

**Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the  
European Parliament and of the  
Council, on the reduction of the  
impact of certain plastic  
products on the environment**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATERS  
AND FORESTS  
WASTE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

***“In order to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, each Party shall guarantee the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.”***

*Aarhus Convention, 1998*



To the challenges of modern society, largely based on production and consumption, plastic was an optimal solution adopted and implemented by industries around the world.


Plastic is an efficient and feasible material in terms of costs, efficiency, etc., which has led to its use in all productive areas, from the automotive industry to the food industry. As a result of its widespread use, plastic has become a preferred material/product, but with a strong negative impact on the environment. This situation shows us that we need to have a different perspective on economic and social development.

Romania is the country in which we find five bio-regions, with Black Sea and Danube Delta, which has been a UNESCO world heritage since 1991. In view of the biodiversity that exists on national territory and the fact that plastic pollution does not have borders, we believe that managing environmental impacts alone can no longer be a sustainable approach.

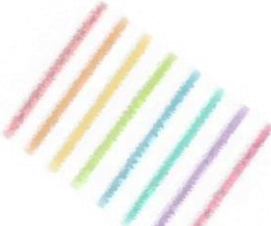
Identifying the causes of pollution and promoting economic solutions that do not affect natural and social capital are solutions that will change the social paradigm and create other consumption patterns and change human behaviour toward the environment. Last but not least, it will facilitate the deployment of innovative solutions.

Joining efforts in this respect must become a permanent concern and a national priority.

### ***WASTE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION***



**DIRECTIVE(EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment**, known as the SUP Directive (“Single use Plastic”), shows that the percentage of plastic materials in the environment has increased dramatically, underlining the need to shift from measures to manage the environmental impact of our activities to concrete measures that address the causes of environmental impacts, while promoting innovation and changing our mentalities, as consumers <sup>1</sup>.



The Directive was published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 155/1, on 12 June 2019, and member states are required to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive **by 3 July 2021**.



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<sup>1</sup>[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CONSIL:ST\\_9541\\_2019\\_INIT&qid=1571124669744&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CONSIL:ST_9541_2019_INIT&qid=1571124669744&from=EN)

## The circular economy and the Directive on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products

In December 2015, the European Commission adopted an **Action Plan for the Circular economy**, identifying plastics as a top priority and committed to **develop a strategy to address the challenges posed by plastics throughout the value chain and to analyse their entire life cycle**.

On **16 January 2018** was issued the **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a European Strategy for plastic materials in a circular economy (COM (2018) 28)**. This document shows that in 2017 the Commission confirmed that it would focus on the production and use of plastics and that it would work toward the goal of recycling all plastic packaging by 2030.

The European Commission has also noted that it will be necessary to involve all actors in the plastics value chain, from plastic manufacturing and design companies to brands, retailers and recycling companies. Similarly, civil society, scientific Community, businesses and local authorities will play a decisive role in creating impact, working with regional and national authorities, in order to make a positive change possible.

On **23 May 2018**, the **Chamber Of Deputies issued Decision no. 27/2018 on the adoption of the opinion on the subject Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European**

**Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - a European strategy for plastic materials in a circular economy (COM (2018)28)<sup>2</sup>**, drawing attention to the fact that achieving the objective that **by 2030 all plastic packaging placed on the European Union market should be easily re-usable or recyclable** is conditioned on the lead in plastic and recycling technologies, which makes it unpredictable. As a result, measurable and voluntary interim targets should be formulated so that Member States make individual contributions to achieving them, depending on the possibilities.

On **28 May 2018**, the European Commission shall communicate<sup>3</sup> **The proposal for A Directive on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products** as a solution for ten high-proportion plastic products in the seas and oceans. This proposal was one of the achievements of the European strategy for plastics in a circular economy.

