



# Circular Economy Action Plan

For a cleaner and  
more competitive  
Europe

Guillemette Vachey  
Policy officer  
Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and  
Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)  
European Commission



# Need for action



- 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



- About **50%** of total greenhouse gas emissions come from resource extraction and processing

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



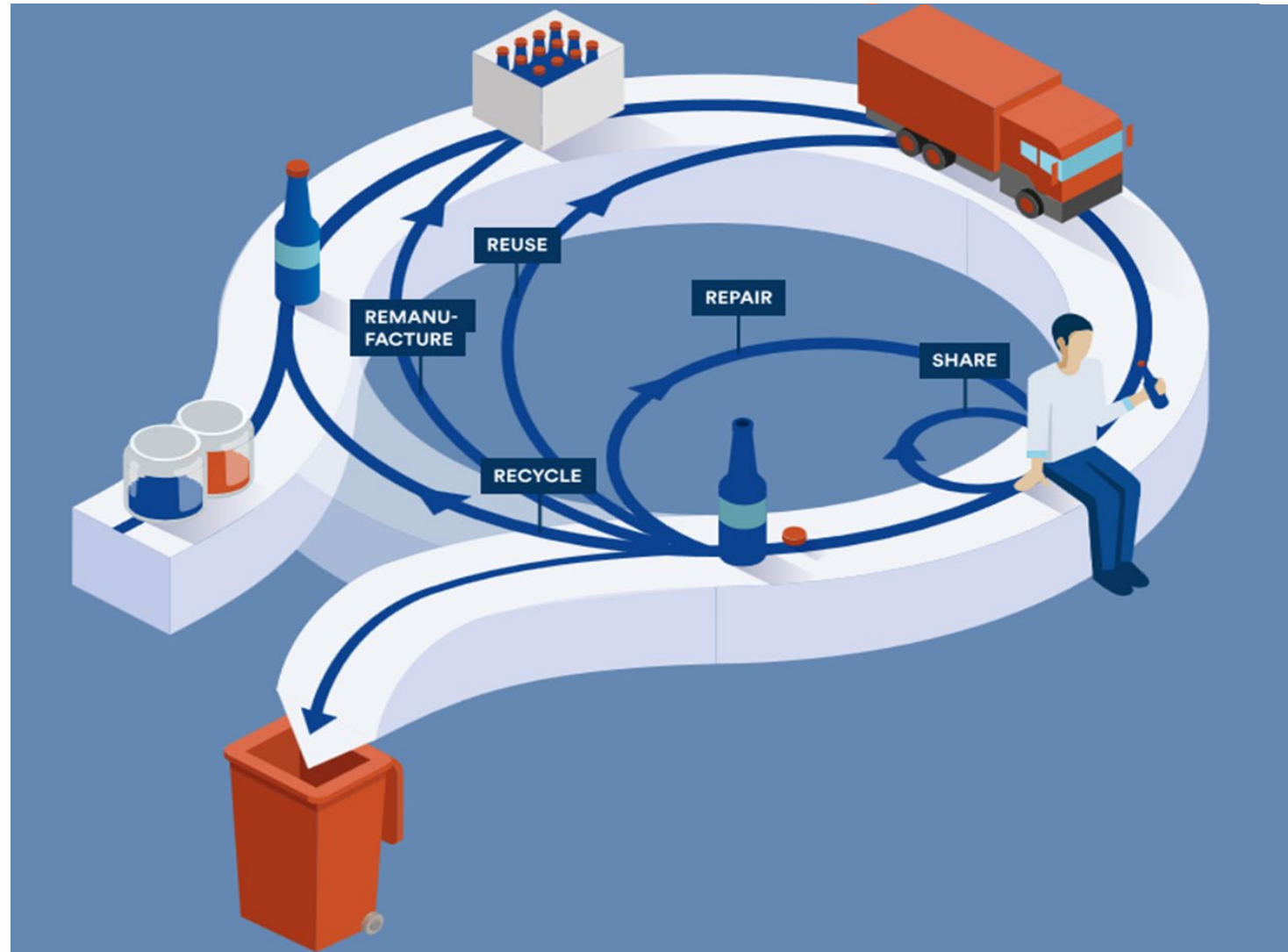
*There is only one planet Earth, yet by 2050, the world will be consuming as if there were three*



European  
Commission



# *Our vision*



# *Our answer*

A new industrial policy based on the circular economy

**A new Industrial Policy  
and  
A new Circular Economy Action Plan**

**adopted on 11 March 2020**  
to help modernising the EU's economy



Circular Economy Action Plan:

