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Turkey, 09.12.2020



## Overview of the EU Circular Economy Policy



**EEB**

European  
Environmental  
Bureau



# What is the EEB?

**EEB: the environmental voice  
of European citizens**

**We stand for  
environmental justice,  
sustainable  
development and  
participatory  
democracy.**

**Our aim is to ensure  
the EU secures a  
healthy environment  
and rich biodiversity  
for all.**



[www.eeb.org](http://www.eeb.org)

# URGENT ACTIONS ARE NEEDED



➤ From 1970 to 2017, the annual global extraction of materials **tripled** and it continues to grow.

Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook](#), 2019



➤ More than **90%** of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing.

Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook](#), 2019



➤ Annual waste generation will increase by **70%** by 2050

Source: [World Bank](#) What a waste 2.0, 2018

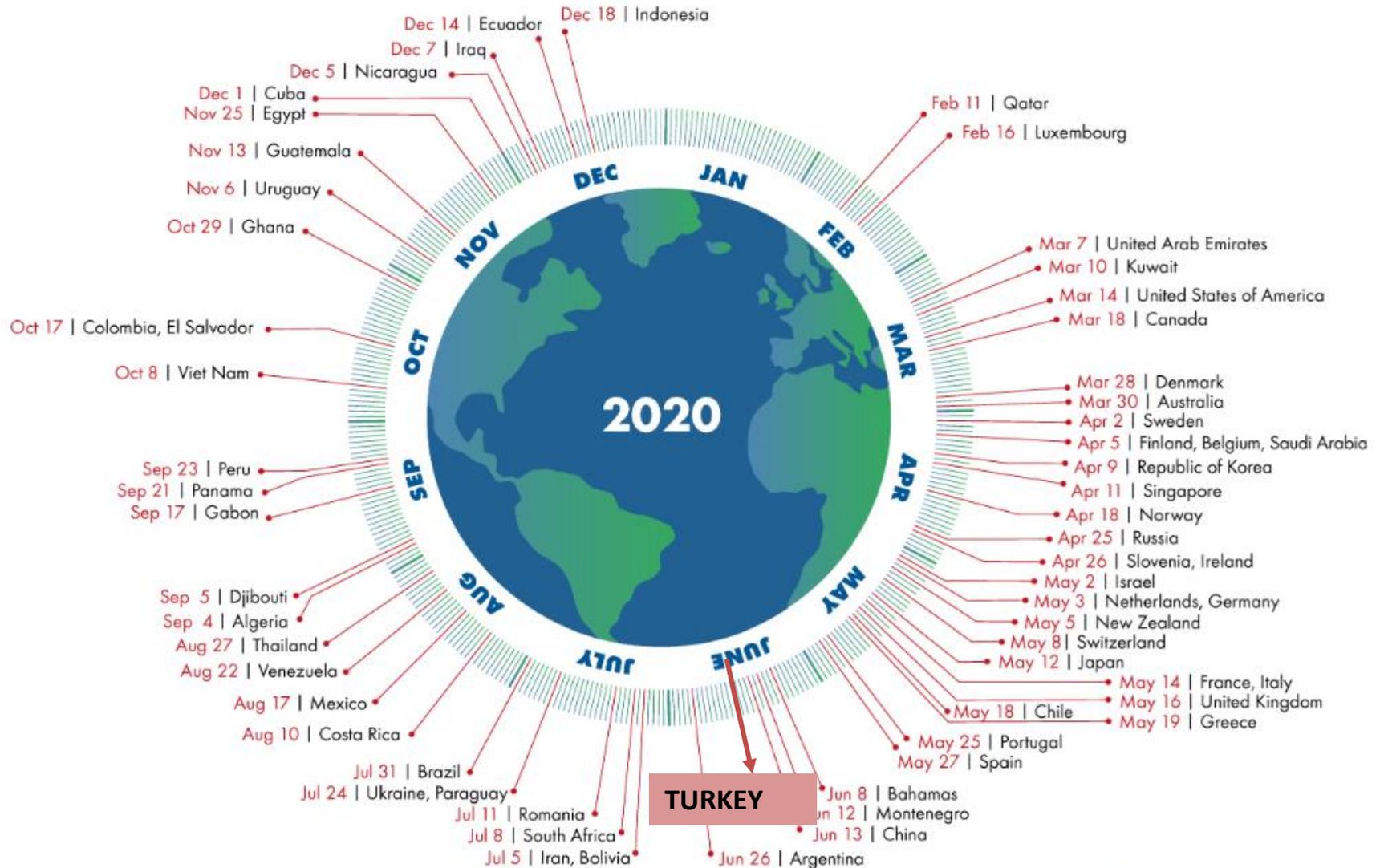


➤ Only **12%** of the materials used by EU industry come from recycling.

Source: [Eurostat](#), 2016 figures

# Country Overshoot Days 2020

When would Earth Overshoot Day land if the world's population lived like...



# X TURKEY (2017)

GDP PER PERSON  
\$14,875

POPULATION  
80,745,000

Biocapacity  
per person

1.4

gha

Ecological Footprint  
per person

3.5

gha

BIOCAPACITY  
RESERVE(+)/DEFICIT(-)

