



EP Intergroup Climate Change,  
Biodiversity & Sustainable Development

# MARINE LITTER: What role for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?



*Brussels, November 22, 2018*

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# Plastic packaging waste

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- ▶ Plastics are widely used in our economy: in packaging, buildings, cars, electronics, agriculture and other sectors.
- ▶ Global plastics production is 20 times higher than in the 1960s, and is forecast to almost quadruple by 2050.
- ▶ Although there are thousands of types of plastics, **90 % of plastics are derived from virgin fossil fuels.**
- ▶ About 6 % of global oil consumption is used to produce plastics; by 2050, this share could reach 20 %.
- ▶ Industry figures indicate that, in Europe, **42 % of post-consumer plastic waste is incinerated with energy recovery, 31 % is recycled and 27 % is landfilled.**
- ▶ About 63 % of the plastic waste collected and recycled is treated in the European Union; the remaining **37 % is exported.**

# What is EPR?

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- ▶ A **policy principle** aiming to shift responsibility from government to **producers**
- ▶ Objectives:
  - ❖ Reduce environmental impacts
  - ❖ Encourage product eco-design
- Different types of EPR:
  - ❖ Individual (IPR) / Collective (CPR)
  - ❖ Administrative, financial and/or physical responsibility
  - ❖ Cost coverage
  - ❖ Modulated fees

# Choosing EPR for plastic packaging

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Packaging main user of plastics in Europe

- ▶ 0% recycled (compared to 65% for all packaging)
- ▶ Instead, plastic packaging often sent to:
  - ❖ Waste-to-energy
  - ❖ Landfill
  - ❖ Or leak to the environment (eg marine litter)

# EPR for packaging in the EU

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- ▶ 26 Member States have some form of EPR scheme for packaging
  - 9 MS more than one EPR scheme (competition)
  - 12 MS only one EPR scheme (no competition)
  - Financial (direct reimbursement contracts)

# Several practices regarding modulation of fees

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- ▶ Fees for plastic and composite packaging
- ▶ Fees for household packaging
- ▶ Fees for beverage cartons
- ▶ Most common plastic packaging materials subject to different fees are PET/HDPE, expanded polystyrene, bio-plastics/bio-degradable plastics and plastic bags
- ▶ “Eco-modulation”

# EPR targets

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- ▶ More efficient separate collection schemes, reduced disposal, and increased recycling
- ▶ Reduced public budgets for municipal waste management
- ▶ Supporting development of markets for secondary raw materials
- ▶ Potential to encourage producers towards eco-design



# EPR Disadvantages

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- ▶ Different implementation and performances across the EU
- ▶ No available data to assess impacts of EPR schemes
- ▶ Absence of control/monitoring to ensure compliance
- ▶ Absence of full cost coverage of some EPR schemes
- ▶ Limited impact to date on eco-design



# Topics on EPR

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1. Recyclability
2. Recycled content
3. Bio-plastics
4. Non-preferred



# 1. Recyclability

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- ▶ Existence of technology to sort/recycle
- ▶ Composite packaging (separability/recyclability of parts/layers)
- ▶ Packaging format design
- ▶ Hazardous additives
- ▶ Existence of markets for secondary raw materials

## 2. Recycled content

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- ▶ Definition of recycled content
- ▶ Quality standards
- ▶ System of traceability for recycled material



# 3. Bio-plastics

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- ▶ Bio-based non-degradable plastics
- ▶ Biodegradable or compostable plastics



# 4. Non preferred

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- ▶ Product lifecycle assessment/ environmental footprint
- ▶ Reusability
- ▶ Size of packaging
- ▶ Specific eco-design criteria

# Better Business



With the new strategy:

- ▶ recycling is profitable for business by setting new rules on packaging to improve the recyclability of plastics and increase the demand for recycled plastic content
- ▶ improved collection facilities for plastics and scaling up recycling will save around EUR 100 per tonne collected, as well as delivering greater added value for a more competitive, resilient plastics industry.
- ▶ Support for innovation will also be scaled up, with an additional EUR 100 million from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation
- ▶ The Commission, in cooperation with the European Investment Bank, has set up the Circular Economy Finance Support Platform.

# Stakeholders voluntary pledges

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- ▶ The Commission launched a campaign under the European Strategy for Plastics
- ▶ The target is by 2025, to have **10 million tonnes** of recycled plastics finding their way into new products in Europe.
- ▶ **65 voluntary pledges** were submitted by companies and industry associations.



# EU Plastics Strategy- widen approach

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- ▶ encourage initiatives that contribute to boosting the market of recycled plastics in the EU
- ▶ cooperate with stakeholders
- ▶ facilitate close stakeholder collaboration across the supply chain

# EU Strategy for marine litter



At least 20 % of marine litter originates from sea-based sources.

The Plastics Strategy contains:

- ▶ **proposals** for a new Directive on port-reception facilities to tackle sea-based marine litter,
- ▶ **measures** to ensure that **waste generated on ships or gathered at sea** is not left behind but returned to land and properly managed there
- ▶ **measures to reduce the administrative burden** on ports, ships and competent authorities.



***Thank you!***