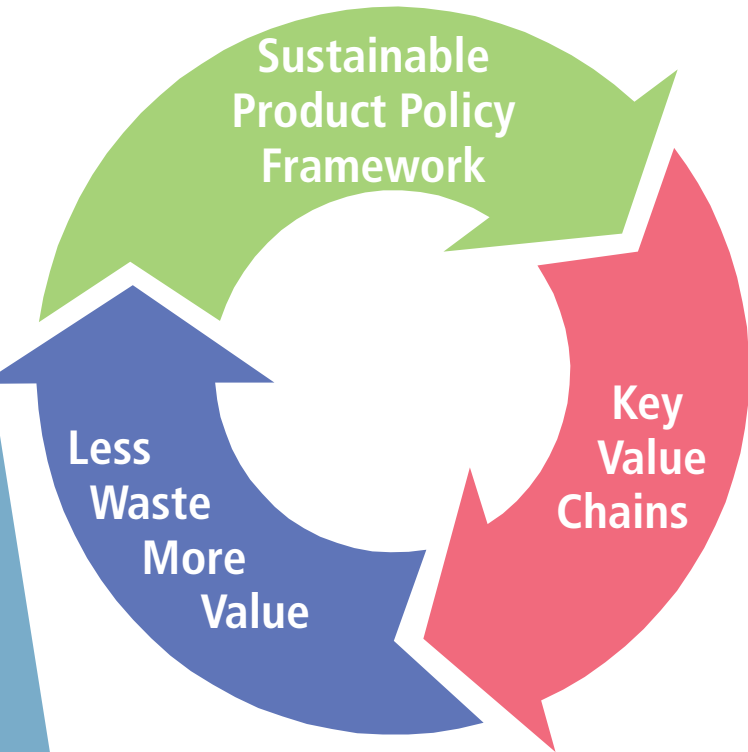
[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)

Industry Strategy package :

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_416](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_416)

The SME Strategy: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-sme-strategy-march-2020\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-sme-strategy-march-2020_en.pdf)

# Changing the way Europe consumes and produces



35 actions

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

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

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



Electronics and ICT



Batteries and vehicles



Packaging



Plastics



Textiles



Construction and buildings



Food, water and nutrients

## *An Advanced Phase of Implementation*

- New regulatory framework on batteries proposed in December 2020
- Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency launched in February 2021
- Proposal to review EU rules on concentration limits of persistent organic pollutants in waste adopted in October 2021
- Proposal for a revision of the EU Waste Shipment Regulation adopted in November 2021
- Legally binding global agreement to combat plastic pollution agreed at UNEA5.2 in March 2022
- **Milestone: Circular Economy Package adopted in March 2022**
- Revised Industrial Emissions Directive in April 2022

# Circular Economy package March 2022

Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable  
Products  
Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles

Updated EU consumer rules to empower consumers  
for the green transition

Revision of Construction Products Regulation



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




European  
Commission



# *Making sustainable products the norm in the EU*



Up to  
**80%**



of products' environmental  
impacts are determined at  
the design phase

## Proposal for a new Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products

→ establishing a wide framework to set ecodesign requirements beyond energy-related products

# EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles

## - Need for action



European consumption of textiles has the **fourth highest impact** on the environment and climate change, after food, housing and mobility.



1% of material used to produce clothing is recycled into new clothing (globally)



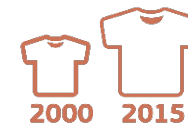
About 5.8 million tonnes of textiles are discarded every year, equivalent to 11.3 kg per person (EU)



Almost 9/10 Europeans (88%) think that clothing should be made to last longer

### Opportunities:

- Increase the EU textiles ecosystem's resilience
- Boost its attractiveness, creative and innovative potential
- Tap into new markets for sustainable textiles
- An average of 20 to 35 jobs are created for every 1.000 tonnes of textiles collected for re-use, such as selling them second-hand



Textiles production doubled between 2000 and 2015 (globally)

# Key actions

1. New design requirements for textiles under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation
2. Stopping the destruction of unsold or returned textiles
3. Action to address the unintentional release of microplastics from synthetic textiles
4. Tackle greenwashing
5. Propose mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility



# Upcoming initiatives



- Review of requirements on **packaging and packaging waste** in the EU (2022)
- New policy framework on bio-based, biodegradable and compostable **plastics** (2022)
- **Microplastics** (2023)