-2.1

gha

Ecological Footprint and

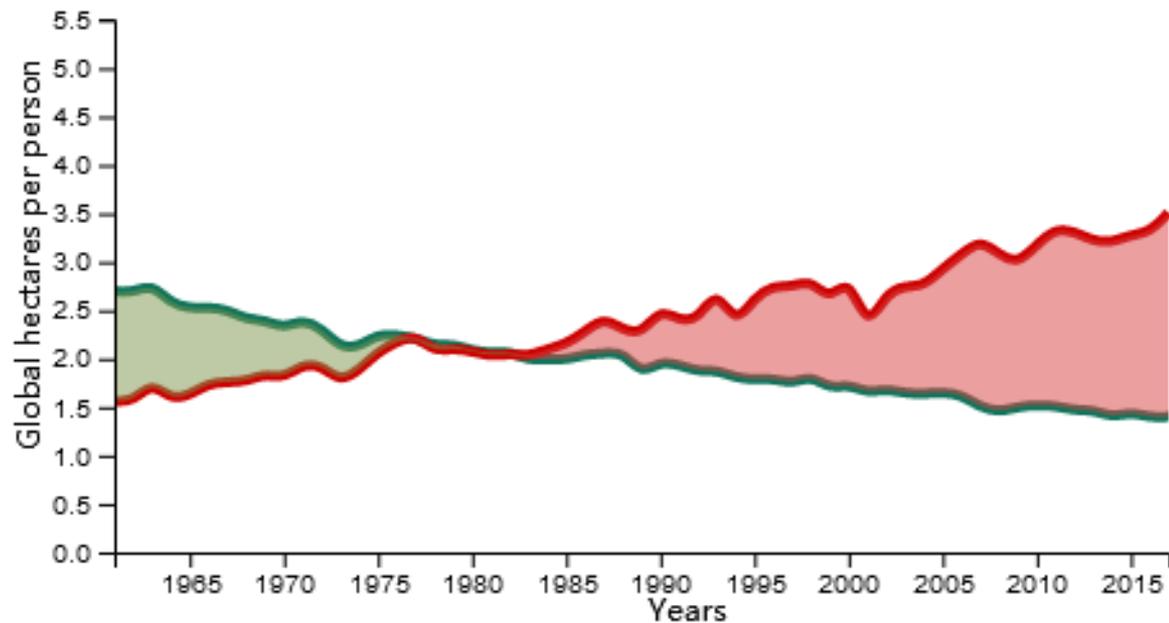
Biocapacity

From 1961 to 2017

Ecological  
Footprint per  
person

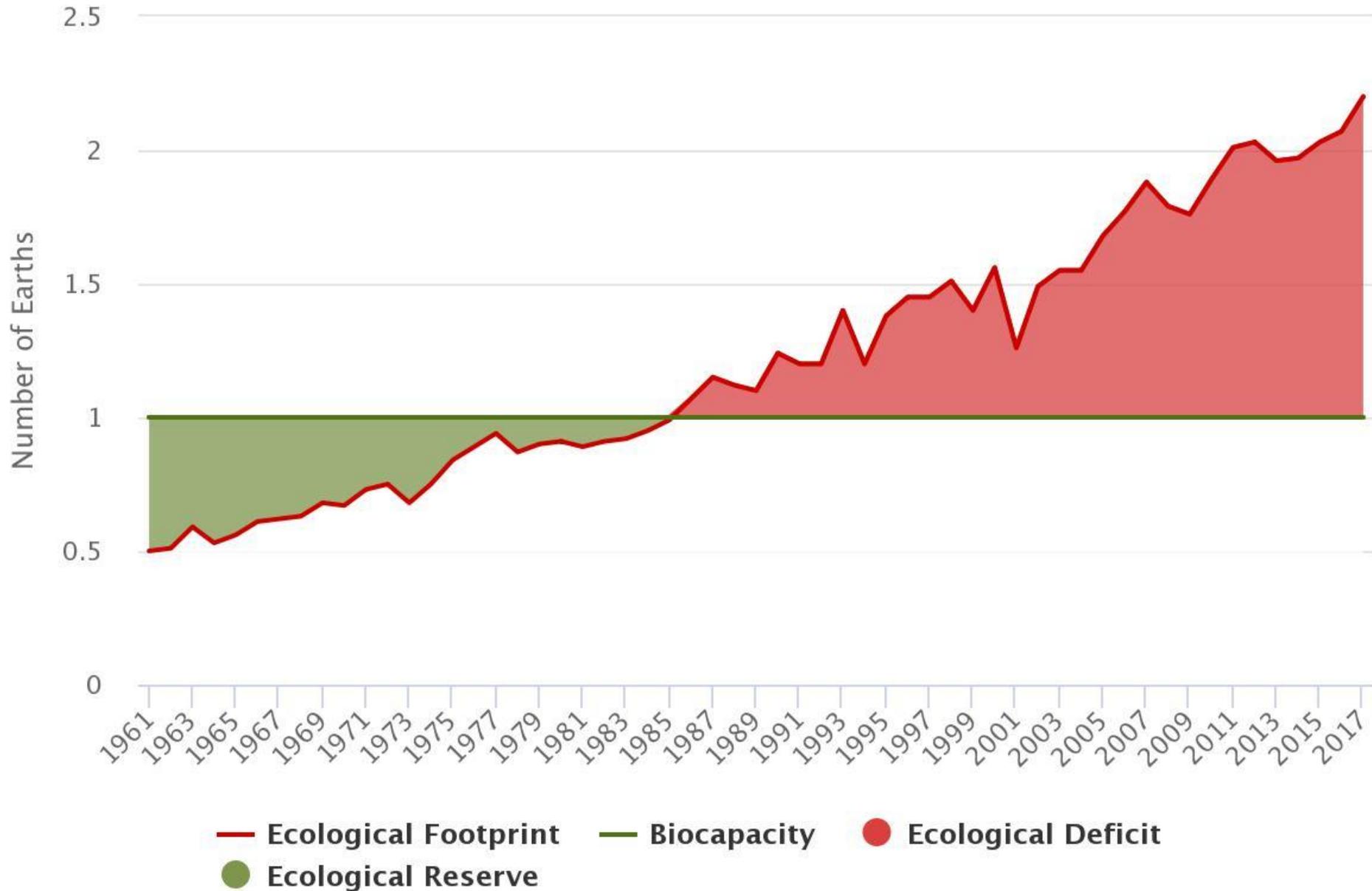
Biocapacity per  
person

Learn More



Data Sources: [National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts 2021 edition \(Data Year 2017\)](#); GDP, World Development Indicators, The World Bank 2020; Population, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization..

# Turkey



# THE 2020 CE ACTION PLAN



The new **Circular Economy Action Plan** presents new initiatives along the entire life cycle of products in order to modernise and transform our economy while protecting the environment. It is driven by the ambition to make sustainable products that last and to enable our citizens to take full part in the circular economy and benefit from the positive change that it brings about.

According to a recent Eurobarometer survey the growing amount of waste is among the 3 top environmental concerns to citizens. The interviewed considered that the most effective ways of tackling environmental problems are by **changing the way we consume and the way we produce**.

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)



# THE CEAP AS A POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY?

- A new political term – “green” Commission and Parliament?
- **Green Deal** – “economic growth decoupled from resource use”
  - “About half of total greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing of materials, fuels and food”*



# Towards an EU circular economy

In a circular economy, **waste and resource use** are minimised

When a product reaches the end of its life,  
the materials it is made of can be **used again**

This brings major economic benefits, contributing to  
**innovation, growth** and **job creation**



The **EU Action Plan for the circular economy** covers the whole cycle from production and consumption, to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials

# WE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE OUR WASTE

The circular economy is an economic model that treats **waste as a valuable resource** – nothing is wasted. It's good for the environment, good for business and good for the economy.



## TODAY'S CHALLENGES...

**475kg** of annual municipal waste generated per person

**~600m tonnes** of recyclable materials thrown away or 'wasted' annually

**48%** of total waste treated is sent to landfill

only **44%** of municipal waste in EU composted or recycled

**~50%** of plastics go to landfill (<25% are recycled)



## TOMORROW'S OPPORTUNITIES...

**50%** less food waste

**100%** ban on landfilling separated waste

maximum **10%** landfilling of municipal waste

**65%** of municipal waste recycled

**3%** boost in GDP from industrial material savings

**...AND ALL WITHIN OUR LIFETIME!**

## CLOSING THE LOOP...

The European Union's circular economy package closes the loop in production, consumption, waste and raw materials.

*Because it's time to leave behind the linear – take, make and throw away – economy in favour of the circular – make, use, reuse – economy.*

Source: Eurostat and European Commission

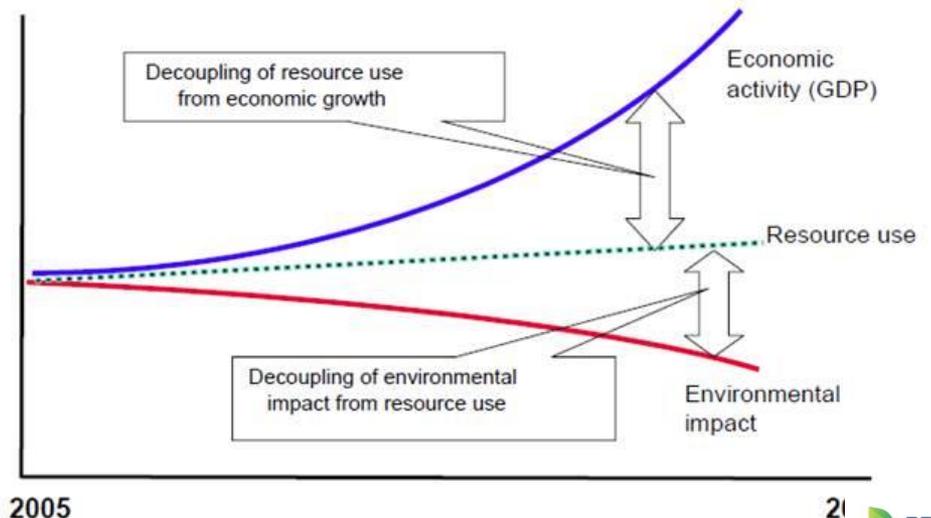
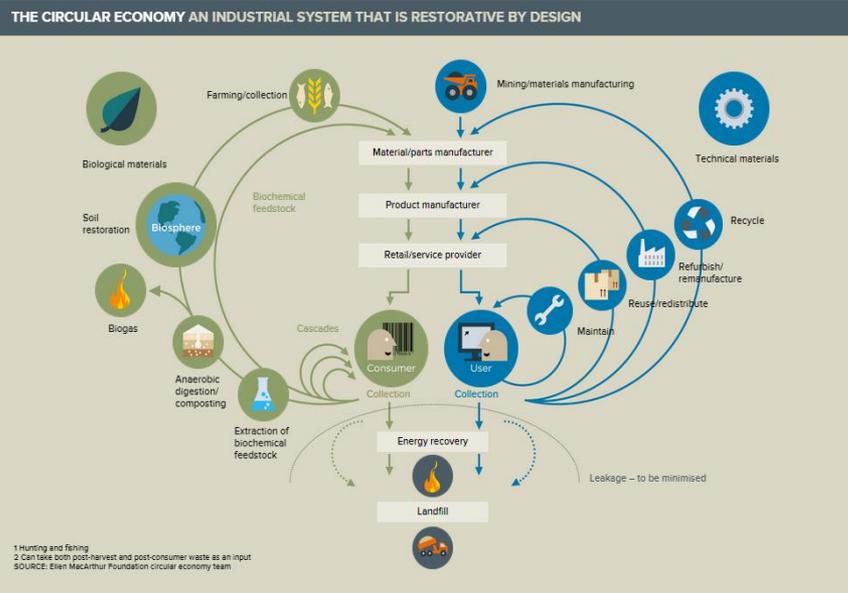


