

Circular Economy

Implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan

Final



Circular Economy Package

Three years after adoption, the Circular Economy Action Plan is fully completed. Its 54 actions have been delivered, even if the work on some of them continues beyond 2019.

On 4 March 2019, the European Commission adopted a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan. The report presents the main achievements under the Action Plan and sketches out future challenges to shaping our economy and paving the way towards a climate-neutral, circular economy where pressure on natural and freshwater resources as well as ecosystems is minimised.

Final Circular Economy package - key documents:

- [Report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan - press release - questions and answers](#)
- [Staff working document with details on the 54 actions included in the action plan](#)
- [Staff working document on Sustainable Products in a Circular Economy](#)
- [Staff working document on the assessment of the voluntary pledges under Annex III of the Strategy on Plastics](#)
- [Guidance and promotion of best practices in the mining waste management plans](#)
- [Summary Report of the Public Consultation on the interface between chemicals, product and waste legislation](#)
- [Report on improving access to finance for circular economy projects](#)
- [Report on Horizon 2020 R&I projects supporting the transition to a Circular Economy](#)
- [A circular economy for plastics – Insights from research and innovation to inform policy and funding decisions](#)
- [Eurostat press release: Circular Economy in the EU](#)

EU product policies contributing to Circular Economy

The analysis served to, assess what extent EU policy tools addressing products are supporting circular, sustainable products. There are many policy tools covering all the different products on the EU market, and these tools together provide a great contribution to sustainability. They protect the environment and human health, make products more energy and resource efficient and empower consumers to choose better products. The analysis found there is potential for further strengthening the policies, especially as concerns the circular design of products such as textiles and furniture. Also, more could be done to support consumers and circular sectors such as reuse and repair.

2019 Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference

The package was presented during the 2019 edition of the Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference on 6-7 March, hosted by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee. The recording of the web streaming is available in the [European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#).

2018 Circular Economy Package

- A Europe-wide [EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy](#), and annex to transform the way plastics and plastics products are designed, produced, used and recycled. By 2030, all plastics packaging should be recyclable. To achieve its ambitious vision, the Strategy foresees actions to improve the economics and quality of plastic recycling; to curb plastic waste and littering; to drive investments and innovation; and to harness global action. To reduce the leakage of plastics into the

environment, the Commission has also adopted a new proposal on [Port Reception Facilities](#), to tackle sea-based marine litter and published a report on the impact of the use of oxo-degradable plastic, including oxo-degradable plastic carrier bags, on the environment.

- A Communication on [options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation](#) that assesses how the rules on waste, products and chemicals relate to each other.
- A [Monitoring Framework on progress towards a circular economy](#) at EU and national level. It is composed of a set of ten key indicators which cover each phase – i.e. production, consumption, waste management and secondary raw materials – as well as economic aspects – investments and jobs - and innovation.
- A [Report on Critical Raw Materials and the circular economy](#) that highlights the potential to make the use of the 27 critical materials in our economy more circular.

In 2018, the European Commission adopted other ambitious initiatives in the context of the Circular Economy Action Plan:

- A proposal for a [Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment](#) - implementation of the EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy. The Directive proposes different measures for specific items made of single use plastics taking into account the consumer behavior as well as consumer needs and opportunities for businesses. When alternatives are clearly available – both single use and multi-use ones – market restrictions are proposed. Other measures include appropriate labelling, awareness raising, voluntary actions, and the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility schemes that would also cover the costs for the clean-up of litter.

[Questions and Answers: New EU rules on single-use plastics](#)

[Factsheet](#)

[Impact assessment & Summary](#)

- A proposal for a [Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse](#) - the proposal is setting minimum requirement to boost the efficient, safe and cost-effective reuse of water for irrigation - deliverable of the Circular Economy Action Plan.

