
PPWR

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

EU institutions have come under criticism for failing to anticipate the impact of new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) requirements on small businesses. The rules require companies selling products across borders to appoint an authorised representative in each EU country where they place packaging on the market.

The issue gained prominence after strong reactions from SMEs, including a petition signed by more than 80,000 people. During a recent European Parliament debate, MEPs acknowledged that the burden on micro-enterprises had been largely overlooked during the legislative process.

The controversy has intensified calls for exemptions for smaller businesses. Germany has already proposed exempting companies placing less than 10 tonnes of packaging on the market annually, as policymakers seek to balance environmental objectives with reducing administrative burdens on SMEs.

[Read more.](#)

SOURCE: EUROACTIVE 17/09/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

COMMISSION CRITICISES DILUTION OF CHEMICALS OMNIBUS PROPOSAL

European Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis has accused the Council and Parliament of weakening the EU's chemicals omnibus package, arguing that many of the Commission's simplification measures have been removed or significantly diluted during negotiations.

Speaking to EU affairs ministers on 22 September, Dombrovskis said restrictions introduced by co-legislators, particularly on cosmetics-related measures due to health protection concerns, have left the chemicals omnibus "almost empty". He also warned against a further loss of ambition in the ongoing pesticides omnibus negotiations. Meanwhile, the Irish Presidency reiterated its goal of concluding negotiations on several omnibus files, including the environmental package, before year-end. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 24/09/2026

COMMISSION OPENS REGISTRATION FOR FIRST EU ZERO POLLUTION FORUM

The European Commission has opened registrations for the first EU Zero Pollution Forum, set to take place in Brussels on 7 December 2026, while also launching a new phase of the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform.

The platform, jointly organised by the Commission and the Committee of the Regions, brings together public authorities, businesses, civil society, researchers, cities and regions to support implementation of the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan. Its work will focus on areas such as investment, innovation, digitalisation, skills development and pollution reduction across air, water, oceans and soils.

The initiative will also strengthen links with related EU priorities, including water resilience, the circular economy, biodiversity and climate action. The third Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook report is expected before the end of 2026. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: EUROPEAN COMMISSION 22/09/2026

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EU TO RESTRICT SCRAP METAL EXPORTS TO EGYPT AND INDIA

The European Commission plans to block Egypt and India, the second and third largest importers of EU scrap metal, from receiving EU waste shipments after concluding that neither country demonstrated environmentally sound waste management practices, particularly regarding pollution controls and air quality standards.

The move, under the EU's revised Waste Shipment Regulation, could redirect millions of tonnes of European scrap metal annually to other markets. From May 2027, exports of non-hazardous waste to non-OECD countries will be prohibited unless specific exemptions are granted.

The decision may create tensions with India, a major buyer of EU aluminium scrap, at a sensitive moment in EU-India trade relations. At the same time, the Commission is facing criticism for proposing to approve two Indian ship recycling facilities under separate EU ship recycling rules. While Brussels argues the facilities meet EU-equivalent standards on an individual basis, environmental groups and EU recyclers have questioned the apparent inconsistency between restricting waste exports to India while allowing EU ships to be dismantled there. [Read more](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 21/09/2026

COUNCIL MOVES CLOSER TO COMPROMISE ON PACKAGING EPR RULES

EU member states are edging towards a compromise on the Commission's proposal to simplify Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) requirements. Discussions have focused on whether small companies should be exempt from having to appoint an authorized representative in every EU country where they market products.

The Netherlands has proposed limiting the exemption to businesses placing less than 600 kg of packaging on the market annually, a much lower threshold than Germany's earlier proposal of 10,000 kg per country. Dutch officials argue the lower threshold would reduce the risk of free riders while still providing relief for the smallest operators.

Under the proposal, exempted companies would still need to register under EPR schemes, and the measure would be reviewed after three years to ensure consistency with the forthcoming Circular Economy Act. The debate reflects growing efforts to balance regulatory simplification with maintaining effective packaging waste management rules. [Read more](#)

SOURCE: POLITICO PRO 23/09/2026

CLIMATE POLICY

COMMISSION LAUNCHES WATER RESILIENCE STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

The European Commission has officially launched its Water Resilience Stakeholder Platform and the European Water Academy, marking a new step in implementing the EU Water Resilience Strategy adopted in 2025.

The stakeholder platform brings together nearly 90 members from research, finance and industry to support and monitor the strategy's implementation. However, Commission services acknowledge that progress remains limited, particularly regarding the implementation of national plans under the Water Framework Directive.

Meanwhile, the European Water Academy, led by the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), will focus on knowledge sharing and cooperation between public and private actors. Two initial programmes have already been launched, covering wastewater reuse and the monitoring of viruses and bacteria in water systems. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 23/09/2026

COMMISSION ADOPTS EU DATA CENTRE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PACKAGE

The European Commission has adopted a Delegated Regulation establishing a common EU sustainability rating scheme for data centres with a capacity above 500 kW.

The scheme will use data already reported to the EU database to generate sustainability labels assessing facilities on indicators such as energy efficiency, water use, use of low-emission energy sources, grid services and waste heat recovery potential. The Council and Parliament now have two months to object to the delegated act, although they cannot amend it.

The measure forms part of the Commission's broader Data Centre Energy Efficiency Package, which also includes a report on the sector's energy performance and an ongoing public consultation on minimum performance standards for data centres, open until 14 December 2026. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: EU COMMISSION 21/09/2026