# WHAT IS CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

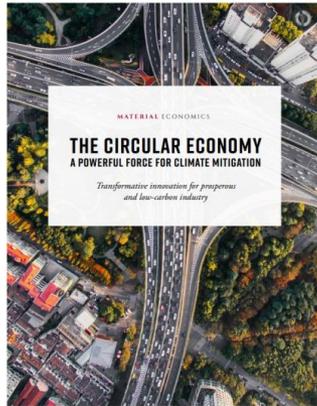
Multiple interpretation, but three core elements:

- Resources productivity
- Limiting Environmental Impacts
- Resilience

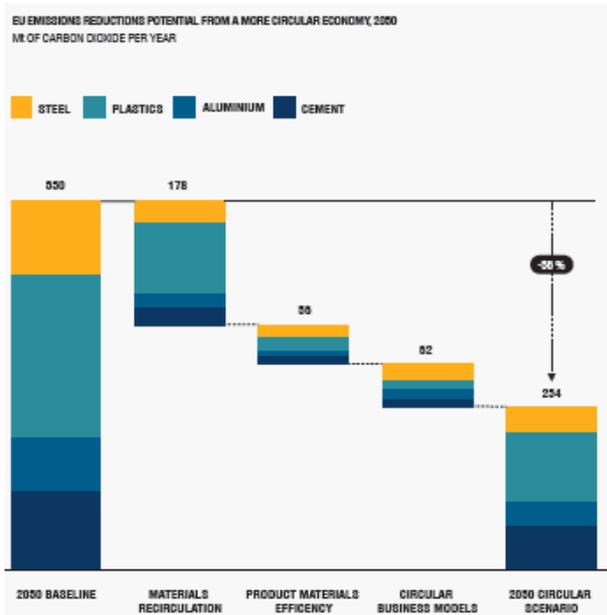
*A **circular economy** is a **regenerative system** in which resource input and waste, emission, and energy leakage are **minimised by slowing, closing, and narrowing material and energy loops**. This can be achieved through **long-lasting design, maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing, and recycling**. This is contrast to a linear economy which is a 'take, make, dispose' model of production. (Wikipedia)*



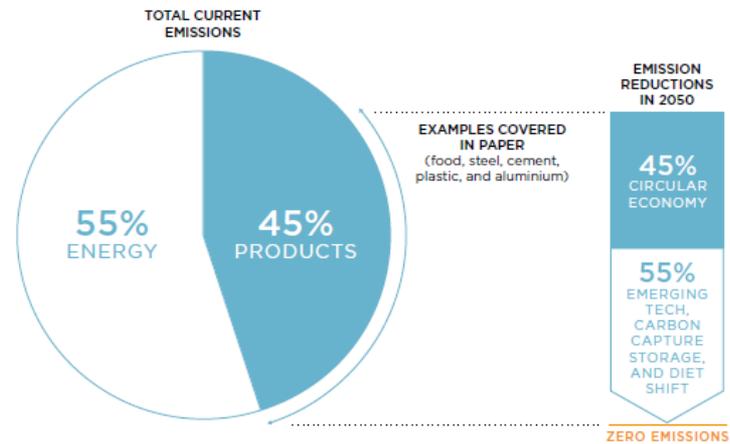
# MATERIAL FLOWS: WHY IT MATTERS

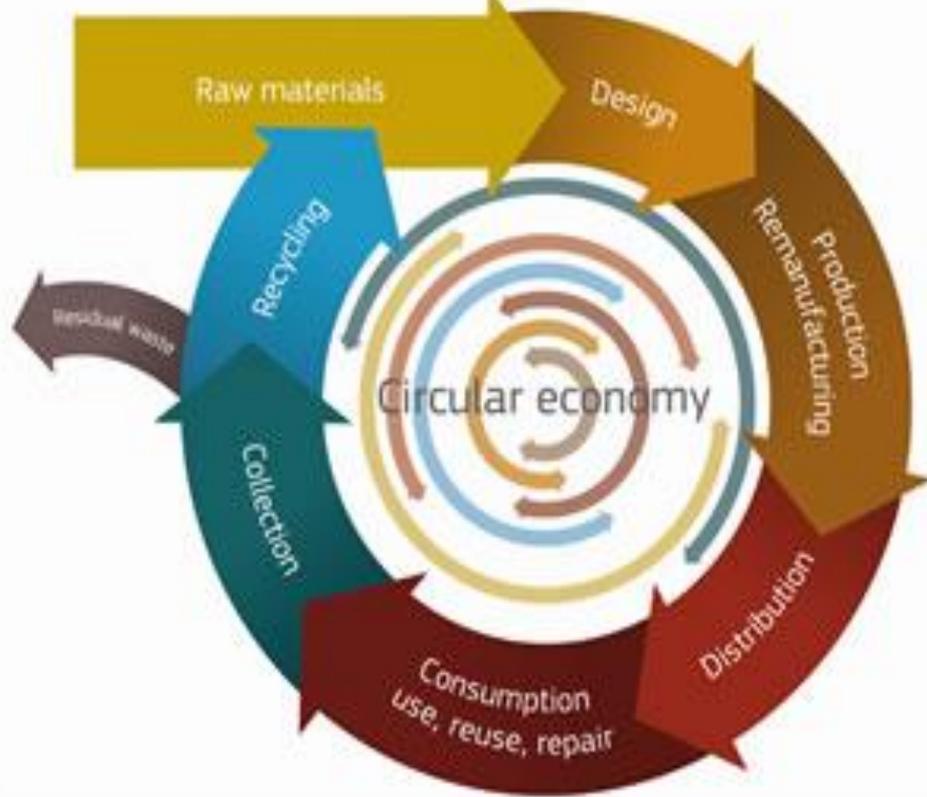


SITRA, European Commission, European Parliament, MAWA, and other partners.



## COMPLETING THE PICTURE: TACKLING THE OVERLOOKED EMISSIONS





Not only about recycling!

To fit the wider system, circular economy solutions must be filtered by those principles:

- 1. Slow**  
(long life of products)
- 2. Small**  
(no superfluous waste)
- 3. Local**  
(territorial hierarchy)
- 4. Clean**  
(no toxic substances)
- 5. Sustainable feedstocks**
- 6. Perpetual**  
(and regenerative)

# CEAP REACTIONS

[EU Commission](#)

[EEB reaction](#)

[ECN reaction](#)

[Rreuse reaction](#)

[Zero Waste reaction](#)

[FoEE reaction](#)

[ECOS reaction](#)

[IEEP reaction](#)

[Chatham House reaction](#)



# CE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

- Strongest ever formulations in intentions
- A structure in sections: prevailing product policy
- Triggering a transformative systemic change or improving BaU?