On **5 July 2018**, the **Romanian Senate issued Decision no. 2018 on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products**

**(COM(2018) 340 final)<sup>4</sup>**<sup>5</sup>, *considering that the transition from the current production and consumption-based economic model to a production-based model<sup>6</sup> and sustainable consumption requires a long-term, joint effort<sup>7</sup>, structured around*

<sup>2</sup> The Decision of the Chamber of Deputies posted on the web site of the European Commission:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat\\_general/relations/relations\\_other/npo/docs/romania/2018/com20180024/com20180024\\_deputatilor\\_opinion\\_ro.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/relations/relations_other/npo/docs/romania/2018/com20180024/com20180024_deputatilor_opinion_ro.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat\\_general/relations/relations\\_other/npo/docs/romania/2018/com20180028/com20180028\\_deputatilor\\_reply\\_ro.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/relations/relations_other/npo/docs/romania/2018/com20180028/com20180028_deputatilor_reply_ro.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> COM(2018) 340 final:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/HIS/?uri=COM:2018:340:FIN>

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52018PC0340>

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/Study\\_sup.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/Study_sup.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The Decision of the Romanian Senate was posted on the web site of European Commission:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat\\_general/relations/relations\\_other/npo/docs/romania/2018/com20180340/com20180340\\_senat\\_opinion\\_ro.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/relations/relations_other/npo/docs/romania/2018/com20180340/com20180340_senat_opinion_ro.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> The Decision of the Romanian Senate also contains the point of view expressed by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests.

<sup>6</sup> Production of materials that become too fast waste.

<sup>7</sup> We foresee at least an equal time horizon with the one that led to the development of a common market with rules on the treatment of plastic products and trade with products from plastic materials.

*changing mentalities and thus another educational model, changing consumer behaviour and developing the necessary financial mechanisms to support this transition period.*

The Commission's proposal was accompanied by the document "Impact Assessment: Reduction of marine waste - action on disposable plastics and fishing equipment" SWD (2018) 254<sup>8</sup> Summary impact assessment in SWD (2018) 255<sup>9</sup>.

A political agreement was reached between the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in December 2018<sup>10</sup> **With regard to the ambitious new measures proposed by the Commission to combat the spread of marine litter at source, targeting the 10 most common plastic products on our beaches, as well as abandoned fishing gear.**

*The Directive on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products ("the Directive on disposable plastic products") was published in the Official Journal of the European Union L155/1 of 16 June 2019 and entered into force on 3 July 2019<sup>11</sup>. Member States shall bring into force the laws necessary to comply with this Directive by 3 July 2021.*

*The Directive provides different transposition dates for certain measures:*

*Prohibitions and marking obligations shall be transposed within two years of entry into force;*

*Drinks containers of up to 3 liters may be placed on the market only if they have caps which remain attached during use - five years after the entry into force of the directive (2 July 2024);*

*additional obligations on extended producer responsibility have to be implemented between January 2023 and 31 December 2024, depending on the product<sup>12</sup>.*

Romania shall ensure the transposition of this Directive on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products with a view to preventing the generation and combating of marine litter.

As mentioned in the legislative act posted on the European Commission's website<sup>13</sup>, this is the "**lex specialis**" in relation to Directives 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste and 2008/98/EC on waste. In the event of a conflict between those Directives and the Directive on the reduction of the environmental impact of certain plastic products, the latter will prevail within its scope. For consumption reduction measures, product requirements, marking requirements and extended producer responsibility, the SUP Directive complements Directives 94/62/EC, 2008/98/EC and 2014/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

<sup>8</sup><https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1571124669744&uri=CELEX:52018SC0254>

<sup>9</sup><https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52018SC0255&qid=1571124669744&from=EN>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/12/19/single-use-plastics-presidency-reaches-provisional-agreement-with-parliament/>

<sup>11</sup>[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2019.155.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2019:155:FULL](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2019.155.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2019:155:FULL)

<sup>12</sup> [https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2631\\_ro.htm](https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2631_ro.htm)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.packaginglaw.com/news/eu-publishes-updated-draft-single-use-plastics-directive>

## The Directive on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products

On the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products<sup>14</sup>, have made contributions: The Committee on the Environment, public Health and Food Safety<sup>15</sup>, committee on economic and monetary affairs<sup>16</sup>, The Committee on industry, Research and Energy<sup>17</sup>, the Committee on agriculture and rural development<sup>18</sup>, Committee for Fishing<sup>19</sup>, as well as other entities or persons<sup>20</sup>.

Directive 904/2019 of the European Parliament and of the Council on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products was adopted in the light of: The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 192(1), the proposal from the European Commission<sup>21</sup>, after transmission of the legislative draft

act to national parliaments, opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>22</sup> and the opinion of the Committee of the Regions<sup>23</sup>.

In line with better Regulation requirements, consultations with stakeholders, an open public consultation and in-depth impact assessments have been conducted for the preparation of the proposal for a Directive.

In the Union, 80-85 % of marine litter, measured as the number of beach waste, is plastic, with disposable plastic articles accounting for 50% and fishing related items accounting for 27% of the total.