# Towards a global circular economy



*Leading efforts at global level to:*

Keep resource use within planetary boundaries

Decouple global economic growth from resource use

Promote jobs creation within and outside the EU

*An agenda to promote CE at bilateral, regional and multilateral level, including through development & international cooperation programmes*

Kick-start negotiations for a Global agreement on plastics

*At UNEA 5.2, March 2022, resolution adopted to fight pollution by forging an internationally binding agreement by 2024*

Global Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Alliance

*Launched 02/2021  
UNEA 5.1*



CE in free trade agreements

Outreach activities - i.a. Circular Economy Missions

Initiate discussions for a global agreement on natural resource management + 'Safe operating space' for natural resource use

Ongoing



'Leading the way to a global circular economy: state of play and outlook'



European Commission

# Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. Fotolia.com; Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. iStock.com



# The route so far

 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
- “Fit for 55” package to better integrate circular economy’s contribution to the pathway towards climate-neutrality



- Chemical Strategy for Sustainability to ensure chemicals are safe and



- The New European Bauhaus initiative to integrate circularity concepts into an architecture able to shape sustainable ways of living
- The new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 contributes to achieving the EU’s biodiversity and GHG reduction objectives

**Circular  
Economy in  
the context of  
the European  
Green Deal**

# Focus on Batteries

In December 2020, the Commission proposed a new regulatory framework on batteries, to make batteries sustainable for a circular and climate neutral economy.

It foresees the following measures (among others):

- Increase the share of **rechargeable** batteries on the market
- Targets on the content of recycled materials and collection, treatment and recycling of batteries at the end-of-life
- Increase **removability** and **replaceability** of batteries
- EPR measures: **producer take-back** and **recycling schemes**
- Establish a **battery dataspace & battery passport** for exchange of information on batteries



First measure of  
the Action Plan  
adopted





# *Revision of Waste Shipment Directive*

In November 2021, the Commission proposed to revise the Waste Shipment Directive, to tackle 3 observable challenges:

1. **Lengthy procedures/ non-harmonised approaches** that infringe recycling in EU internal market
2. **Lack of control and inspection of exported waste** that lead to environmental and public health issues
3. **Illegal shipment**

In this context, the revision foresees the introduction of the following measures (among others):

- **Modernise, digitalise and simplify** intra-EU waste shipments
- **Limit extra-EU waste shipment to countries that guarantee environmentally sound operations**; introduce monitoring procedures, **third party audit schemes**
- **Initiate investigative procedures** for waste trafficking in the EU

# CEAP on empowering consumers and public buyers

- ▶ Revision of the **consumer law**: consumers to receive trustworthy and relevant information on products at the point of sale - *proposals adopted 30/03*
- ▶ Establishing a new “**Right to repair**”
- ▶ Legislative proposal to ensure companies substantiate their **green 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

# Plastics

Upcoming actions on plastics include:

- ▶ Restriction of **intentionally added microplastics**
- ▶ Development of labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures on **unintentional release of microplastics** **Policy framework** on sourcing, labelling and use of **bio-based** plastics and use of **biodegradable** or compostable plastics
- ▶ Ensure the implementation of the **Directive on Single Use Plastics & Fishing Gears**



Consumption of  
plastics is  
expected to  
double in the  
coming 20 years



# Proposal for a Directive on empowering consumers for the green transition



Aims to ensure consumers get adequate information on products when purchasing them  
→ consumers will take informed and environment friendly choices when buying their products

→ It amends  
the *Unfair  
Commercial  
Practices  
Directive* and  
the *Consumer  
Rights Directive*

- Consumers will have a right to know how long a product is designed to last for and how, if at all, it can be repaired
- The rules will strengthen consumer protection against untrustworthy or false environmental claims, banning 'greenwashing' and practices misleading consumers about the durability of a product



# Revised Construction Products Regulation



- Aims to create a harmonised framework to assess and communicate the environmental and climate performance of construction products.
- New product requirements will ensure that the design and manufacture of construction products is based on state of the art to make these more durable, repairable, recyclable, easier to re-manufacture.



€ 275 billion of additional investments annually needed for buildings renovation to achieve the EU's 55% climate target by 2030

# 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/>



European  
Commission

# *Learn more & Keep in touch*



[Circular economy action plan \(europea.eu\)](https://europea.eu)



[@EU\\_ENV](https://twitter.com/EU_ENV)



[@EUEnvironment](https://www.facebook.com/EUEnvironment)



[EU Environment and Climate](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eu-environment-and-climate)



[ourplanet\\_eu](https://www.instagram.com/ourplanet_eu)



European  
Commission