

Circular economy: state of play

*CEN-CENELEC Workshop on
sustainability for PPE*

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Changing the way Europe consumes & produces



35 actions

Make sustainable products the norm in the EU
Empower consumers & public buyers
Sustainable production processes

Electronics & ICT
Batteries & vehicles
Packaging
Plastics
Textiles
Construction & buildings
Food, water & nutrients

Reduce Waste
Reduce Waste Exports
Boost market for high quality & safe secondary raw materials

Making circular economy work for people, regions and cities

Circular economy as a requisite for climate neutrality

Getting the Economics Right

Financial Markets

Investments and R&I

Global Level Playing Field

Monitoring

Relevant initiatives

Circular
Economy in the
context of the
European Green
Deal

 Adopted:



Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to protect our fragile natural resources



Farm to Fork Strategy to make food systems more sustainable



Renovation Wave to boost renovation in line with circular principles



Chemical Strategy for Sustainability to ensure chemicals are safe and sustainable

Ongoing:

- **Circular economy in the EU Recovery Plan** → *Cooperation with Member States via the Semester on their draft RRP + Mainstreaming circularity in EU funding programmes within the MFF*
- **The New European Bauhaus** initiative (launched on 18/01) → *A design movement integrating three dimensions: sustainability (including circularity), quality of experience (including aesthetics) and inclusion (including affordability)*

The route so far: kick-starting CEAP implementation

- **Revision of the Skills Agenda** adopted in July 2020
- **Pact for Skills** launched in October 2020

- **Green City Accord** launched in October 2020
- **New regulatory framework on batteries** proposed in December 2020



A shared agenda



EU institutions and advisory bodies, Member States and stakeholders positively welcomed the CEAP's ambition

- ▶ **Council conclusions “Making the Recovery Circular and Green”** adopted on 17 December
- ▶ Clear on the need to place CE in a key position to achieve a **resilient economic recovery** Call the Commission to come forward with the legislative initiatives on a **Sustainable Product Policy Framework**
- ▶ Support Commission's approach as described in the CEAP for **key value chains** (batteries, packaging, plastics, textiles)
- ▶ Support CEAP vision to **reduce and prevent waste**.
- ▶ Welcome Commission's initiatives on **international agreements**



Own-initiative
Report
adopted
February 2021



European Committee
of the Regions

Opinion
adopted on 12
October



European Economic
and Social Committee

Opinion
adopted on 15
July

What to expect in 2021: highlights

- Start roll-out of the Sustainable Product Policy Framework:
 - Sustainable Products Initiative
 - Legislative proposal on substantiating green claims & Legislative proposal empowering consumers in the green transition
- Apply the framework to:
 - **EU Textiles Strategy**
 - Circular Electronics Initiative
- Revision of the rules on waste shipments
- Kick-start the negotiations on the international agreement for plastics & launch of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency



Towards a Sustainable Product Policy Framework

- Many **products** break down too quickly, cannot be easily reused, repaired or recycled, many are made for single use only
- **Consumers** do not repair products, find too many labels & some green claims are misleading
- **Production processes** in Europe are not resource efficient & can pollute our air, water and soil.



Product Design

Circularity in production processes

Empowering consumers



A new **overarching framework** addressing all products placed on the EU market, supporting more sustainable patterns of consumption & cutting waste by e.g. promoting better design

Textiles

- ▶ EU Textiles Strategy (Q4 2021): Applying the new sustainable product framework including Ecodesign measures
- ▶ Boosting the **sorting, re-use and recycling** of textiles through innovation
- ▶ Providing incentives and support to create new **circular business models**



**Less than 1%
of all textiles
worldwide
are recycled**

Crosscutting actions

Circular economy as prerequisite for climate neutrality



Measuring circularity contribution to climate mitigation

Strengthening the role of circularity in future revisions of the National Energy and Climate Plans

Certification of carbon removals

Getting the economics right



Integrating C.E. in EU Taxonomy Regulation (Q4 2021)

EU Ecolabel criteria for financial products (Q4 2021)

Circular solutions in State Aid, business strategies, financial instruments and reporting (2021)

Research, innovation and digitalization



European Regional Development Fund/LIFE/HorizonEurope

Less waste, more value

Prevent waste in the first place

- Specific waste reduction targets for more complex streams
- Enhance the implementation of the requirements for EPR schemes
- Continue modernising EU waste laws (packaging, end-of-life vehicles, hazardous substances in electronic equipment; batteries adopted Q4 2020)
- Propose to harmonise separate waste collection systems



Transform waste into high-quality and safe resources in markets for recycled materials

- Develop chemicals that are sustainable and safe by design
- Reduce the presence of hazardous substances detrimental to health and the environment
- Assess the scope to develop further EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams



Address waste exports

- Establish 'recycled in the EU' as a benchmark for quality secondary materials
- Thoroughly review EU rules on waste shipments, increasing the processing of materials
- Adopt multilateral, regional and bilateral measures to combat environmental crime



European
Commission

Thank you!

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