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## **POLICY ISSUES**

### **COMMISSION LAUNCHES PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON UPCOMING EU BIOECONOMY STRATEGY**

The Commission [launched a public consultation on the upcoming EU Bioeconomy strategy](#). All stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the online consultation using the [Have Your Say](#) portal.

- The feedback period is open until 23 June.

The new Bioeconomy Strategy, due for adoption by the end of 2025, aims to advance innovation and maintain the EU's leadership in the bioeconomy. It will propose actions to unlock the potential of bioeconomy innovations, enhance competitiveness, create green jobs, and promote a sustainable, circular economy by leveraging biomass within ecological limits.

*Source: European Commission 31/03/2025*

### **CIRCULAR ECONOMY - MEMBER STATES URGE COMMISSION TO BE MORE AMBITIOUS IN PREPARING NEW CIRCULAR ECONOMY LAW**

Environment ministers [meeting in Brussels on March 27](#) backed the Commission's intention to present circular economy legislation by the end of 2026. But many of them called for measures on resource management and waste prevention, whereas the Commission wishes to focus on waste management and recycling.

Agnès Pannier-Runacher, the French minister, reminded us that “before recycling, you have to reuse”. The Belgian Minister reminded the announced EU “broader strategy on resources”, and recalled the conclusions of the June 2024 Environment Council, which emphasize sobriety in the use of resources. Danish minister added “We need to be mindful of our ecological footprint”. Luxembourg and the Netherlands also reminded the Commission of the “zero pollution” objective. “Industrial transformation must go hand in hand with zero pollution”, insisted the Dutch minister.

*Source: Contexte 27 March 2025*

### **OMNIBUS PACKAGE: SUSTAINABILITY AND DUE DILIGENCE: MEPS FAST-TRACK VOTE ON POSTPONED APPLICATION**

On Tuesday 1 April, the European Parliament approved the [use of the urgent procedure](#) to adopt their position on the directive known as ‘[Stop-the-clock](#)’ to postpone the application of social and environmental reporting and due diligence measures.

Earlier last week the Council of the EU [endorsed the Commission proposal](#) on delayed application without changes (26 March 2025)

On Thursday 3 April, Parliament voted to delay the entry into force of new EU rules on due diligence and sustainability reporting.

- Largest companies will be given another year until new due diligence obligations come into force
- Some companies receive two additional years for sustainability reporting
- Postponement is part of efforts to reduce bureaucracy and hurdles for businesses

[Link to press release](#)

*Source: Council of the EU and European Parliament 3 April 2025*

## THE POLISH PRESIDENCY WILL PRESENT A FIRST DRAFT COMPROMISE ON THE CSRD AND CS3D DIRECTIVES IN MID-APRIL

The Polish Presidency will present a first draft compromise on the CSRD and CS3D directives in mid-April. The Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU sets out this timetable in a March 31 [briefing note](#) for the ambassadors of the EU-27 (Coreper 2). “The Presidency's aim is to take work on the simplification texts as far as possible under its mandate, with a view to starting the trilogues and finalizing the work as soon as possible”, assures Warsaw.

*Source: Council of the EU 28 March 2025*

## FLORIKA FINK-HOOIJER IS STEPPING DOWN AS HEAD OF THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Fink-Hooijer announced she is preparing to take over as head of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (DG Hera). Pending the appointment of her successor by Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for the Environment, the interim role will be filled by Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENV).

*Source: Contexte 27 March 2025*

## EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY, EVALUATION OF THE PFAS RESTRICTION PROGRESSES STEP BY STEP

The two committees responsible for evaluating the restriction dossier (the RAC, on the assessment of the risks of the substances to health and the environment, and the SEAC, on the socio-economic impact of the measures) met at the beginning of March. On the agenda were the transport (vehicle conditioning, air conditioning, refrigeration, etc.), energy (renewable energy production, battery storage, etc.) and fluorinated gases (heating, refrigeration) sectors. [RAC meeting minutes](#)

*Source: ECHA 25 March 2025*

## THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY WANTS ITS OMNIBUS

During the EU “strategic dialogue” on chemicals held last 25 March, the [European chemical lobby \(Cefic\)](#) [called for an “omnibus package”](#) to lighten the administrative burden on large and small companies”, without specifying which legislation should be modified.

