
POLICY ISSUES

PACKAGING: COUNCIL AND PARLIAMENT STRIKE A DEAL TO MAKE PACKAGING MORE SUSTAINABLE AND REDUCE PACKAGING WASTE IN THE EU

Last 4th March, the Council presidency and the European Parliament's representatives reached a provisional political agreement on a proposal for a regulation on packaging and packaging waste.

The deal reached is provisional, pending formal adoption by both institutions. [Link to article](#)

Source: Council of the EU 04/03/2024

JRC PUBLISHES CASE STUDIES ON SINGLE-USE VERSUS REUSABLE PACKAGING

Last 20 February the Commission Joint research Center published the long-awaited [study](#) exploring the environmental performance of alternative food packaging products in the European Union.

[Link to article](#)

Source: JRC and FPF, 20/02/2024

CARBON REMOVAL CERTIFICATIONS

European Union legislators reached a political agreement in the early hours of Tuesday 20 February on a proposal to set up the world's first registry for certified carbon dioxide removals obtained from eco-farming practices and industrial processes. The next step is for the Commission to "develop tailored certification methodologies for different types of carbon removal activities" based on four criteria: quantification, additionality, long-term storage, and sustainability. The Commission is also requested to include "clear liability mechanisms when developing the certification methodologies," the Council statement says. An electronic EU-wide registry for certification units is expected to be created "within four years" after the regulation enters into force. [Link to article](#)

Source: Euractiv, 20/02/2024

COMMISSION SPARKS GREENWASHING FEARS IN ROW OVER '100 PERCENT RECYCLED' CLAIMS

The EU executive suggests laxer rules for calculating recycled content in products, siding with the chemical industry.

should a plastic bottle with a "100 percent recycled plastic" label be made up entirely of recycled plastic?

According to the European Commission, the answer is: no, not necessarily.

As part of its push to tackle the bloc's growing mountains of waste, the EU has agreed to new rules on recycled content in single-use plastic beverage bottles. [Link to article](#)

Source: Politico, 26/02/2024

GREEN CLAIMS DIRECTIVE (JOINT ENVI-IMCO COMMITTEE) - ADOPTION OF DRAFT JOINT REPORT

On 14 February 2024, in a joint ENVI-IMCO meeting, members of both committees voted on the draft report on the proposal for a directive on green claims.

The proposal aims, on the one hand, to protect consumers from greenwashing and misleading environmental claims by providing them with transparent, comparable and harmonised product information and, on the other hand, to enable them to make informed decisions, in line with the green transition. Specifically, the proposal lays down rules on the communication of environmental claims and requires companies to carry out an assessment in accordance with a set of requirements, as well as introducing rules on environmental labelling systems.[Link](#)

Source: European Commission 20/02/2024

REVISION OF WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE, MEPS ADOPT THEIR POSITION ON REDUCING FOOD AND TEXTILE WASTE

On Wednesday 14 February, the European Parliament's Environment Committee adopted its position by 72 votes to none, with 3 abstentions (rapporteur: Anna Zalewska, ECR, Polish) on the European Green Deal proposal to amend the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98) to reduce food and textile waste (see EUROPE 13216/3). MEPs note the reduction targets to be set by Member States on a per capita basis. This would be 20% less in food processing and manufacturing (instead of 10%) and 40% less per capita in retail, catering, food services and households (instead of 30%) than the annual average generated between 2020 and 2022 (the Commission proposed 2020 as the reference year, the only one for which it currently has data).

These targets should be achieved at national level by 30 December 2030. Instead of a review in 2027 to set a target of halving emissions by 2030 – the target originally set out in the 'Farm to Fork' strategy – the compromise provides for the Commission to assess the possibility and present appropriate legislative proposals to introduce higher targets for 2035 (at least 30% and 50% respectively).

Textile waste. MEPs include non-household products, carpets, mattresses, sales via online platforms, and provide for the monitoring of exported used textiles.

MEPs want EU countries to set up extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems 18 months after the directive comes into force (instead of 30 months), and for Member States to ensure the separate collection of textiles for re-use and recycling by 1 January 2025.

Parliament is due to vote at the March plenary session. It will be up to the European Parliament to be formed following the next election to take up the torch.

Source: EBI, 24/02/2024

PARLIAMENT APPROVED UPDATED EU PROCEDURES AND CONTROL MEASURES FOR WASTE SHIPMENTS

With 587 votes in favour, eight against and 33 abstentions, MEPs endorsed the [deal reached with the Council](#), which aims to protect the environment and human health more effectively, while contributing to the EU's circular economy and zero pollution goals.

The rules for exporting waste from the EU to third countries will be stricter. Plastic waste exports to non-OECD countries will be prohibited within two and a half years after the entry into force of the regulation, while those to OECD countries will be subject to stricter conditions. Within the EU, the exchange of information and data on waste shipments would be digitalised, through a central electronic hub, to improve reporting and transparency. Shipping waste destined to be disposed in another EU country would be allowed only in exceptional circumstances. The law also establishes an enforcement group to improve cooperation between EU countries to prevent and detect illegal shipments.