In the public consultation between December 2017 and February 2018, 95% of respondents agreed that measures related to the use of disposable plastic articles were very necessary and urgent and

<sup>14</sup>[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2018-0317\\_RO.html#title2](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2018-0317_RO.html#title2)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/ro/committees/video?event=20190904-1430-COMMITTEE-ENV>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/ro/committees/video?event=20190220-1000-COMMITTEE-ECON>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/ro/committees/video?event=20190925-1430-COMMITTEE-ITRE>

<sup>18</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index\\_ro](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_ro)

<sup>19</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/maritime-affairs-and-fisheries\\_ro](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/maritime-affairs-and-fisheries_ro)

<sup>20</sup> European for Environment Bureau, ClientEarth, Edana, Essencia, EurEau, EUPC, Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRO), FoodDrinkEurope, Fostplus, Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the Commission European, responsible for the portfolio "One more good legislation, interinstitutional relations, the state and the Charter of Fundamental Rights", Friends of the Earth Europe, Go4Circle, Institut

belge de l'Emballage, Jyrki Katainen, vicepreședinte al Comisiei Europene responsabil de ocuparea forței de muncă, creșterea economică, investiții și competitivitate, Karmenu Vella, comisar european pentru mediu, afaceri maritime și pescuit, Nestlé S.A., Pack2Go Europe, Petcore Europe, Philippe De Backer, Secretar de Stat al Belgiei pentru Combaterea Fraudei Sociale, Protecția Vieții Private și Marea Nordului, Adjunctul Ministrului Afacerilor Sociale și Sănătății Publice, Plastics Europe, Plastics Recyclers Europe, Reprezentanța permanentă a Austriei pe lângă Uniunea Europeană, Alianța „Rethink Plastic”, Seas at risk, Sky, Suez S.A., Surfrider Foundation Europe, Tetra Pack International S.A., Zero Waste Europe.

<sup>21</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2018/RO/COM-2018-340-F1-RO-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

<sup>22</sup>[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2019.062.01.0207.01.RON&toc=OJ:C:2019:062:FULL](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2019.062.01.0207.01.RON&toc=OJ:C:2019:062:FULL)

<sup>23</sup>[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2018.461.01.0210.01.RON&toc=OJ:C:2018:461:FULL](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2018.461.01.0210.01.RON&toc=OJ:C:2018:461:FULL)

79% considered that to be effective, these measures should be taken at EU level. 70 % of producers also replied that the measures are necessary and urgent. Moreover, 72% of manufacturers reduced the use of plastic bags, of which 38% in the last year <sup>24</sup>.

**The legislative act sets as objectives the prevention and reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, in particular the aquatic environment, and on human health, and the promotion of the transition to a circular economy with innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials, thus contributing to the efficient functioning of the internal market.**

The single-use plastic products covered by the Directive are fishing gear and the first most common disposable plastic articles: Filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products ("cigarette tips"), beverage bottles and bottle caps; cotton bud sticks, chipsets, wet wipes, hygienic wipes, cutlery, straws, beverage stirrers, drinking glasses, food containers.

These products should be covered by one or more measures <sup>25</sup>, depending on various factors, such as the availability of adequate and more sustainable alternatives, the

feasibility of changing consumption patterns and the extent to which they are already covered by existing Union legislation.

The Directive will also contribute to the achievement of the United Nations sustainable Development goal No.12 (UN), of ensuring Sustainable consumption and production patterns, which are part **of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development**, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015<sup>26</sup>. The Union is working with many partners in many international fora, such as the G20, the G7 and the UN, to promote coordinated actions and Directive 904/2019 is part of the efforts made in this respect.

Furthermore, in line with Union water legislation, namely Directive 2000/60/EC and Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, all Member States are required to address marine litter when it undermines the achievement of good environmental status of marine waters, Including as a contribution to the UN sustainable Development goal 14, which calls for the sustainable conservation of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

<sup>24</sup> [https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-3927\\_ro.htm](https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3927_ro.htm)

<sup>25</sup> Example: Setting national targets to achieve a reduction in the consumption of these products without compromising food hygiene, food safety, good hygiene practices, good manufacturing practice, consumer information or traceability

requirements set out in Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 852/2004 and (EC) No 765/2008.