# STRONG INTENTIONS

Two iconic paragraphs:

To fulfil this ambition, the **EU needs to accelerate the transition towards a regenerative growth model that gives back to the planet more than it takes**, advance towards **keeping its resource consumption within planetary boundaries**, and therefore strive to **reduce its consumption footprint and double its circular material use rate in the coming decade**.

Europe will not achieve transformative change by acting alone. The EU will continue to **lead the way to a circular economy at the global level** and use its influence, expertise and financial resources to implement **the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals**. This plan aims also at ensuring that the circular economy works for people, regions and cities, fully contributes to climate neutrality and harnesses the potential of research, innovation and digitalisation. It foresees the further development of a sound monitoring framework contributing to measuring well-being beyond GDP.

# TRIGGERING A TRANSFORMATIVE SYSTEMIC CHANGE OR IMPROVING BaU?

## Systemic changes

- Sustainable products as the norm
- Right to repair
- Reducing carbon and env footprints
- Digital product passport
- Waste prevention targets
- *Material ownership BMs*
- Mention of a tax on plastics
- Mandatory GPP
- Substantiate green claims
- Comprehensive strategies on textiles and Sustainable Built Environment
- Global alliance on CE, defining SOS (safe operating space)
  
- **Several legislative initiatives**

## Business as usual

- No commitments on resources use reduction
- Strong focus on recycled materials, secondary raw materials market
- Tax on non-recycled plastic waste, not virgin plastic use
- ‘Encourage, encourage’
  
- **Post Covid policy** – strengthen the transition

# A STRUCTURE IN SECTIONS: PREVAILING PRODUCT POLICY

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# New Circular Economy Action Plan

## A new vision for Europe



### *35 actions along the entire life cycle of products, to:*

- Make **sustainable products** the norm in the EU
- **Empower** consumers and public buyers
- **Focus also on key product value chains:** electronics and ICT; batteries and vehicles; packaging; plastics; textiles; construction and buildings; food; water and nutrients
- Ensure **less waste**
- Make circularity work for **people, regions** and **cities**
- **Lead global efforts** on circular economy

# KEY PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS



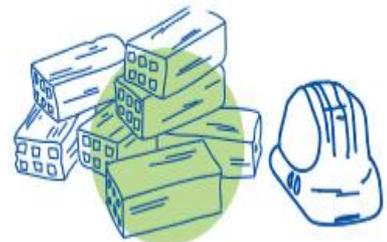
**Food, water & nutrients**



**Electronics and ICT**



**Batteries & vehicles**



**Construction & buildings**



**Packaging**



**Textiles**



**Plastics**

**+ Furniture?**

Source: EU Commission

# EMPOWERING CONSUMERS AND PUBLIC BUYERS

- ✓ Trustworthy and relevant **product information at the point of sale**, including on their **lifespan** and on the **availability of repair services, spare parts and repair manuals**
- ✓ Reinforced **consumer protection against green washing and premature obsolescence**
- ✓ **“Right to repair”**
- ✓ Legislative proposal to ensure companies substantiate their **environmental claims** using Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint methods



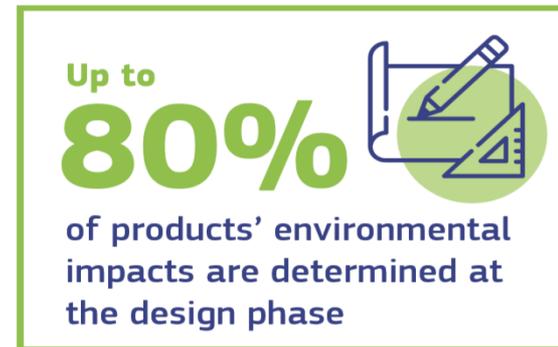
- ✓ Mandatory green criteria in public procurement in sectoral legislation
- ✓ Mandatory **reporting** on GPP

# DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

## Sustainable Product Policy Legislative Initiative

### What?

- Improve product **durability, reusability, upgradability and reparability** & address presence of **hazardous chemicals**
- Increase **recycled content**
- Restrict **single-use** and counter **premature obsolescence**
- Ban the **destruction of unsold durable goods**
- Incentivise **product-as-a-service**
- Mobilise **digitalisation**, introduce digital product passport



« **Sustainable products should be the norm, not the exception** »

# MAKING CIRCULARITY WORK FOR PEOPLE, PLANET AND PROFITS

« A joint agenda, a transition where no one is left behind »

**4 million jobs**

linked to the  
circular economy  
in the EU



- Addressing the social, regional and urban dimensions
- Increasing the synergies with climate policies
- Getting the economics right
- Tapping into research, innovation and digitalisation



« The social economy is a pioneer in job creation linked to the circular economy »

# LEADING EFFORTS AT GLOBAL LEVEL

The EU can only succeed if its efforts drive also the global transition to a circular economy



- Global agreement on plastics
- Global Circular Economy Alliance
- International agreement on the management of natural resources
- Circular Economy in free trade agreements
- Multilateral, bilateral and regional focus: Africa, Western Balkans
- Outreach activities – e.g. Circular Economy Missions



['Leading the way to a global circular economy: state of play and outlook'](#)

# A CALENDAR OF MEASURES

## ANNEX

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan\\_annex.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan_annex.pdf)

Key actions	Date
<b>A SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT POLICY FRAMEWORK</b>	
Legislative proposal for a <b>sustainable product policy initiative</b>	2021
Legislative proposal <b>empowering consumers in the green transition</b>	2020
Legislative and non-legislative measures establishing a new “ <b>right to repair</b> ”	2021
Legislative proposal on substantiating <b>green claims</b>	2020
<b>Mandatory Green Public Procurement (GPP) criteria and targets</b> in sectoral legislation and phasing-in <b>mandatory reporting on GPP</b>	as of 2021
Review of the <b>Industrial Emissions Directive</b> , including the integration of circular economy practices in upcoming Best Available Techniques reference documents	as of 2021
Launch of an <b>industry-led industrial symbiosis reporting and certification system</b>	2022
<b>KEY PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS</b>	
<b>Circular Electronics Initiative, common charger solution, and reward systems to return old devices</b>	2020/2021
Review of the Directive on the <b>restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment</b> and guidance to clarify its links with REACH and Ecodesign requirements	2021
Proposal for a new <b>regulatory framework for batteries</b>	2020
Review of the rules on <b>end-of-life vehicles</b>	2021

# Waste Prevention - CEAP

EU waste laws have driven major improvements in waste management since the 1970s, supported by EU funds. However, they need to be modernised on an ongoing basis to make them fit for the circular economy and the digital age. As explained in section 3, revision of EU **legislation on batteries, packaging, end-of-life vehicles, and hazardous substances in electronic equipment** will be proposed with a **view to preventing waste**, increasing recycled content, promoting safer and cleaner waste streams, and ensuring high-quality recycling.

In addition, the Commission will put forward **waste reduction targets** for specific streams as part of a broader set of measures on waste prevention in the context of a review of Directive 2008/98/EC. The Commission will also enhance the implementation of the recently adopted requirements for **extended producer responsibility schemes**, provide incentives and encourage sharing of information and good practices in waste recycling. **All this shall serve the objective to significantly reduce total waste generation and halve the amount of residual (non-recycled) municipal waste by 2030.**

(...) **in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and as part of the review of Directive 2008/98/EC** referred to in section 4.1, the Commission will propose a **target on food waste reduction**, as a key action under the forthcoming EU **Farm-to-Fork Strategy**, which will address comprehensively the food value chain.

