



POLICY ISSUES

PROGRAMME OF THE DANISH EU PRESIDENCY

From 1 July to 31 December 2025 Denmark will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Under the slogan 'A strong Europe in a changing world', the Danish Presidency will work for a secure Europe as well as a competitive and green Europe. The EU is facing a new international order marked by uncertainty, global strategic and economic competition, and rising levels of conflict. That is why the EU must be able to act in its own right. The green transition is essential to building a more secure and competitive Europe.

- You can read more about Denmark's priorities for the EU Presidency [here](#).
- You can read Denmark's programme for the EU Presidency [here](#).

Source: Council of the European Union 27 June 2025

THE EU CLEAN INDUSTRIAL DIALOGUE ON CIRCULARITY

On 2 July 2025 Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, with Executive Vice-President Séjourné and Commissioner Roswall will participate Clean Industrial Dialogue on Circularity. According to the agenda and concept note, the (closed) event will be co-chaired by Teresa Ribera, Stéphane Séjourné and Jessika Roswall and will bring together "25 business leaders representing players including materials producers, manufacturers from various sectors, recyclers and waste management companies. It will also involve civil society, such as NGOs and academics". The exact list of participants has not yet been released. They will be asked two questions in advance. They are asked to identify "two or three persistent obstacles to the transition to a circular economy" and solutions to overcome them. This exchange is intended to help prepare the future legislative act on the circular economy that the Commission plans to present at the end of 2026. It is also due to launch a public consultation on this occasion.

Source: EU monitoring and Contexte 26 June 2025

PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE - LEGAL CASES

Four more appeals have been published in the Official Journal of the EU on June 24, following the seven cases made public two weeks earlier. Several of the applicants are retail outlets located in border areas, particularly between Germany and Denmark ([here](#) and [here](#)). They are challenging the deposit obligation for plastic bottles and cans, pointing to the lack of interoperability between different countries, and are seeking the annulment of Article 50 of the regulation. Another company, this time from Belgium (Belfort International, a packaging manufacturer), [echoes the previous appeals](#) by challenging the ban on single-use packaging, which only applies to plastic products. The fourth appeal, lodged by a German plastic packaging company, targets the article on the incorporation of recycled plastic. It considers that the derogation provided for when the plastic part represents less than 5% of the total mass of the packaging is contrary to the principle of equal treatment.

Source : Contexte 27 June 2025

THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE TWENTY-SEVEN PUT ANOTHER PIECE IN THE SIMPLIFICATION MACHINE

Last June 26, the European Council “welcomed the progress made to date and urged co-legislators to maintain this momentum”. The leaders also welcomed the future initiatives promised by the Commission in the name of “simplification”, without specifying which ones. Still in the “competitiveness” chapter of the [conclusions adopted](#) on this occasion, they had a few words for ‘traditional’ and “energy-intensive industries, such as steel, metallurgy and chemicals”. “Particular attention” must be paid to the “challenges” facing these industries, the heads of state stressed. The Commission is currently preparing an action plan for the chemical industry, due for presentation on July 8.

Source : Contexte 27 June 2025

EU ANTI-GREENWASHING NEGOTIATIONS CANCELLED

Negotiations for the EU Green Claims Directive scheduled for Monday have been cancelled following the European Commission’s surprise [announcement on Friday that it plans to kill](#) the landmark anti-greenwashing law. The final round of talks between the European Commission, the Parliament, and member countries were due to take place on Monday. Negotiations could still be rescheduled, the people said. “We are hitting the pause button,” a spokesperson from the Polish Presidency of the Council told POLITICO. “There are too many doubts, and we need clarity from the European Commission on its intentions,” the spokesperson added. Monday’s negotiations were intended to be the final round of talks and could have opened the way to legislate the rules, which would require companies to back up any environmental claims they make with evidence. The decision to scrap the law is backed by the center-right European People’s Party, the largest group in the Parliament. But the EU executive’s decision has some lawmakers furious and threatens the survival of the centrist coalition that ensured Ursula von der Leyen was elected for a second term as Commission President.

Source: Politico Pro 22 June 2025

S&D GROUP SLAMS ROSWALL AND VON DER LEYEN FOR UNDEMOCRATIC PLAN TO WITHDRAW GREEN CLAIMS DIRECTIVE

The Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament strongly condemn today’s declaration by the Commission’s spokesperson, announcing its intention to withdraw the Green Claims Directive – just days before a key inter-institutional agreement is due to be concluded. The move is a deeply troubling affront to the democratic process and undermines crucial efforts to combat greenwashing in the European Union. Despite the Commission’s claims, a strong cross-party alliance in the Parliament supports an ambitious outcome on this file. [Link here](#)

Source: S&D website

COMMISSION ADDS A TOUCH OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO NEW STATE AID

Absent from the draft framework during the public consultation in the spring, the objective of transition to a circular economy has found its place in the [final text presented on June 25](#). Two months earlier, a broad coalition of European players (NGOs, recyclers, companies, waste managers, etc.) mobilised to remind the Commission that the Clean Industry Pact makes circularity a priority. And that it was necessary to put this into practice through State aid, and thus support projects that respond to it, in the same way as those focusing on decarbonization. In concrete terms, the executive wants to “reduce the risks” associated with private investment in this type of project, and is encouraging member states to make use of equity, loans or guarantees. Tomra, a company specializing in deposit systems and the initiator of the coalition, welcomes the inclusion of the circular economy. On the other hand, [the European Waste Management Association](#) believes that this “is not enough”. “We regret that the

framework once again limits the options for temporary electricity price relief to energy-intensive industries,” excluding recyclers.

