



# **LOOP – Ports Final Conference**

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## **Circular Economy Action Plan**

For a cleaner and  
more competitive  
Europe

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# A new vision for Europe



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

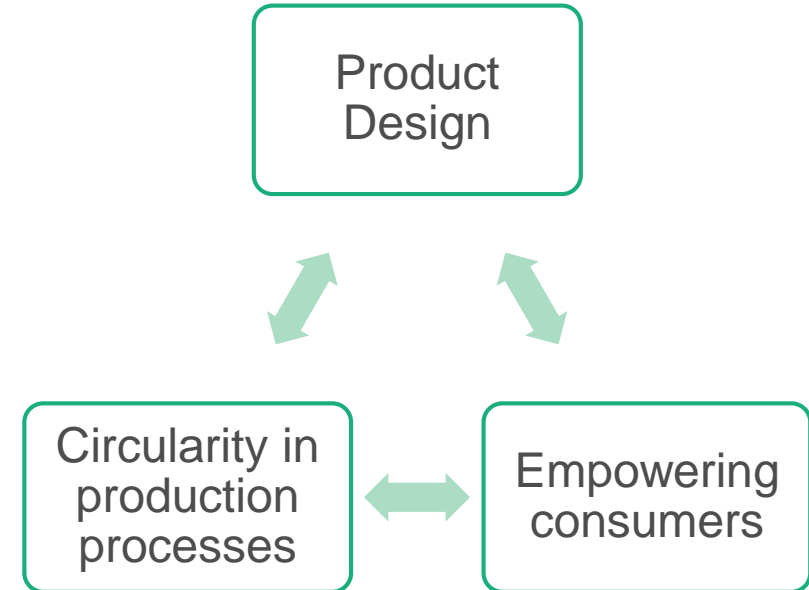
- Make sustainable products the norm in the EU
- Empower consumers and public buyers
- Focus on key product value chains
- Ensure less waste, more value
- Make circularity work for people, regions and cities
- Lead global efforts on circular economy

# Towards a Sustainable Product Policy Framework

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



## Our response



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

# Empowering consumers and public buyers

- Revision of the **consumer law**: consumers to receive trustworthy and relevant information on products at the point of sale
- Establishing a new “**Right to repair**”
- Legislative proposal to ensure companies substantiate their **environmental claims** using Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint methods
- Include more systematically durability, recyclability and recycled content in EU Ecolabel criteria



- Proposal for **mandatory Green Public Procurement (GPP)** criteria and targets in sectoral legislation
- Phasing-in **mandatory reporting** on GPP



# Key product value chains



**Food, water & nutrients**



**Electronics and ICT**



**Batteries & vehicles**



**Construction & buildings**



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**Textiles**



**Plastics**



**Packaging**

# Less waste, more value



- *Preventing waste from being created in the first place is key*
- *Once waste has been created, it needs to be transformed into high-quality resources*

- **Specific waste reduction targets** for more complex streams
- Enhance the implementation of the requirements for **Extended producer responsibility schemes**
- Continue **modernising EU waste laws** (e.g. batteries, packaging, end-of-life vehicles, hazardous substances in electronic equipment )
- Propose to harmonise separate **waste collection systems**
- Review rules on **waste shipments** facilitating recycling or re-use within the EU; with also the aim to restrict exports of waste that cause negative environmental & health impacts

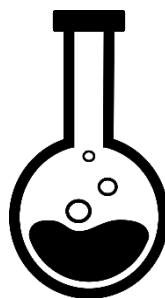


# Less waste, more value



- Enhancing circularity in a toxic-free environment
- Working to create a well-functioning EU market for secondary raw materials

- Methodologies to track and minimise the presence of substances of concern in recycled materials and articles made thereof
- The **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability** will further address the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation
- Assess the scope to develop further EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams



# 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 CE in EU Taxonomy Regulation

EU Ecolabel criteria for financial products

CE solutions in State Aid, business strategies, financial instruments and reporting

## Research, innovation and digitalization



European Regional Development Fund/LIFE /HorizonEurope



# Leading efforts at global level

*Promote CE at bilateral, regional and multilateral level, including through development & international cooperation programmes:*

*What to expect in 2021*



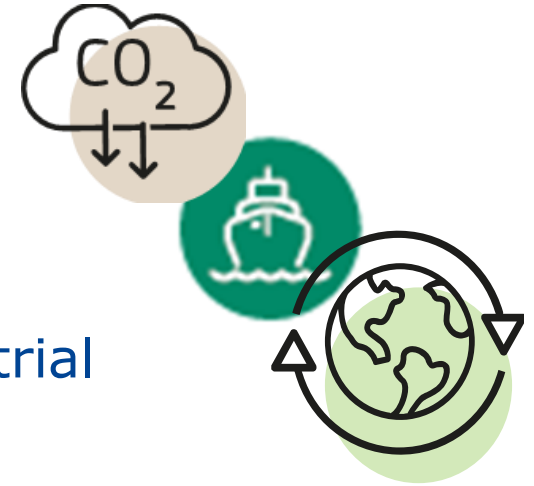
- Kick-start negotiations on global agreement on plastics
- Global Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency Alliance
- CE in free trade agreements
- Outreach activities – e.g. Circular Economy Missions



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

# Why ports should become circular

- Ports already handle large volumes of material and there is high potential for industrial symbiosis and innovation
- Ports transitioning to a circular economy can attract new industrial and logistic activities
- Circular principles in port activities can reduce negative environmental impacts on surrounding urban areas while increasing economic benefits
- Circularity can build resilience by protecting port businesses and services from market fluctuations and geopolitical risks



# Sustainable & Smart Mobility Strategy

*Strategy to decarbonise, digitalise and build a resilient transport system in Europe*



## Milestones for maritime transport by 2030:

- **Zero-emission ocean-going vessels** will become market-ready
- Transport by inland waterways and short sea shipping will **increase by 25%**

The Commission will propose **measures to make ports clean,**

- by incentivising renewable fuel use & feeding stationed vessels with renewable power
- by supporting the development and use of new, cleaner and quieter vessels
- by greening port services and operations
- By optimizing port calls
- through a wider use of smart traffic management.



# A specific call to action – plastic pellets

- Microplastics are widespread in the environment, and ports are hotspots.
- Evidence shows pellets are the **second largest microplastic contributors at EU level** after tyres!
- Stakeholders agree that any future reduction measure should apply to the **entire supply chain**
- During 2019, 100% of producers became signatories of Operation Clean Sweep, while three more European ports handling plastic pellets (Tarragona, Cartagena and Felixstowe) joined the programme. The Port of Antwerp signed up to OCS in 2017.
- There is a need for more uptake and effective implementation among converters and logistics.
- What is your situation? What are your plans?

# Stakeholder engagement

#CEstakeholderEU

## European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

A joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee

- **Advancing the circular economy concept on the ground**
- **Strengthening cooperation among stakeholders' networks**

*representatives of networks of businesses, civil society and local, regional and national public authorities*



**Submit your own good practices, knowledge, strategies and voluntary commitments!**

Link to website: <http://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/>



# Thank you

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