

CONAMA 2020

Congreso Nacional Del Medio Ambiente

ST-42

Futuro y presente del plástico

*The Circular Plastics Alliance
Towards a circular economy
for plastics in Europe*

01.06.2021

Adopted by the European Commission in 2015 | COM(2015) 614 final
Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy



PLASTICS were identified as a key priority and the European Commission committed itself to *“prepare a strategy addressing the challenges posed by plastics throughout the value chain and taking into account their entire life-cycle”*.



EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

**Sets out a clear vision with quantified objectives at EU level
(e.g., by 2030 all plastic packaging placed on the EU market is reusable or recyclable)**

Directive on Single-Use Plastics (SUP)

**Tackling the 10 single-use plastic items most commonly
found on Europe's beaches, and promoting sustainable alternatives**

Adopted by the European Commission in January 2018



First European Union Strategy on Plastics Materials

Aims to transform the way plastic products are designed, produced, used and recycled in the European Union

Recommends national and regional authorities and industry to make voluntary commitments in support of the strategy's objective, in particular as regards the uptake of recycled plastics

Adopted by the European Commission in January 2018



It aims to contribute to the objective of achieving at least 10 million tons of recycled plastics into new products on the EU market by 2025 as set in the European Strategy for Plastics



**High-level, multi-stakeholder platform connecting
with the whole plastic value chain in the Single Market**

**Reduce plastics littering
Increase the share of recycled plastics
Stimulate market innovation**

The CPA adopted a Declaration in September 2019 describing its commitments for action to reach the target of 10 million tonnes by 2025

Declaration of the Circular Plastics Alliance

The vision of the Circular Plastics Alliance is to deliver on the circular economy for plastics and substantially increase the use of recycled plastics into new products.

The Circular Plastics Alliance endorses the ambitious target that by 2025 at least 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics should find their way into products and packaging in Europe each year (hereafter referred to as "the 10 million tonnes target"), helping to deliver the circular economy with a life cycle approach.

We, private and public stakeholders involved in the plastics value chains, have joined together in the Circular Plastics Alliance, supported by the European Commission in the context of the European Plastics Strategy, to promote the use of more recycled plastics in Europe through voluntary action.

Plastics and plastic waste are valuable resources for the circular economy. Increasing collection of plastic waste for recycling contributes to reducing plastic pollution.

We intend to work together along the plastics value chains, including all relevant public and private actors across Europe, to reach this objective whilst ensuring the functionalities of plastic products and packaging, not compromising on consumer protection, safety and hygiene.

✓ + 280 Signatories

✓ 5 Sectors

✓ Member-States' Representatives:
Portugal and Sweden

✓ Secretariat:
Directorate-General for Internal
Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship
and SMEs (DG GROW)

Portugal was the only Member State, as such, to become a signatory of the Declaration of the Circular Plastics Alliance, at the subscription ceremony on 20 September 2019

The Portuguese Government recognised that:

- ✓ The good functioning of the EU market for recycled plastics also requires a global solution;
- ✓ The support for the plastics recycling sector constitutes as well a strong support for the plastics industry.

The work developed within the Circular Plastics Alliance complements two national initiatives of a voluntary nature aiming at promoting a greater sustainability in the Portuguese plastics value chain:

- ✓ The PORTUGUESE PLASTICS PACT (member of the Global Plastics Pact Network lead by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation) coordinated by SmartWaste Portugal;
- ✓ The PORTUGUESE PLASTICS INDUSTRY PACT, promoted by APIP (Portuguese Plastics Industry Association).



Design for recycling guidelines for all plastic products.

All plastic waste should be **properly disposed of and collected**.

Increase the uptake of recycled plastics up to at least 10 million tonnes (in all plastic products).

Define the R&D and investment needs, in order to deliver the 10 million tonnes target.

Monitoring

Harmonised EU value chain voluntary system to monitor volumes of recycled plastics used in European products.

R&D and Investments					Steering Committee
Design for Recycling					
Collection & Sorting					
Recycled Content					
Packaging WG	Automotive WG	Construction WG	EEE WG	Agriculture WG	
Monitoring WG					

Monitoring System

The CPA has developed a methodology to generate and collect the necessary data for its monitoring system.

The monitoring system will track the production and the use of recycled plastics in Europe and thus follow progress towards the achievement of the 10 million tonnes target.

* Only recycled plastics from post-consumer origin will count under the 10 million tonnes target.

Standardisation Work Proposed by the CPA

As stated in the Declaration, the CPA commits to work on European standards for recyclability, quality of sorted plastics waste and quality of plastics recycling and recycled plastics.

The CPA identified the standardisation needs, most of them related to:

- ✓ Design for recycling;
- ✓ Measurement and characterisation of the quality of sorted plastic waste
- ✓ Characterisation classification of the quality of recycled plastics

Untapped Potential and Investment Needs

The CPA analysed the untapped potential for more collection, sorting and recycling of plastic waste in Europe to achieve the 10 million tonnes target set by the European Plastics Strategy.

The CPA also estimated the investment needs in sorting and recycling capacities to realise this untapped potential.

The achievement of the 10 million tonnes target will need the following conditions to be met:

- ✓ Development and promotion of the necessary design guidelines and standards for the priority products selected under the Design Work Plan of the CPA;
- ✓ Coordination action between and across the CPA and Member States to increase significantly by 2025 separate collection and sorting for recycling;
- ✓ Necessary investments in sorting and recycling capacities in Europe was estimated by the CPA to be in the range of 7.6 to 9.2 billion euros;
- ✓ Exports of sorted plastic waste decrease significantly and exports of recycled plastics remain stable or decline.

Adopted by the European Commission in 2020 | COM(2020) 98 final
A new Circular Economy Action Plan
For a cleaner and more competitive Europe



PLASTICS:

- ✓ Revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive
- ✓ Mandatory recycled content
- ✓ Waste reduction measures
- ✓ Emissions of microplastics
- ✓ Framework for bio plastics
- ✓ Efforts on a global agreement on plastics

The Circular Plastics Alliance is open to all public and private actors active in the plastics value chains in the European Union
(e.g., industry, academia, public national and regional authorities or any other public or private stakeholder such as waste collectors, recyclers, brand owners and retailers)

Access to information

Signatories have access to a specific online platform where all the information is available

Stakeholders can apply electronically to sign the Declaration

THANK YOU!

carla.pinto@dgae.gov.pt