- The German Verband der Chemischen Industrie (VCI), has already drawn up a list, a [fifty-page document](#) dated December 2024. On the menu: regulations on eco-design (ESPR), packaging (PPWR) and batteries, as well as directives on industrial emissions, air quality and wastewater.
- Two industry sources report that Stéphane Séjourné confirmed the preparation of an omnibus text for the sector, during the strategic dialogue.

*Source: Contexte 27 March 2025*

## MEPS WANT THE COMMISSION’S PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON DATA PLATFORM ON CHEMICALS

MEPs want the Commission's proposal for a common data platform on chemicals to compile additional information, including on safer alternatives to substances of concern. They [voted](#) on the file Tuesday, alongside two [other](#) files in the “one substance, one assessment” package aimed at improving cooperation among EU agencies.

- The Commission wants to set up a common chemicals data platform that brings together information compiled under EU legislation related to chemicals’ hazards, physico-chemical properties, presence in the environment, emissions, uses, and environmental sustainability.
- The European Parliament tweaked the Commission’s text by requiring the inclusion of information on chemicals present in products and on safer alternatives to substances of concern. More on that [here](#).

*Source: Politico 31 March 2025*

## EU EXPLORING WEAKER 2040 CLIMATE GOAL

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EU Climate Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra is considering options to soften the bloc's 2040 climate goal as he tries to contain a backlash against Europe's climate ambitions.

- The European Commission is expected to propose legislation in the coming weeks to adopt a previously announced target to cut 90 percent of greenhouse gas pollution by 2040.
- Link to [article](#)

*Source: Politico 31 March 2025*

## EU AIMS 'SIMPLIFICATION' SLEDGEHAMMER AT GREEN ENERGY LAWS

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The European Commission is considering revising landmark energy legislation as part of its drive to ease requirements on the EU's struggling businesses. It is also exploring whether to reopen laws on renewable energy and green renovations.

- The new push comes amid growing criticism of Brussels' European Green Deal, which aims to make the bloc climate-neutral by 2050. Businesses and right-leaning politicians argue the package is too burdensome, given other pressing economic concerns.

*Source: Politico 31 March 2025*

## REPORTS

### LIFE PROJECTS: INNOVATING WITH LESS

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New ways to prevent waste, boost recycling and incentive schemes so householders only pay for what they throw away could help cut the 230 million tonnes of waste discarded across the EU each year. To mark the International Day of Zero Waste we look at two LIFE projects testing new ways to cut household waste and boost recycling across Europe.

- The project introduced 144 actions to improve waste management, such as increasing the number of recycling collection containers in urban areas and providing households with composters for kitchen and garden waste. [LIFE: innovating with less waste](#)

*Source: European Commission 31 March 2025*

## POSITIONS

### Bioeconomy

[Cepi](#): EU Commission proposals open new horizons for industries able to combine, circularity, bioeconomy and a phase out of fossils.

### Clean industrial Deal

[BusinessEurope](#): Clean Industrial Deal is the right direction, but Commission must 'walk the talk'.

[A.I.S. E](#): A.I.S.E. calls for concrete implementation of EU Clean Industrial Deal

[APPLiA](#): APPLiA's initial reactions to the Clean Industrial Deal

### Omnibus

[BusinessEurope](#): 1st EU Omnibus: A positive step towards making it easier to do business in Europe.

[EuroCommerce](#): Omnibus sustainability package: simpler rules for a greener future

[Intergraf](#): First Omnibus package on sustainability

[SMEunited](#): Legal Affairs Committee embraces simplification and Omnibus.

## MEETINGS

### SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH PACKAGING CONFERENCE

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- When/where: 10-11 April 2025
- [Link to Event](#)

### ECESP'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

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- When/where: 10 April Brussels
- Focus: Policy debates
- [programme and registration](#).

### SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING INNOVATION FORUM

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- When/where: 6th - 7th May 2025 - Amsterdam.
- Reduce, reuse, redesign: How to turn regulatory pressure into business innovation, packaging solutions and commercial advantage.
- [Link to conference](#)

### EU GREEN WEEK

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- When/where: 03 - 05 June // European Commission
- Focus: Policy debates on " Circular Solutions for a Competitive EU" theme and expert workshops
- Organised by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, with invited speakers from the world of politics, business, NGOs, and academia.
- [Brussels conference \(europa.eu\)](#)

### SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING SUMMIT

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- When/where: 10-12 November 2025, Utrecht
- Focus: debates and expert workshops
- [Link to event](#)