<sup>26</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/sustainable-development/SDGs/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/sustainable-development/SDGs/index_en.htm)



## Provisions of the Directive on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products

*In Directive 904/2019/EC, the following terms are defined:*

**plastic** means a material consisting of a polymer as defined in point 5 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which can function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified;

**single-use plastic product** means a product that is made wholly or partly from plastic and that is not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to a producer for refill or re-used for the same purpose for which it was conceived;

**oxo-degradable plastic** means plastic materials that include additives which, through oxidation, lead to the fragmentation of the plastic material into micro-fragments or to chemical decomposition;

**fishing gear** means any item or piece of equipment that is used in fishing or aquaculture to target, capture or rear marine biological resources or that is floating on the sea surface, and is deployed with the objective of attracting and capturing or of rearing such marine biological resources;

**waste fishing gear** means any fishing gear covered by the definition of waste in point 1 of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC, including all separate components, substances or materials that were part of or attached to such fishing gear when it was discarded, including when it was abandoned or lost;

**placing on the market** means the first making available of a product on the market of a Member State;

**making available on the market** means any supply of a product for distribution, consumption or use on the market of a Member State in the course of a commercial activity, whether in return for payment or free of charge;

**harmonised standard** means a harmonised standard as defined in point (1)(c) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012;

**waste** means waste as defined in point 1 of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC;

**extended producer responsibility scheme** means extended producer responsibility scheme as defined in point 21 of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC;

**producer means:**

- **any natural or legal person** established in a Member State that professionally manufactures, fills, sells or imports, irrespective of the selling technique used, including by means of distance contracts as defined in point (7) of Article 2 of Directive

2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, and places on the market of that Member State single-use plastic products, filled single-use plastic products or fishing gear containing plastic, other than persons carrying out fishing activities as defined in point (28) of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council; or

- **any natural or legal person** established in one Member State or in a third country that professionally sells in another Member State directly to private households or to users other than private households, by means of distance contracts as defined in point (7) of Article 2 of Directive 2011/83/EU, single-use plastic products, filled single-use plastic products or fishing gear containing plastic, other than persons carrying out fishing activities as defined in point (28) of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;

**collection** means collection as defined in point 10 of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC;

**separate collection** means separate collection as defined in point 11 of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC;

**treatment** means treatment as defined in point 14 of Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC;

**packaging** means packaging as defined in point 1 of Article 3 of Directive 94/62/EC;

**biodegradable plastic** means a plastic capable of undergoing physical, biological decomposition, such that it ultimately decomposes into carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), biomass and water, and is, in accordance with European standards for packaging, recoverable through composting and anaerobic digestion;

**port reception facilities** mean port reception facilities as defined in point (e) of Article 2 of Directive 2000/59/EC;

**tobacco products** mean tobacco products as defined in point (4) of Article 2 of Directive 2014/40/EU.

For products covered by Directive 904/2019, appropriate measures are provided for, proportionate to their impact and the availability of environmental alternatives. These measures concern:

- **Consumption reduction;**
- **Restrictions on placing the market;**
- **Product requirements;**
- **Marking requirements;**
- **Extended producer responsibility;**
- **Separate collection;**
- **Awareness raising measures;**



## Consumption reduction

1. Cups for beverages, including their covers and lids.
2. Food containers, i.e. receptacles such as boxes, with or without a cover, used to contain food which:
  - is intended for immediate consumption, either on-the-spot or take-away;
  - is typically consumed from the receptacle;
  - is ready to be consumed without any further preparation, such as cooking, boiling or heating;

Including food containers used for fast food or other meal ready for immediate consumption, except beverage containers, plates and packets and wrappers containing food.



For the purpose of measuring the effect of the measures, the Commission shall, by 3 January 2021, adopt an implementing act setting out the methodology for calculating and verifying the spectacular and sustained reduction in the consumption of disposable plastic products. In order to do so, a description of the measures taken should be provided by 3 July 2021 in order to define the extent of the effects of the measures applied. This description shall then be communicated to the European Commission and made available to the public.