Next steps: Following the final vote in plenary, the Council will now have to formally endorse the text, too, before its publication in the EU Official Journal.

Source: European Parliament, 27/02/24

ECODESIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT REGULATION (ESPR)

The ecodesign regulation proposed by the European Commission seeks to reduce the overall environmental impact of a wide range of products. To be effective, it should not only focus on individual products but also towards increasing collection, sorting, repair and recirculation systems. [Link to article](#)

Source: EURACTIV, 14/02/24

MEPS APPROVE PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT ON NET-ZERO INDUSTRY ACT

MEPs on the European Parliament's Committee on Industry (ITRE) voted in favour of the provisional agreement on the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) on Thursday 22 February. The text is therefore expected to be submitted to the rest of the MEPs at the plenary session in April. "With this adoption we take a first step towards having a viable business case for our industry under the Green Deal"

Source: EBI, 27/02/24

PLASTICS TREATY

PLASTICS TREATY – BRIEFING BY UNEP AND THE COMMISSION

On 14 February 2024, UNEP and the Commission informed ENVI Members on the progress made during the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which took place on 13-19 November 2023. In February 2022, at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, a resolution was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024.[link](#)

Source: European Commission 14/02/2023

FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS AND ARTICLES

In late 2023, the Japanese *Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW)* [published](#) a revised version of its positive list of substances for use in food contact materials (FCMs) available in both Japanese and English. The positive list is divided into three documents: polymers, additives, and essential monomers each with relevant details including chemical name in Japanese and English, CAS registry numbers, and use requirements. The updated list and any changes in requirements will go into effect on June 1, 2025.

According to reporting from [Enhessa](#), MHLW plans to publish an FAQ on the website in the future.

References

MHLW. "[About the positive list system for food utensils, containers and packaging \(from June 1, 2025\).](#)" (in Japanese)

FPF, February 2024

SWITZERLAND UPDATES FEDERAL LAW ON FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

Updates to Switzerland's Ordinance on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food went into effect on February 1, 2024. The greatest change pertains to packaging inks; Part B of the positive list for packaging inks, listing unevaluated substances used in packaging inks for food contact, has been removed. Substances not on the positive list or known to be carcinogenic, mutagenic, or toxic to reproduction are still allowed in packaging inks but subject to a generic detection limit of 0.01 mg/kg.

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Other amendments to the ordinance related to silicones, plastics, and ceramics bring Swiss regulation in closer alignment with that of the European Union (Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004).

While the unevaluated chemicals list has been removed for inks, the remaining positive list for packaging inks (annex 10) as well as the positive lists for silicones (annex 9) and plastics (annex 2) were updated. Additionally, the rules for ceramics, glass, and enamel were brought into alignment with the EU's Ceramic Articles Directive.

References

SGS (January 17, 2024). "Switzerland has amended the nation's law on food contact materials and articles. These will become effective on February 1, 2024."

CHEMICALS

EU COMMISSION PUBLISHES PROPOSAL TO BAN BPA IN CERTAIN FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS. [link to position](#)

Source: Chem Trust 06/03/24

PETITION: TOXIC-FREE EUROPE NOW!

At a time when we need to be fighting the chemical industry's poisoning and polluting of our world, our leaders are making secret deals with the culprit. Today a secret meeting organised by top EU leaders and the chemical industry will take place. We found out about this through our partners: affected communities, environmentalists and scientists who have not been invited.

At the end of today's meeting, our leaders will announce a new pact to support the chemical industry! All this will take place behind heavily guarded doors in a Belgian chemical plant's conference centre, where the voices of affected communities and Europeans will not be present. Tell European leaders to end their toxic secrecy with the chemical industry and add your voice.

Nothing lasts forever, except for toxic man-made PFAS chemicals. Everyday we come into contact with these 'forever chemicals' as they're found in a variety of products, from food packaging to frying pans and raincoats.

Source: EEB 4 March 2024

CYBERSECURITY

HOW EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE IMPLEMENTING NEW CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK

EU countries are implementing the updated Network and Information Security Directive (NIS2), in force since January, with varying degrees of progress. To provide an overview of the state of play, Euractiv interviewed Nicolas Sonder and Mailin von Knobelsdorff, PwC experts on cybersecurity.

Since state-sponsored cyber warfare has become increasingly prevalent and cyberattacks lead to financial losses, data breaches, reputational damage, and industrial espionage, more cyber resilience is needed.

The NIS2 directive introduces additional security requirements for ICT products used by organisations that are considered essential or important to the functioning of society. Member states have until October 2024 to modernise the existing cybersecurity frameworks.

Source: Euractiv 12/12/2023

EPP KICKS OFF EU ELECTION CAMPAIGN

EUROPE'S CENTER RIGHT SEALS POLITICAL PROGRAM: Delegates from the center-right European People's Party (EPP) today will approve their manifesto at a sprawling party congress in Bucharest, officially kick-starting its EU election campaign.

