO 13/10/2026

EPR RULE COMPROMISE GAINS TRACTION

Within 24 hours of the Council adopting its position on the extended producer responsibility portion of the environmental omnibus, some lawmakers have already offered their backing to EU countries.
Reminder: The Council finalized its position on simplifying EU-wide EPR requirements on Wednesday. Capitals agreed to exempt EU-based companies from having to appoint an EPR representative in another member country if they place less than one metric ton of packaging on that country's market per year. The European Parliament, meanwhile, voted this week for a blanket suspension for small and micro companies and across several waste streams.
Socialists and Greens back the Council: German Socialists and Democrats MEP Delara Burkhardt and Green lawmaker Jutta Paulus back the Council's proposal, as it is closely aligned with amendments they initially proposed. It offers a "pragmatic way forward," Burkhardt said. She said a packaging-volume threshold would be easier for national authorities to enforce than an exemption based on company size.
No trilogues? Burkhardt wants the lead negotiator on the file, Dutch MEP Ingeborg ter Laak, to seek an agreement on the basis of the Council's general approach by written procedure to avoid "unnecessary delays" resulting from scheduling a full round of interinstitutional negotiations. It would give European businesses the best chance of benefiting from the changes before Christmas, she said. Ter Laak's team did not respond to a request for comment.

SOURCE: POLITICOPRO 23/10/2026

PLASTICS

ITALY WARNS OF PLASTICS RECYCLING CRISIS:

Italy has proposed six political priorities to be implemented "immediately" ahead of the upcoming Circular Economy Act, warning of "the most serious crisis in the history of environmental projects," Italy's deputy environment minister Vannia Gava told ministers.

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 13/10/2026