By 2026, measures must be taken to achieve a measurable reduction in the consumption of disposable plastic products. Measures may include:

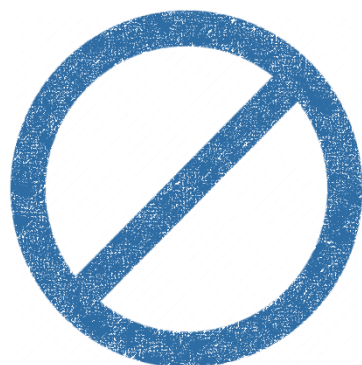
**1. National targets** for reducing consumption, measures to ensure that alternatives are made available at the point of sale to the final consumer to re-use these single-use plastic products;

**2. Economic instruments** to ensure that single use plastic products are not supplied free of charge at the point of sale to the final consumer and

**3. Voluntary agreements**

At the same time, Member States may impose restrictions on the marketing of packaging which comply with the provisions of Directive 94/62/EC, in order to prevent the generation of waste from such products, in order to ensure that it is replaced by

## Restrictions on placing on the market



Member States shall prohibit the placing on the market of the following disposable plastic products:

- Cotton bud sticks, except if they fall within the scope of Council Directive 90/385/EEC or Council Directive 93/42/EEC;
- Cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks);
- Plates;
- Straws, except if they fall within the scope of Directive 90/385/EEC or Directive 93/42/EEC;
- Beverage stirrers;
- Sticks to be attached to and to support balloons, except balloons for industrial or other professional uses and applications that are not distributed to consumers, including the mechanisms of such sticks;
- Food containers made of expanded polystyrene, i.e. receptacles such as boxes, with or without a cover, used to

Contain food which:

- (a) Is intended for immediate consumption, either on-the-spot or take-away,
- (b) Is typically consumed from the receptacle, and
- (c) is ready to be consumed without any further preparation, such as cooking, boiling or heating,

including food containers used for fast food or other meal ready for immediate consumption, except beverage, containers, plates and packets and wrappers containing food;

- Beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, including their caps and lids;
- Cups for beverages made of expanded polystyrene, including their covers and lids.

and products made of oxo-degradable plastics.

## Product requirements

The Directive introduces requirements for the following products:

Beverage containers with a capacity of up to three litres, i.e. receptacles used to contain liquid, such as beverage bottles including their caps and lids and composite beverage packaging including their caps and lids, but not:

- glass or metal beverage containers that have caps and lids made from plastic,
- Beverage containers intended and used for food for special medical purposes (as defined in point (g) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) that is in liquid form).

Metal plugs or covers with plastic gaskets shall not be considered to be made of plastic.

It must be ensured that single-use plastic products whose stoppers and lids are made of plastic may only be placed on the market if the stoppers and lids remain attached to the containers during the intended use stage of the products

By 3 October 2019, the Commission shall request the European standardization organizations to draw up harmonized standards relating to single-use plastic products whose stoppers remain attached to containers during the intended use stage of the products. Those standards will take into account in particular the need to ensure an adequate level of strength, reliability and safety of the closures of drink containers, including carbonated drinks.

From 2025 onwards, bottles for beverages with a principal component of 'PET bottles' will contain at least 25 % recycled plastic, averaged over all PET bottles placed on the market in the territory of that member state.

From 2030, bottles for beverages will contain at least 30 % recycled plastic, averaged over all such bottles placed on the market in the territory of the member state concerned.



## Marking requirements

For the following products:

- Sanitary towels (pads), tampons and tampon applicators;
- Wet wipes, i.e. pre-wetted personal care and domestic wipes;
- Tobacco products with filters and filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products;
- Cups for beverages.

Shall ensure that each single-use plastic product listed, placed on the market bears a conspicuous, clearly legible and indelible marking on its packaging or on the product itself informing consumers of the following:

- appropriate waste management options for the product or waste disposal means to be avoided for that product, in line with the waste hierarchy; and
- the presence of plastics in the product and the resulting negative impact of littering or other inappropriate means of waste disposal of the product on the environment.



By 3 July 2020, the Commission will adopt an implementing act setting out the harmonized specifications for marking.

For single use plastic products:

**Food containers**, i.e. receptacles such as boxes, with or without a cover, used to contain food which:

- is intended for immediate consumption, either on-the-spot or take-away;
- is typically consumed from the receptacle;
- is ready to be consumed without any further preparation, such as cooking, boiling or heating;
- including food containers used for fast food or other meal ready for immediate consumption, except beverage;
- containers, plates and packets and wrappers containing food.

**Packets and wrappers made from flexible material** containing food that is intended for immediate consumption from the packet or wrapper without any further preparation.

**Beverage containers** with a capacity of up to three liters, i.e. receptacles used to contain liquid such as beverage bottles including their caps and lids and composite beverage packaging including their caps and lids, but not glass or metal, beverage containers that have caps and lids made from plastic.