The Commission will also consider specific measures to increase the sustainability of food distribution and consumption. Under the sustainable products initiative, the Commission will launch the analytical work to determine the scope of a legislative initiative on reuse to **substitute single-use packaging, tableware and cutlery by reusable products in food services.**

LESS WASTE, MORE VALUE	
Waste reduction targets for specific streams and other measures on waste prevention	2022
EU-wide harmonised model for separate collection of waste and labelling to facilitate separate collection	2022
Methodologies to track and minimise the presence of substances of concern in recycled materials and articles made thereof	2021
Harmonised information systems for the presence of substances of concern	2021
Scoping the development of further EU-wide end-of-waste and by-product criteria	2021
Revision of the rules on waste shipments	2021

# Less waste, more value



Annual waste generation in the EU amounts to 2.5 billion tonnes, or 5 tonnes per capita a year

- Working on **waste reduction targets**
- Improving the performance of **Extended Producer Responsibility schemes**
- Continue **modernising EU waste laws** (batteries, packaging, end-of-life vehicles, hazardous substances in electronic equipment )
- Propose to harmonise separate **waste collection systems**



In the past decade, millions of tonnes of European waste has been exported to non-EU countries

- Review of EU rules on waste shipments
- Enhancing the quality of secondary raw materials and their markets

## Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR): Feedback on the inception impact assessment



[Download File](#)

Categories: [Circular Economy](#), [Resource Efficiency](#), [Waste and Recycling](#)

Types: [Position](#)

Published: 8 April 2020

Size: 271.29 KB

The EEB and Zero Waste Europe welcome the inception impact assessment (IIA) of the [Waste Shipment Regulation \(WSR\)](#) stressing the intention to stop exporting waste outside the EU and revisit existing rules.

According to the IIA, "International trade in waste has increased considerably. In 2016, four times more waste were traded across international borders than in 1992 and this waste had a value of around 100 billion euro. In 2016, export of waste from the EU to third countries outside the EU amounted to around 40 million tonnes, around 20% of the global export of waste. At the same time, approximately 13 million tonnes of waste were imported into the EU."

<https://eeb.org/library/waste-shipment-regulation-wsr-feedback-on-the-inception-impact-assessment/>

<https://meta.eeb.org/2020/11/03/whatever-happened-to-europes-circular-economy/>

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⚡ TRENDING

The background of the article header is a photograph of a large landfill. In the foreground, there is a vast expanse of discarded waste, including plastic bottles, paper, and other debris. In the middle ground, a large, blue and white industrial machine, likely a waste sorting or processing unit, is visible. The sky is overcast and grey, with a few birds flying in the distance.

# WHATEVER HAPPENED TO EUROPE'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY AMBITION?

 MAURO ANASTASIO \* NOVEMBER 3, 2020 \* CIRCULAR ECONOMY \* WASTE

## Circular Economy: Member States delaying the inevitable targets



[Download File](#)

Categories: [Circular Economy](#), [Product Policy](#), [Resource Efficiency](#), [Waste and Recycling](#)

Types: [Report](#)

Published: 3 November 2020

Size: 3.45 MB

In an effort to boost the transition to a circular economy, the EU adopted several new anti-waste laws in May 2018. However, having missed the July deadline for the transposition into national law, many EU member states are yet to implement most of these laws.

In this report, we take stock of progress made so far to advance the circular economy across all 27 member states.

The report was written by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) together with lawyers at [ClientEarth](#) and [Ecoteca](#).



- *New targets:*
  - **Municipal waste recycling – 55% (2025), 60% (2030), 65% (2035)**
  - **Packaging waste recycling – 65% (2025), 70% (2030) + *material specific targets***
  - **Landfilling of municipal waste – max 10% in 2035**
- *Reinforced separate collection rules – including mandatory separate collection of biowaste*
- *Minimum general requirements on **Extended Producer Responsibility***
- *MS to ensure that **separately collected waste is not incinerated / landfilled** unless it delivers a better environmental outcome*

# Review clauses

End of 2020	Review essential requirements for packaging; Review of ELV Directive
End of 2022	Set EU waste oil recovery targets
End of 2023	Set EU food waste reduction targets
End of 2024	Introduce additional waste prevention measures, including EU waste reduction targets
	Set EU preparation for re-use and recycling targets for construction & demolition waste, textile, commercial, non-hazardous industrial waste, municipal bio-waste and other waste streams.
	Measures to regulate, including through restrictions, waste disposal operations
	Review packaging waste recycling targets
End of 2028	COM proposal to review 2035 MSW recycling target, including calculation rules
-	

# Transposition timeline

## EEB+ZWE timeline of the transposition

- lists all the milestones
- an overview of the obligations for MS
- examples of national legal formulations

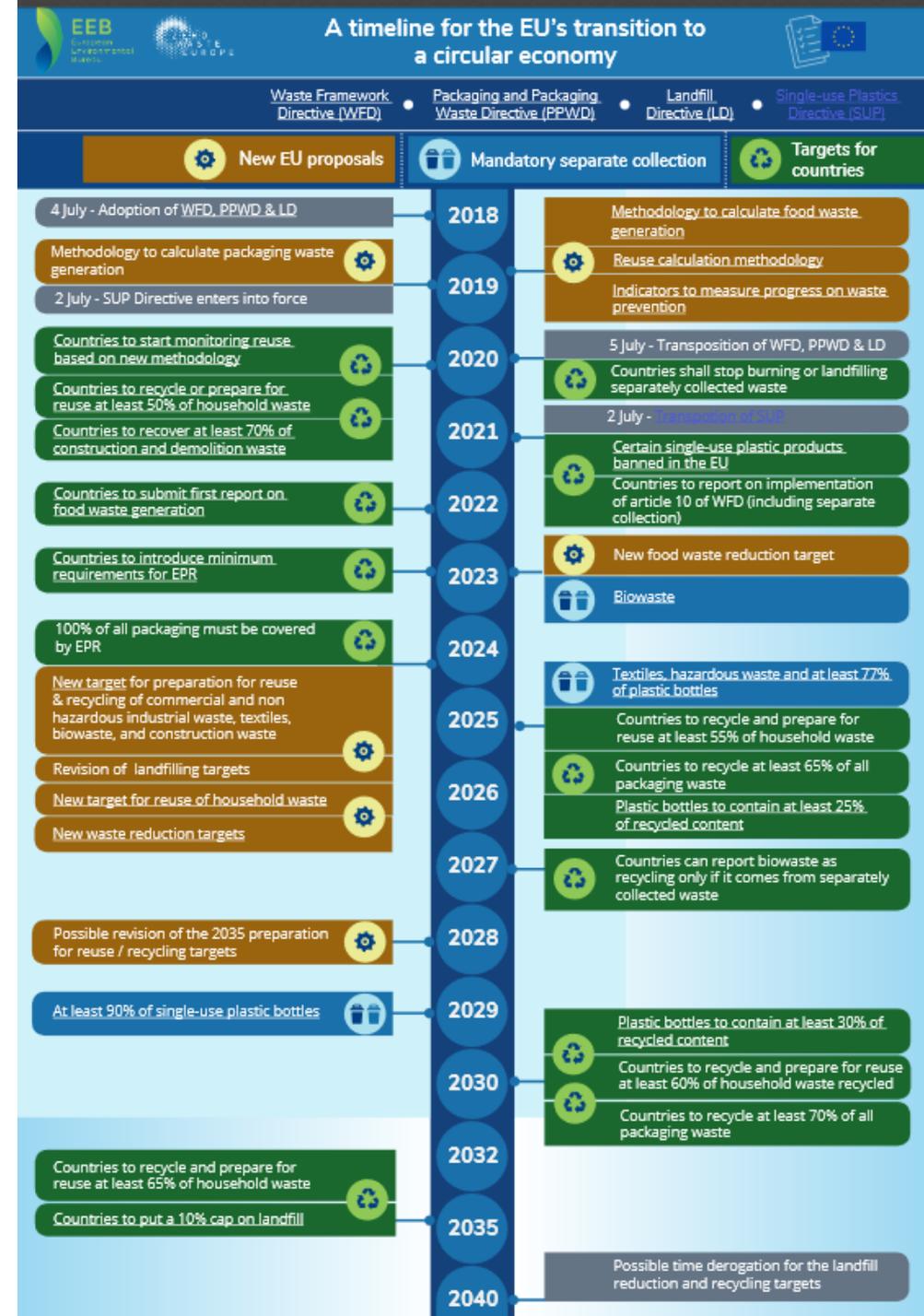
## Implementation is key

Development of strategies and plans

Commitment to specific instruments

Committing funding / making investments

Monitoring and Reporting measures



<https://eeb.org/library/10-policy-priorities-to-reduce-waste/>

## 10 policy priorities to reduce waste

**10 Priorities to transform EU Waste Policy**

Almost 90% of material resources used in the EU are lost after their first use. A lot more effort is needed to accelerate a systemic transition to a circular economy, to drastically reduce the EU's absolute natural resource use and greenhouse gas emissions, respecting the planetary boundaries and striving towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To achieve this, the **Prevent Waste coalition of European civil society organisations** advocate for the **improvement and enforcement of EU policies on waste prevention and product design**. Any new legislative proposals and strategies, and the implementation of the existing ones, need to adhere to the EU waste hierarchy (i.e. put prevention first. Reducing resource extraction, designing circular products and stimulating waste prevention all reduce GHG-emissions - contributing to the EU's decarbonisation objective).