2018 Circular Economy package - key documents:

- [EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy - communication](#)
- [EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy - staff working document](#)
- [EU Strategy for plastics in the Circular Economy - brochure](#)
- [Strategy for plastics - press release and questions and answers](#)
- [Factsheets on the strategy for plastics in a circular economy](#)
- [Factsheet - changing the way we use plastics](#)
- [Communication on the Interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation - staff working document and factsheet](#)
- [Monitoring framework for the circular economy - staff working document - factsheet and Eurostat monitoring framework tool](#)
- [Proposal on Port Reception Facilities - impact assessment and summary of the impact assessment](#)
- [Report on critical raw materials](#)
- [Report on oxo-plastics](#)
- [Eurobarometer: SMEs and the circular economy](#)

Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

The



[European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#) is a virtual open space which aims at promoting Europe's transition to a circular economy by facilitating policy dialogue among stakeholders and by disseminating activities, information, and good practices on the circular economy. Stakeholders can take part in the Platform by participating in the annual conference and by interacting on the website to look for good practices, to engage with other stakeholders and to share their own good practices and events.

The members of the Coordination Group contribute to gather best practices on circular economy, to raise awareness about existing national, regional or local strategies, to identify challenges and opportunities for the transition to a circular economy among policy makers, businesses, trade unions, civil society, etc.

EU action plan for the Circular Economy

In 2015, the European Commission adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Action Plan, which includes measures that will help stimulate Europe's transition towards a circular economy, boost global competitiveness, foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs.

The [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#) establishes a concrete and ambitious programme of action, with measures covering the whole cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and

the market for secondary raw materials and a revised legislative proposal on waste. The [annex to the action plan](#) sets out the timeline when the actions will be completed. The proposed actions will contribute to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy.

The [revised legislative framework on waste](#) has entered into force in July 2018. It sets clear targets for reduction of waste and establish an ambitious and credible long-term path for waste management and recycling.

Key elements of the revised waste proposal include:

- A common EU target for recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035;
- A common EU target for recycling 70% of packaging waste by 2030;
- There are also recycling targets for specific packaging materials:
 - Paper and cardboard: 85 %
 - Ferrous metals: 80 %
 - Aluminium: 60 %
 - Glass: 75 %
 - Plastic: 55 %
 - Wood: 30 %
- A binding landfill target to reduce landfill to maximum of 10% of municipal waste by 2035;
- Separate collection obligations are strengthened and extended to hazardous household waste (by end 2022), bio-waste (by end 2023), textiles (by end 2025).
- Minimum requirements are established for extended producer responsibility schemes to improve their governance and cost efficiency.
- Prevention objectives are significantly reinforced, in particular, requiring Member States to take specific measures to tackle food waste and marine litter as a contribution to achieve EU commitments to the UN SDGs.

More information:

- Circular Economy Package: [Press release](#) and [questions & answers](#)
- [Factsheet](#): Closing the Loop: Helping consumers choose sustainable products and services
- [Factsheet](#): Closing the Loop: The Production Phase of the Circular Economy
- [Factsheet](#): Closing the Loop: Clear Targets and Tools for Better Waste Management
- [Factsheet](#): Closing the Loop: From Waste to Resources

Background

In December 2014, the Commission decided to withdraw its legislative proposal on waste, but the Commission committed at the same time to use its new horizontal working methods to present a new package by the end of 2015 which would cover the full economic cycle, not just waste reduction targets, drawing on the expertise of all the Commission's services.

Previous proposal on circular economy:

- [Communication "Towards a circular economy: a zero waste programme for Europe"](#)
 - [Progress report on the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe](#)
 - [Analysis of an EU target for Resource Productivity](#)
- [Legislative proposal to review recycling and other waste-related targets in the EU](#)
 - [Impact assessment](#) and [executive summary of the impact assessment](#)
- [Ex-post evaluation of Five Waste Streams Directives - Commission staff working document](#)

The International Resource Panel

Work on resource efficiency and circular economy has profited inter alia from the reports and assessments of the International Resource Panel (IRP). More information on the role of the IRP and its relations with the European Commission can be found [here](#).

Related links

- [European Commission - Towards a circular economy](#)
- [Eurostat - Circular economy monitoring progress](#)
- [Circular Economy Missions](#) - series of high-level political and business meetings in third countries to communicate and promote sustainable and resource-efficient policies.