**Cups for beverages**, including their covers and lids.

**Lightweight plastic carrier bags** as defined in point 1c of Article 3 of Directive 94/62/EC.

Member States shall ensure that the producers of the single-use plastic products cover the costs pursuant to the extended producer responsibility provisions in Directives 2008/98/EC and 94/62/EC and, insofar as not already included, cover the following costs:

- The costs of the awareness raising measures regarding those products;
- The costs of waste collection for those products that are discarded in public collection systems, including the infrastructure and its operation, and the subsequent transport and treatment of that waste;
- The costs of cleaning up litter resulting from those products and the subsequent transport and treatment of that litter.

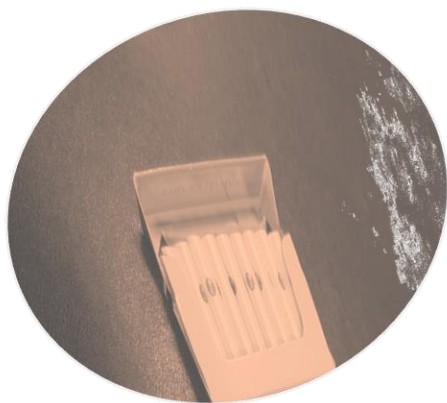
## Extended producer responsibility

For the following products:

**Wet wipes**, i.e. pre-wetted personal care and domestic wipes;

**Balloons**, except balloons for industrial or other professional uses and applications that are not distributed to consumers.

**Tobacco products with filters and filters marketed** for use in combination with tobacco products, for which the Directive mentions the extended producer responsibility.



Member States shall ensure that the producers of the single-use plastic products, like wet wipes, i.e. pre-wetted personal care and domestic wipes and Balloons, (except balloons for industrial or other professional uses and applications that are not distributed to consumers) cover at least the following costs:

- Costs relating to awareness-raising measures relating to the products concerned;
- The costs of collecting the waste resulting from these products and of transporting and treating such waste subsequently,
- Costs of data collection and reporting.

With regard to disposable plastic products such as tobacco products with filters and filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products, Member States shall ensure that manufacturers cover in addition, the costs of collecting waste for those products which are disposed of in public collection systems, including infrastructure and its operation, and for the subsequent transport and treatment of that waste.

The costs may include the creation of a specific infrastructure for the collection of waste related to these products, such as suitable waste receptacles, in areas where many such waste is disposed of.



## Separate collection and product requirements

Beverage bottles with a capacity of up to three litres, including their caps and lids, but not:

- glass or metal beverage bottles that have caps and lids made from plastic;
- beverage bottles intended and used for food for special medical purposes as defined in point (g) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 that is in liquid form,

The Directive mentions separate collection and specific requirements for these products.

By 2025, Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that a quantity of single-use plastic products equal to 77 % by weight of single-use plastic products placed on the market in one year is collected separately for recycling purposes.

By 2029, Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that a quantity of single-use plastic products equal to 90 % of the weight of single-use plastic products placed on the market per year is collected separately for recycling purposes.

Single-use plastic products placed on the market in a Member State may be considered to be equal to the amount of waste generated by those products in the same year in that Member State.

In order to achieve that objective, Member States may inter alia:

- establish deposit-refund schemes;
- establish separate collection targets for relevant extended producer responsibility schemes.

## Recycling

Regarding bottles for beverages, each Member State shall ensure that:

- From 2025, bottles for beverages with a primary component "PET" contain at least 25 % recycled plastic, calculated as an average for all PET bottles placed on the market in the territory of that Member State;
- From 2030, bottles for beverages contain at least 30 % recycled plastic, calculated as the average for all such bottles placed on the market in the territory of that member state.

Separate  
collection

## Awareness raising measures

For the following products, the Directive mentions awareness-raising measures:

- **Food containers**, i.e. receptacles such as boxes, with or without a cover, used to contain food which:

- o is intended for immediate consumption, either on-the-spot or take-away,
- o is typically consumed from the receptacle, and is ready to be consumed without any further preparation, such as cooking, boiling or heating,