The European Commission's next Circular Economy Action Plan alongside the overarching European Green Deal should consist of ambitious measures enabling waste prevention all along the value chain in all sectors, including food, construction and demolition, packaging, transport, electronics, batteries and textiles.

We call on the European institutions to:

- ESTABLISH AMBITIOUS AND REUSE TARGETS**  
A progressive 2030 target for waste prevention should be adopted, including targets expressed in kg/capita and measures.
- SET MANDATORY OF 50% BY 2030**  
All Member States should implement measures covering all stages of the food supply chain, from farm retail to consumer.
- DEFINE COMPREHENSIVE CIRCULAR DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PRODUCTS**  
These requirements should ensure durability, reparability and recyclability of products made of non-toxic materials from sustainable sources. Repair should become the norm, giving consumers a right to repair their products.
- ENSURE CLEAN, SAFE AND NON-TOXIC MATERIAL CYCLES**  
Zero-pollution and a non-toxic environment can only be achieved when substances of concern are prevented and phased out through stringent legislation, which is currently missing. These substances can only be avoided in both new and recycled products by ensuring that a public information system about substances present in materials, articles, products and waste is in place.

Categories: [Circular Economy](#), [Resource Efficiency](#), [Waste and Recycling](#)

Types: [Joint Publication](#), [Position](#)

Published: 14 November 2019

Size: 202.22 KB

As things stand, almost 90% of material resources used in the EU are lost after their first use. This means that more effort is needed to accelerate the transition to a circular economy, where waste is prevented and materials are recycled.

In this document, produced in cooperation with other Brussels-based NGOs, we highlight our 10 policy priorities to reduce waste in all sectors – including food, construction, packaging, transport, electronics, batteries and textiles.

The measures discussed in this document can help governments meet Europe's new recycling and waste prevention targets. Check out our [timeline for the implementation](#) of the new EU laws.

This document is also available in: [DE](#), [EE](#), [ES](#), [LV](#), [LT](#) and [RO](#)

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## **ESTABLISH AMBITIOUS AND BINDING WASTE PREVENTION AND REUSE TARGETS**

**1** A progressive 2030 roadmap<sup>7</sup> following the principles of the EU waste hierarchy should be adopted, including a binding overall waste reduction target and a maximum cap expressed in kg/capita/year of residual waste. This should be complemented by binding targets and measures on the reuse of waste and products<sup>8</sup>.

## **SET MANDATORY FOOD WASTE PREVENTION TARGET OF 50% BY 2030**

**2** All Member States should reach this target through effective measures covering all stages of the food supply chain, from harvesting to processing, from retail to consumer<sup>9</sup>.

## **DEFINE COMPREHENSIVE CIRCULAR DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PRODUCTS**

**3** These requirements should ensure durability, reusability, repairability and recyclability of products made of non-toxic materials from sustainable sources. Repair should become the norm, giving consumers a right to repair their products<sup>10</sup>.

## **ENSURE CLEAN, SAFE AND NON-TOXIC MATERIAL CYCLES**

**4** Zero-pollution<sup>11</sup> and a non-toxic environment<sup>12</sup> can only be achieved when substances of concern are prevented and phased out through stringent legislation, which is currently missing. These substances can only be avoided in both new and recycled products by ensuring that a public information system about substances present in materials, articles, products and waste is in place<sup>13</sup>.



## **ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC INCENTIVES FOR RESOURCE SAVING STRATEGIES**

5

National tax systems and financial incentives should promote reuse activities, e.g. by reduced VAT on repair activities and second-hand products and levies on single-use packaging, while 'Pay-As-You-Throw' stimulates households to produce less waste. At a higher level, the EU should stimulate public and private investments in circular activities high in the waste hierarchy and stop encouraging waste-to-energy.

## **PRIORITISE WASTE PREVENTION WITHIN EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) SCHEMES**

6

All EPR schemes should support waste prevention by financing and promoting reuse of waste and products and using eco-modulation of fees to discourage non-circular products. Additionally, we encourage the extension of EPR systems as policy tools for other product groups (beyond packaging and WEEE), provided that all stakeholders - social economy actors, recyclers, civil society, consumer organisations, local authorities - are involved in designing those systems.

## **STIMULATE REUSABLE PACKAGING**

7

The revision of the essential requirements for packaging under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive should lead to ambitious legislation with a strong focus on design for reuse, toxic-free materials and, after a long useful lifetime, recyclability. EU policies should support the implementation of reuse systems<sup>14</sup>, including refill systems and deposit return schemes<sup>15</sup> and this should be facilitated by quantitative targets for reuse of packaging by the end of 2022.

## **CONTROL & LIMIT GLOBAL SHIPMENT OF WASTE<sup>16</sup>**

8

Waste should not be shipped to non-EU countries with less stringent regulations and inadequate recycling infrastructure. Instead, Europe should reuse and recycle its own waste as close to the source as possible, creating local employment. Strict enforcement of the new amendments to the Basel Convention is crucial.

## **SET RIGHT LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHEMICAL RECYCLING**

9

Clear definitions and requirements are needed to ensure that chemical recycling does not undermine more circular approaches higher in the waste hierarchy or lead to adverse environmental impacts. The input should be limited to degraded and contaminated plastics, never plastics coming from separate collection, and the output limited to new plastics, not fuel<sup>17</sup>.

## **PHASE-OUT OF WASTE INCINERATION**

10

Europe must unlock the potential of waste prevention and circular economy activities by phasing out the existing capacity of waste incinerators<sup>18</sup> and putting a stop to the development of any new facilities across the EU. This is of utmost importance for improving separate collection efforts and ensuring the decarbonisation of the EU energy grid.