Source: Contexte 27 June 2025

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PUBLISHED THE 2025 COUNTRY PROFILES ON MUNICIPAL AND PACKAGING WASTE MANAGEMENT

The publication is offering data-driven insights into how countries across Europe are progressing on waste prevention, recycling, and circular economy goals. These profiles focus on municipal and packaging waste.

Link <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/in-depth/waste-and-recycling/municipal-and-packaging-waste-management-country-profiles-2025>

Source: EEA 2025

THE COMMISSION’S LESS TAXING TAXONOMY

The European Commission wants to relax compliance rules associated with the EU’s sustainable investment taxonomy, as it continues its push to slash red-tape. The latest proposal would introduce a materiality threshold beyond which companies — both financial and non-financial — do not have to monitor compliance with the EU Taxonomy. The proposed new rules would also exempt certain companies from compulsory compliance with the taxonomy and create shorter and simpler reporting templates.

The EU taxonomy was enacted in 2020 to help financial institutions identify sustainable investments, and define clear, legally-enshrined standards for companies that want to attract green capital. The chemical question: The leaked draft also shows the Commission is making good on its promise earlier this year to make a “targeted change” to pollution prevention requirements under the “do no significant harm” criteria (DNSH) laid down in the taxonomy. The DNSH concept is embedded in several EU laws, dictating that policies and funds must not have a negative impact on the [EU’s environmental objectives](#). Your wish is their command: They’ve got the Commission on side. Repealing the offending paragraph will “substantially reduce the number of substances to be assessed,” resulting in a “significant reduction of burden and costs of compliance on reporting undertakings.” The sectors most affected by the appendix are often “critical for the green transition,” it argues, including the manufacturing of batteries and heat pumps. Chemicals NGO ChemSec has been [sounding the alarm](#) over the change ever since it was put on the table earlier this year, arguing the tweak would allow “major investments to be labelled green and sustainable, even though the companies they support are using toxic substances in their products.”

Source: Politico pro 26 June 2025

EU COUNTRIES CONFIRM CALL FOR BROAD CUTS TO GREEN DISCLOSURE RULES

EU countries have formally approved a joint position calling for dramatic cuts to supply chain transparency obligations for businesses. On Tuesday evening, EU ambassadors endorsed the [Council of the EU’s position](#) on the European Commission’s proposed reduction of corporate sustainability reporting and supply chain due diligence rules, part of the [first omnibus simplification bill](#).

A draft version of the compromise, on Monday, showed that EU countries agreed with a French proposal to only ask companies with more than 5,000 employees and €1.5 billion in net turnover to police their supply chains. The current threshold is 1,000 employees and turnover of €450 million.

If endorsed by the EU as a whole, this would mean that less than 1,000 European companies would have to police their supply chains for possible environmental issues or human rights violations. EU countries also agree that companies should only have to assess their direct suppliers.

The Council also wants to postpone the deadline by which EU countries must transpose the directive into national law by a year. Denmark, who will take on the Presidency of the Council of the EU in July, will run negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission on this file.

Source: Politico 24 June 2025

EU COUNTRIES BACK MAJOR CUTS TO SUPPLY CHAIN LAW

European Union member countries want the EU's rules on supply chain transparency to apply only to the largest companies, in a move that aligns with the French call to significantly water down the law. According to the latest draft of the compromise text the Council of the EU wants to raise the threshold of the [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) to companies with more than 5,000 employees and that make more than €1.5 billion in turnover.

The original thresholds were 1,000 employees and €450 million in turnover.

European affairs ministers are meeting in Luxembourg on Tuesday where they are expected to formally support the compromise text. "This Directive can best achieve its objectives as regards the very largest companies, which have the greatest influence over their value chain, the greatest impact on human rights and the environment, and the greatest resources to implement due diligence diligently," the document reads.

The new threshold would mean that only about a thousand European companies would have to police their supply chains for possible environmental damage or human rights violations.

Companies will still have to come up with climate transition plans however, with details on how they intend to align their business models with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Lawmakers in the European Parliament still have to finalize their position on the file before inter-institutional negotiations on the first omnibus simplification package can begin.

Source: Politico Pro 26 June 2025

STAKEHOLDERS POSITIONS

GREEN CLAIMS

- Several NGOs deplore the Commission's attitude to the Green Claims Directive - The directors of five associations (European Environmental Bureau, BirdLife, WWF, Transport & Environment and CAN Europe) [wrote to Ursula von der Leyen on June 25](#), while the fate of the directive is still up in the air. The five signatories are pointing out that the Commission is obliged to provide justifications if it were to act, they consider that there are no acceptable grounds in this case.
- Stop to Green Claims Directive risks leaving the EU bereft of much-needed guidelines for corporate climate claims - [By Carbon Gap](#)
- Withdrawing Green Claims Directive essential for delivering on promised regulatory simplification - [By ACEA](#)

BIOECONOMY

- CEN responds to the European Commission's public consultation on Bioeconomy Strategy - [By CEN](#)

EUDR

- FEFCO Guidance on the EUDR – [here](#)
- [Cepi Guidance on the EU Deforestation Regulation \(EUDR\)](#) - Jun 24, 2025

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

- Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act – feedback period 15 April 2025 - 08 July 2025 - [More about call for evidence](#)
- Exemptions to prohibiting the destruction of unsold apparel and footwear. [ESPR Sustainable products](#) – Feedback period: 30 June 2025 - 28 July 2025
- Standardisation Regulation – revision. Feedback period 3 June 2025 - 21 July 2025. [More about call for evidence](#)
- Omnibus Directive - [Burden reduction and simplification for competitiveness of small mid-cap enterprises](#) - Feedback period 23 May 2025 - 25 August 2025