Including

- o food containers used for fast food or other meal ready for immediate consumption, except beverage containers, plates and packets and wrappers containing food;
  - o Packets and wrappers made from flexible material containing food that is intended for immediate consumption from the packet or wrapper without any further preparation;
- **Beverage containers** with a capacity of up to three litres, i.e. receptacles used to contain liquid such as
    - o beverage bottles including their caps and lids
    - o composite beverage packaging including their caps and lids, but not glass or metal, beverage containers that have caps and lids made from plastic;
  - **Cups for beverages**, including their covers and lids;
  - **Tobacco products with filters and filters marketed** for use in combination with tobacco products;
  - **Wet wipes**, i.e. pre-wetted personal care and domestic wipes;
  - **Balloons**, except balloons for industrial or other professional uses and applications that are not distributed to consumers;
  - **Lightweight plastic carrier bags** as defined in point 1c of Article 3 of Directive 94/62/EC;
  - **Sanitary towels (pads), tampons and tampon applicators.**

Member States shall take measures to inform consumers of single use plastic products and users of fishing gear containing plastic on the following:

- the availability of re-usable alternatives, re-use systems and waste management options for those single-use plastic products and for fishing gear containing plastic as well as best practices in sound waste management carried out in accordance with Article 13 of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- the impact of littering and other inappropriate waste disposal of those single-use plastic products and of fishing gear containing plastic on the environment, in particular on the marine environment;
- the impact of inappropriate means of waste disposal of those single-use plastic products on the sewer network.



## For more information:

- **Factsheet on the Strategy on disposable single use plastic articles**  
<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy-brochure.pdf>
- **EU strategy regarding single use plastics:**  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=COM:2018:0028:FIN>
- **Campaign “Prepared for a change”:**  
<https://www.bereadytochange.eu/ro/>

### Useful links

<b>Legal framework</b>	<b>EUR-LEX</b>	<a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/search.html?qid=1571124669744&amp;PROC_NUM=0172&amp;DB_INTER_CODE_TYP E=OLP&amp;type=advanced&amp;PROC_ANN=2018&amp;lang=ro">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/search.html?qid=1571124669744&amp;PROC_NUM=0172&amp;DB_INTER_CODE_TYP E=OLP&amp;type=advanced&amp;PROC_ANN=2018&amp;lang=ro</a>
	<b>Legislative train SUP Directive</b>	<a href="https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-new-boost-for-jobs-growth-and-investment/file-single-use-plastics-and-fishing-gear-reducing-marine-litter-from-plastics">https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-new-boost-for-jobs-growth-and-investment/file-single-use-plastics-and-fishing-gear-reducing-marine-litter-from-plastics</a>
	<b>UE Parliament</b>	<a href="https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/603940/EPRS_BRI(2017)603940_EN.pdf">https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/603940/EPRS_BRI(2017)603940_EN.pdf</a>
<b>Press Releases</b>	<b>UE Commission</b>	<a href="https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1480_ro.htm">https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1480_ro.htm</a>
	<b>UE Council</b>	<a href="https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/05/21/council-adopts-ban-on-single-use-plastics/">https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/05/21/council-adopts-ban-on-single-use-plastics/</a>

**Publications**

<b>European Parliament</b>	<a href="https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190321IPR32111/parliament-seals-ban-on-throwaway-plastics-by-2021">https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190321IPR32111/parliament-seals-ban-on-throwaway-plastics-by-2021</a>
	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/environment/efe/en/news/european-parliament-votes-single-use-plastics-ban-2019-01-18">https://ec.europa.eu/environment/efe/en/news/european-parliament-votes-single-use-plastics-ban-2019-01-18</a>
	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/single-use-plastics-2018-may-28_en">https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/single-use-plastics-2018-may-28_en</a>
<b>Publications Office of the European Union</b>	<a href="https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/general-publications/publications">https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/general-publications/publications</a>
<b>The European Environment Agency</b>	<a href="file:///C:/Users/Ana.Nistorescu/Downloads/MLW%20final%2007062018.pdf">file:///C:/Users/Ana.Nistorescu/Downloads/MLW%20final%2007062018.pdf</a>
	<a href="https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications#c7=en&amp;c11=5&amp;c14=&amp;c12=&amp;b_start=0">https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications#c7=en&amp;c11=5&amp;c14=&amp;c12=&amp;b_start=0</a>
<b>Elsevier</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/single-use-plastics-2018-may-28_en">https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/single-use-plastics-2018-may-28_en</a>
<b>PlasticsEurope</b>	<a href="https://www.plasticseurope.org/application/files/5715/1717/4180/Plastics_the_facts_2017_FINAL_for_website_one_page.pdf">https://www.plasticseurope.org/application/files/5715/1717/4180/Plastics_the_facts_2017_FINAL_for_website_one_page.pdf</a>
<b>Ellen MacArthur Foundation</b>	<a href="https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/EllenMacArthurFoundation_TheNewPlasticsEconomy_Pages.pdf">https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/EllenMacArthurFoundation_TheNewPlasticsEconomy_Pages.pdf</a>
<b>UNEP</b>	<a href="http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9238/-Valuing%20plastic%3a%20the%20business%2">http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9238/-Valuing%20plastic%3a%20the%20business%2</a>