For more information visit [bit.ly/10prioritiesEUwastepolicy](https://bit.ly/10prioritiesEUwastepolicy)



**1.  
Source  
Separation**

**2.  
Door to Door  
Collection**

**3.  
Composting**

**4.  
Recycling**

**5. Reuse,  
Repair &  
Deconstruction**

**6.  
Economic  
Incentives**

**7. Waste  
Reduction  
Initiatives**

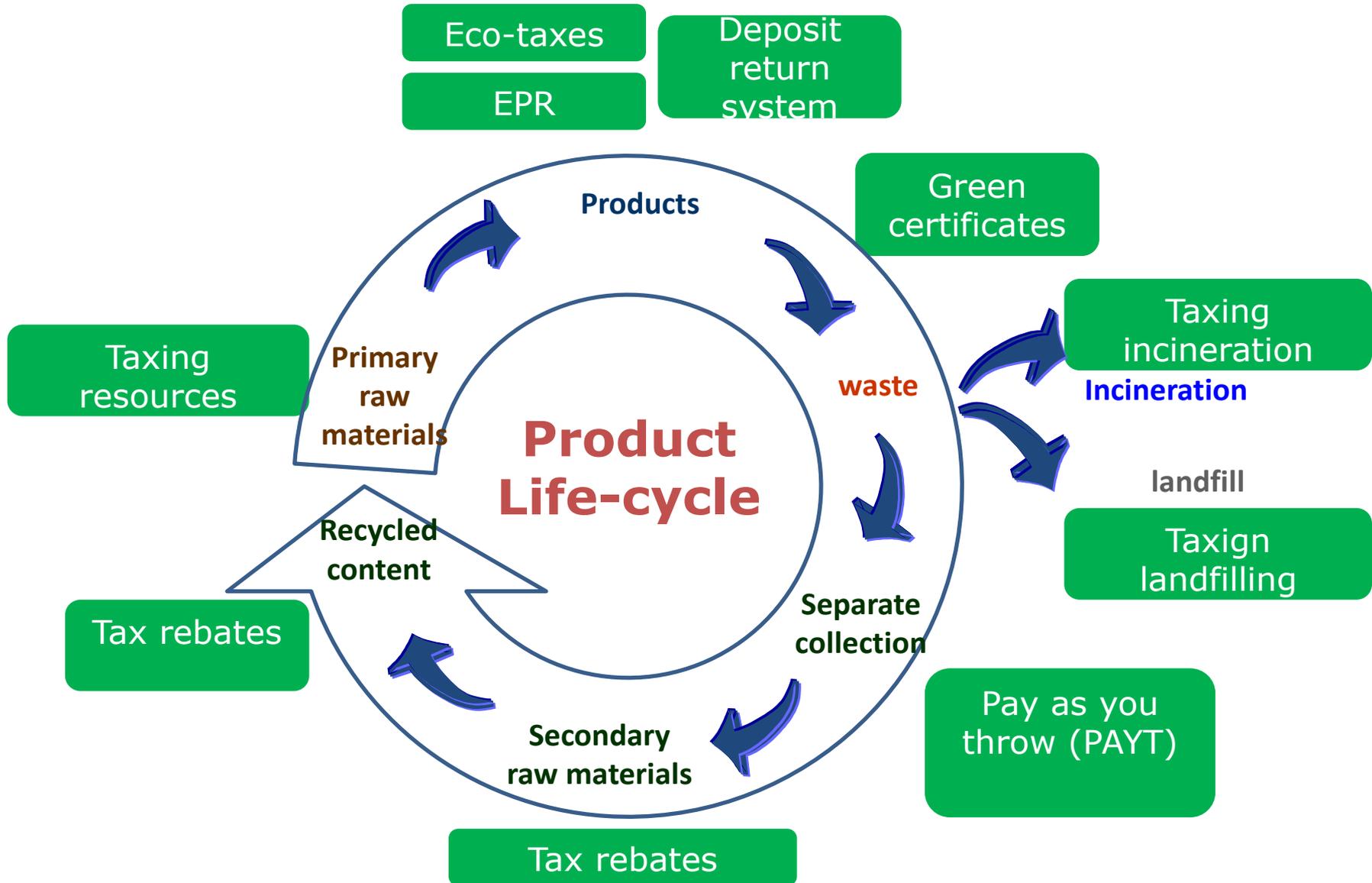
**8. Residual  
Separation &  
Research  
Center**

**9. Better  
Industrial  
Design**

**10. Interim Landfill**

**2020**

# Zero Waste – economic instruments



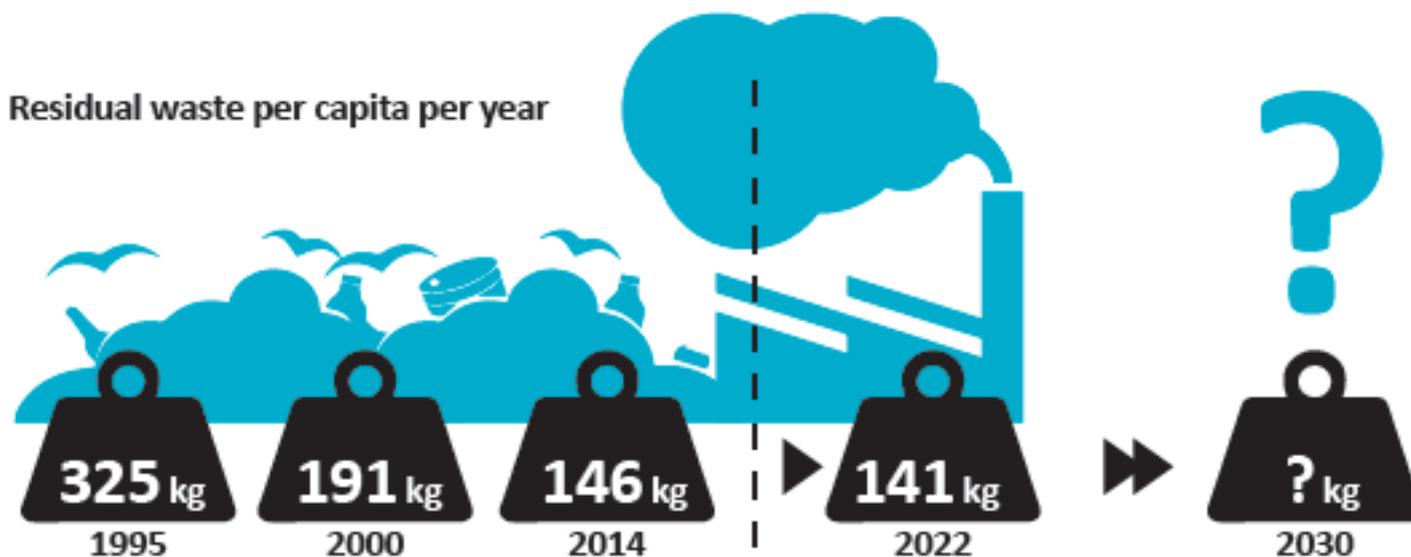


## The best way to limit landfill and incineration is to set a cap on residual waste amounts

The **Flemish Government** has successfully promoted reuse and recycling through restrictions on landfilling and incineration by increasing tariffs and levies for them. At the same time, Flanders introduced bans for landfilling and incineration of separated waste streams and unsorted waste [10]. These restrictions led to the highest recycling and composting rates in Europe, and to ever-decreasing amounts of residual waste [11]. The region has achieved

its legal goal of maximum of 150kg of residual waste per capita per year, which is the strictest in Europe. The next legal target is 141kg by 2022 [12]. These measures open up possibilities to further reduce this amount and therefore reduce the disposal of waste in landfills and incinerators.

Residual waste per capita per year



# EU Waste Directives explained + examples of good transposition

<https://eeb.org/work-areas/resource-efficiency/waste-recycling/>



## EXPLAINED: EUROPE'S NEW LAWS FOR THE SEPARATE COLLECTION OF WASTE

In this brief, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) provides an overview of the revised laws set out by the EU to improve the way household waste is sorted and collected for recycling. The paper also outlines good practice examples from EU Member States where the laws have already been successfully implemented.

### CONTEXT

In 2018, EU Member States and Institutions agreed on a comprehensive set of laws aimed at preventing household waste and boosting recycling. The new laws are part of four EU Directives, namely the *Waste Framework Directive (WFD)*, the *Landfill Directive (LD)*, the *Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD)* and the *Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUP)*. All Member States are expected to transpose the agreed EU laws into national legislation by **July 2020**.

Among the most transformative changes is an obligation to sort and separately collect different materials, such as textiles, hazardous material and organic waste. This is in addition to the existing laws mandating the separate collection of plastics, glass, paper, metals, waste oils.

The separate collection of waste is a precondition for high-quality recycling and preparation for reuse. It also prevents hazardous substances from contaminating other waste streams as well as communities and the environment.

The smooth and timely transposition of the new measures is essential to ensure Member States and municipalities complete the transition to a Circular Economy, where waste is prevented and materials recycled.