Green shift: Compared to a January draft — and as resistance to Brussels' green policies climbs with farmers' protests sweeping the bloc — the latest version of the text shows the EU's largest party has tweaked its program on energy and climate issues. The text includes new pledges of "additional funding" to help farmers' "environmental efforts" and a vow to "further develop the Green Deal" with "a better consideration of the interests" of farmers. It also stresses that climate protection and nature conservation "can be achieved only with and not against farmers."

Source: Politico 6 March 2024

POSITION PAPERS

POLITICAL GROUP REACTIONS TO PPWR

[S&D](#): Thanks to S&Ds, the EU to curb packaging pollution through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling
[Renew Europe Group](#): Packaging deal: Renew Europe succeeds in eliminating PFAS chemicals from food contact packaging

STAKEHOLDERS REACTIONS TO PPWR

[European](#): EU negotiators reach provisional agreement on PPWR
[Zero Waste Europe](#): PPWR deal: good steps to reduce packaging waste despite worrying exemptions, says Zero Waste Europe
 ECOS "[Joint letter – Restrict hazardous substances in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation](#)."

Source: ECOS, 1 February, 2024

STAKEHOLDERS REACTIONS TO GREEN CLAIMS

AIM co-signs Joint Statement calling on the European Parliament to adopt a clear, workable and enforceable framework for environmental claims. [Link to position](#)
 Source: AIM, 22/02/24

Joint industry statement on the Green Claims Directive: do not put in jeopardy private sector investment in sustainability. [link to position](#)
 Source: ECommerce Europe, EuroCommerce, HOTREC and Independent Retail Europe, 04/03/24

Joint Statement: Enable the Green Transition with a harmonised, reliable and workable framework for Green Claims. [Link to position](#)

Source: A.I.S.E, FESI, FoodDrinkEurope and others 24/02/24

STAKEHOLDERS REACTIONS ON BIOGENIC CARBON

[Stakeholder Document](#): The Biogenic carbon loop in the pulp and paper sector: an alternative to fossil carbon in other industries (by Cepi)

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OPEN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Food safety – [restrictions on bisphenol A \(BPA\) and other bisphenols in food contact materials](#)

- Feedback period - 09 February 2024 - 08 March 2024

[Investments by EU companies in non-EU countries](#) – monitoring for further risk assessment

- Feedback period - 02 February 2024 - 17 April 2024

[GreenData4All – updated rules on geospatial environmental data](#) and access to environmental information

- Feedback period - 26 February 2024 - 25 March 2024

STUDIES/REPORTS/ARTICLES

ECHA - NEW UPDATE TO CANDIDATE LIST OF SUBSTANCES OF VERY HIGH CONCERN (SVHCS)

On 23rd January 2024, the ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) released the new Candidate List of SVHCs. With the addition of five new substances, the current list of SVHCs now contains 240 substances. Legal obligations for companies using SVHC substances include:

- Suppliers provide customers and consumers with enough information to allow for safe use of products that contain a substance of very high concern (SVHC) above a concentration of 0.1 % (weight by weight)
- Importers and producers of these products must notify the ECHA if their article contains SVHC substances above a concentration of 0.1% weight by weight (w/w) and the substance is present in those products in quantities totalling over 1 tonne per producer or per importer per year. The notifications must be submitted within six months from the date it that the substance is included in the list.
- Suppliers of substances on the Candidate List, supplied either on their own or in mixtures, must provide their customers with a safety data sheet.
- Under the Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC on waste- WFD), any supplier of an article containing a substance of very high concern (SVHC) in a concentration above 0.1% weight by weight (w/w) on the EU market is required to submit a SCIP Notification on that article to ECHA, as of 5 January 2021. SCIP is the database holding information on Substances of Concern in articles, as such or in complex objects (products), established under the WFD. The SCIP database complements the existing notification obligations for Candidate List substances in articles subject to REACH regulation and its related communication through the supply chain, according to Articles 7 (2) and 33 respectively.

Click [here](#) to access the official List from ECHA's website.

Source: European Commission January 2024

POLICY BRIEF: IMPACTS OF PLASTICS ACROSS THE FOOD SYSTEM

Policy brief from *Scientists' Coalition* discusses how plastics in the food system from farm to table to trash impact human health and the environment; provides suggestions for how UN Plastics Treaty can address the drivers and impacts of food system plastics use. [Impacts of plastics across the food system](#)

Source: Scientists' Coalition March 2024

NEW REPORT DISCUSSES STATE-OF-KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EFFECTS FROM ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

Joint publication from the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) and The Endocrine Society establishes state of endocrine (i.e., hormone) disruption research; reviews knowledge of human health effects from EDC exposure in pesticides, plastics, PFAS, and children's products; calls for chemical regulations based on modern understanding of how hormones act and how EDCs can affect these actions.

Source: IPEN, 1/03/24 March 2024