[0case%20for%20measuring%2c%20managing%20and%20disclosing%20plastic%20use%20in%20the%20consumer%20goods%20industry-2014Valuing%20plasticsF.pdf?sequence=8&isAllowed=y](#)

**World Economic Forum** [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_NEWPLASTICSECONOMY\\_2017.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_NEWPLASTICSECONOMY_2017.pdf)

**ISWA** [https://www.iswa.org/fileadmin/galleries/Task\\_Forces/TFGWM\\_Report\\_GRM\\_Plastic\\_China\\_LR.pdf](https://www.iswa.org/fileadmin/galleries/Task_Forces/TFGWM_Report_GRM_Plastic_China_LR.pdf)

**IUCN** <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2017-002.pdf>

**CORDIS** <https://cordis.europa.eu/search/en?q=%2Farticle%2Frelations%2Fcategories%2Fcollection%2Fcode%3D%27mag%27%20AND%20language%3D%27en%27&p=1&num=10&srt=contentUpdateDate:decreasing>

**Financing**

**European Fund for Strategic Investments** [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/funding/efsi\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/funding/efsi_en)  
<https://www.eib.org/en/efsi/index.htm>

**European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)** <https://ec.europa.eu/eipp/desktop/en/index.html?2nd-language=en>

**EU Research results** <https://cordis.europa.eu/search/en?q=%27single%20use%20plastic%27&p=1&num=10&srt=Relevance:decreasing>

**Circular  
Economy**

<b>Report by the Informal Commission Expert Group “Support to Circular Economy Financing”</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/knowledge_publications_tools_and_data/documents/accelerating_circular_economy_032019.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/knowledge_publications_tools_and_data/documents/accelerating_circular_economy_032019.pdf</a>
<b>EU Structural and Investments Funds</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes/overview-funding-programmes/european-structural-and-investment-funds_ro">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes/overview-funding-programmes/european-structural-and-investment-funds_ro</a>
<b>Horizon 2020</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/">https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/</a>
<b>Life programme</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life">https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life</a>
<b>Business Europe</b>	<a href="http://www.circularity.eu/about">http://www.circularity.eu/about</a>
<b>Eurochambres</b>	<a href="https://www.resourceefficient.eu/sites/easme/files/Circular%20Economy%20Report%20-%20Eurochambres.pdf">https://www.resourceefficient.eu/sites/easme/files/Circular%20Economy%20Report%20-%20Eurochambres.pdf</a>
<b>Documents on the Circular Economy Package</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/documents-strategy-plastics-circular-economy_en">https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/documents-strategy-plastics-circular-economy_en</a>  <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-commission-proposals-circular-economy_ro">https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-commission-proposals-circular-economy_ro</a>
<b>Eurostat</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy">https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy</a>

***Plastic***

**Single Use Plastic** <https://www.bereadytochange.eu/en/about/>

**UN Environment** [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/single-use-plastics-2018-may-28\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/single-use-plastics-2018-may-28_en)

# SINGLE-USE PLASTICS REDUCING MARINE LITTER



More than

**150**  
million tonnes

of plastic exist in  
the oceans today

An estimated

**4.8 to 12.7**  
million tonnes

of plastic enter  
the oceans every year

## Problems caused by plastic waste in the ocean to:

### Marine life

- Entanglement and ingestion by animals, including damage caused by lost fishing equipment
- Habitat degradation
- Exposure to chemicals in the plastics

### Economy

- Estimated cost of marine litter is between €259 million and €695 million, mainly to tourism and fisheries sectors

### Human health

- Exposure to chemicals through the food chain

### Climate:

- Recycling 1 million tonnes of plastic equals taking 1 million cars off the road (in terms of CO2 emissions)

The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, will continue to collaborate, with all interested parties, in taking the best decisions that would lead to reduction of the impact of plastic products on the environment and refocus production markets to other types of compatible product types with the recycling/recovery industry as well as to create consumption patterns, without affecting support capacity of natural capital components.