In this brief, the EEB outlines several examples of good legal solutions they can take inspiration from.



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## EXPLAINED: EUROPE'S NEW WASTE PREVENTION AND REUSE LAWS

### EXAMPLES OF WASTE PREVENTION POLICIES AND OTHER MEASURES TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR THE REDUCTION OF WASTE GENERATION

Revised EU waste directives that came into effect in July 2018 included a set of measures to boost recycling and cut waste. All EU Member States (MS) must put in place new measures by **July 2020** to help them achieve these targets.

By **July 2021**, governments will also have to introduce legal measures addressing single-use plastic items, as part of the *Single-Use Plastics Directive*.

This legal briefing provides an overview of the most important new EU waste obligations from the *Waste Framework Directive (WFD)*, the *Landfill Directive (LD)*, the *Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD)* and the *Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUP)* and good examples of how countries have translated these into national law. The briefing can be used to inspire the ongoing development of national transposition of revised waste directives in order to make sure it is ambitious and in line with sound environmental waste management.

The best way to deal with waste is to prevent it from being created (see [10 policy measures to reduce waste](#) (EEB 2018)).

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## EXPLAINED: ANNEX IVa OF THE EU WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

### EXAMPLES OF ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS AND OTHER MEASURES TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE WASTE HIERARCHY

In 2018, EU Member States (MS) and Institutions agreed on a comprehensive set of laws aimed at preventing household waste and boosting recycling. The new laws are part of four EU Directives: the *Waste Framework Directive (WFD)*, the *Landfill Directive (LD)*, the *Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD)* and the *Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUP)*. All MS are expected to reflect the agreed EU laws in their national legislation by **July 2020**.

*Article 6 (3) WFD* requires MS to use economic instruments in order to provide incentives for the effective application of the *waste hierarchy*. These instruments are primarily to be set up and used by MS, not at the EU level. These economic instruments are used to varying degrees for waste management in some MS, but they are not used systematically or to their full potential everywhere.

*Annex IVa of the WFD* lists examples of the advanced MS economic instruments, as well as other measures, that can be used to further implement the waste hierarchy and make reuse and recycling more economically attractive. This document provides case studies from different MS to show how these examples have been put into practice. The examples are listed in the same order as the Annex.

# Explained: Economic incentives to reduce waste



Categories: [Circular Economy](#), [Fact Sheets](#), [Resource Efficiency](#), [Waste and Recycling](#)

Types: [Briefing](#), [Position](#), [Report](#)

Published: 5 May 2020

Size: 1.00 MB

In 2018, EU member states and institutions agreed on a comprehensive set of laws aimed at preventing household waste and boosting recycling. In [Annex IVa of the agreed Waste Framework Directive](#), the EU executive sets out recommendations regarding the introduction of economic instruments such as landfill and incineration taxes, deposit-return-schemes, fees and more.

In this brief, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) provides an overview of existing economic instruments and other measures that can be used to help governments reduce waste and incentivise reuse and recycling in line with the waste hierarchy.

This document is also available in [HR](#), [PL](#) and [HU](#)

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**EXPLAINED:**

## EUROPE'S NEW WASTE PREVENTION AND REUSE LAWS

EXAMPLES OF WASTE PREVENTION POLICIES AND  
OTHER MEASURES TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR  
THE REDUCTION OF WASTE GENERATION



## Belgium, Flanders, sets a legal goal for the maximum level of residual waste per capita per year

Flanders' [Implementation waste plan 2016–2022](#) obliges municipalities to reduce the total quantity of residual waste from households, companies and organisations by 2022. The targets are tailored to the specific profiles of the municipalities, e.g. coastal municipalities are assigned a less stringent target (258 kg per inhabitant) since they produce more residual waste due to tourism than rural municipalities (116 kg per inhabitant) per household per year. The targets are indicative until an evaluation is carried out. If measures taken by municipalities to reduce the total quantity of residual waste are positively evaluated, then they will become binding. If municipalities don't reach their targets, the Flanders Waste Agency will develop instruments to incentivise municipalities to achieve them.



## France introduces advanced waste prevention measures

[Article 77 of the law related to anti-waste and the circular economy \(No 2020-105\)](#) states:

- **free distribution of plastic bottles containing drinks is forbidden** from 2021
- **establishments open to the public are required to be equipped with at least one accessible drinking water fountain** from 2022
- any retail business selling unprocessed **fresh fruit and vegetables is required to exhibit them without plastic packaging if sold in batches below 1.5 kg** from 2022
- **catering establishments** are required **to serve meals** and drinks consumed on the premises in reusable cups (including their means of closure and lids), **reusable plates and containers as well as with reusable cutlery** from 2023.





## UK, Wales, prevents construction and demolition waste as well as industrial waste

The [Welsh waste prevention programme](#) has set a target for reduction of construction and demolition waste at 1.4% annually up until 2050 for waste treated off-site.

Wales has also set a reduction of industrial waste target of 1.4% annually until 2050.



## Austria introduces pre-demolition audit and selective demolition requirements for buildings

Construction components and materials can be diverted from waste if dismantled properly.

Austria has introduced [the Recycled Construction Materials Regulation](#). The regulation sets an obligation to carry out a pre-demolition audit for potentially reusable or hazardous construction components and selective demolition requirements. This prevents overall generation of waste and reduces hazardous waste, thus enabling reuse of construction and demolition materials. If there is a demand for reusable construction parts/materials, they have to be dismantled in a way that enables reuse, e.g. bricks, stoneware, roof tiles, doors, windows, sanitary objects, radiators and wooden parquets, etc.

The regulation also prescribes an audit for hazardous substances that has to be carried out before any demolition work producing above 750 tonnes of waste and if the building's gross volume is larger than 3,500 m<sup>3</sup>.

# RELEVANT INITIATIVES

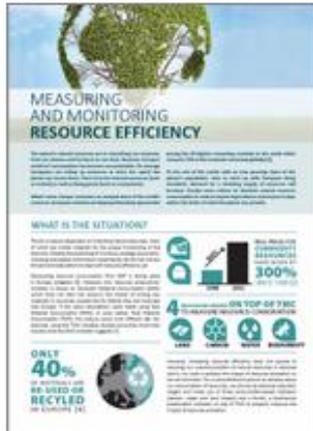
## Dutch CE Strategy

# A Circular Economy in the Netherlands by 2050

The Government-wide programme for a Circular Economy is aimed at developing a circular economy in the Netherlands by 2050. The ambition of the Cabinet is to realise, together with a variety of stakeholders, an (interim) objective of a 50% reduction in the use of primary raw materials (minerals, fossil and metals) by 2030. With this objective for the use of raw materials, the Netherlands sets its ambitions at a level adopted in comparable countries.<sup>1</sup>

Through the Government-wide programme, the Cabinet is implementing the Çegerek/Dijkstra motion that requested the Cabinet to come up with an overarching programme for the circular economy.<sup>2</sup> We are meeting this request, as well as various other motions and promises (see Appendix 1), with this programme. It is also our response to the recently adopted advisory report of the Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER)<sup>3</sup> and the advisory report by the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure (Rli).<sup>4</sup>

## 8 Factsheets on how the EU can get the circular economy right



Measuring and monitoring resource efficiency



Hazardous substances



Why design matters



Products that last



Economic instruments for a circular economy



Incineration and landfill



Boosting recycling through ambition and standardisation



Waste prevention

<https://meta.eeb.org/>

## META #92 Winter 2020: From the ashes of a pandemic to an ever greener deal



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Types: [META](#)

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Size: 10.45 MB

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META magazine is the EEB's regular printed publication, bringing together environmental news from all over Europe.

The European Green Deal has so far weathered the coronavirus storm. But can it help the EU shift its focus from economic growth to human wellbeing within planetary limits?





## [6 principles of Circular Economy](#) - video



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MORE



Figure E- 2: Indicative Climate Change Impacts of Key Waste Management Activities (excl. CO<sub>2</sub> from biogenic sources)

