

CALL FOR EVIDENCE FOR AN EVALUATION

This document aims to inform the public and stakeholders about the Commission's work, so they can provide feedback and participate effectively in consultation activities.

We ask these groups to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to share any relevant information that they may have.

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Single-use plastics and fishing gear measures – evaluation
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	DG ENVIRONMENT- Unit B1: Bioeconomy and sustainable materials
INDICATIVE TIMETABLE (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	Q3 2025 – Q3 2027
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/plastics/single-use-plastics_en

This document is for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.

A. Political context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Political context

[Directive \(EU\) 2019/904](#) on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (the 'Single Use Plastics Directive' or '[SUPD](#)') addresses the problem of (plastic) marine litter. It aims to prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the (marine) environment and on human health. By promoting the transition to a circular economy that uses innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials, the SUPD also contributes to the efficient functioning of the internal market, making it easier for producers to comply with product design requirements.

The SUPD focuses on the single-use plastic ('SUP') products most often found on European beaches and on fishing gear containing plastic. It has introduced a mix of measures that apply to different categories of single-use plastic products, covering products fully or partially made from plastics. Where alternatives are easily available and affordable, SUP products have been banned from the market. For other SUP products, the EU is focusing on limiting their use by reducing consumption and promoting re-usable alternatives. For fishing gear containing plastics, specific measures include setting up extended producer responsibility schemes, monitoring and reporting requirements, and setting up national annual collection rates for recycling.

As per the requirements in Article 15 of the SUPD, the Commission is to evaluate the Directive by 3 July 2027 and submit a report of its findings to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee.

The evaluation will cover the SUPD's contribution to achieving the target of 50% reduction for plastic litter at sea by 2050, as set out in the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#). It will consider the linkages between the SUPD, the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#), the [Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste](#) and the [Port Reception Facilities Directive](#). It will also cover developments in international forums, including the UN and Regional Seas Conventions around Europe.

Purpose and scope

The evaluation of the Single Use Plastics Directive will provide evidence on whether the Directive is still fit for purpose and will help determine whether a review of it is needed. It will also explore potential to simplify the legislation and reduce the administrative burden on those who have to apply it.

The evaluation will analyse how far the SUPD's objectives have been achieved through EU countries' efforts to implement the Directive. It will look at the key drivers and challenges, progress and the investments made, covering all measures laid down in the Directive and assessing if these objectives and measures are still relevant. The evaluation will also identify potential areas for improvement.

In line with the EU's Better Regulation guidelines, the Directive will be assessed according to five evaluation criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value. The assessment will include a cost-

benefit analysis. Some of the key evaluation questions are:

- 1) How far have the intended objectives been achieved?
- 2) What are the measurable benefits of implementing the measures included in the SUPD?
- 3) How efficient are the administrative processes involved (e.g. reporting and monitoring duties, operational compliance with marking and product design requirements)?
- 4) To what extent is the SUPD consistent with other EU environmental, health and sustainable prosperity policy objectives?
- 5) How do the objectives correspond to wider EU goals and priorities beyond environmental policy (i.e. the circular economy, the Zero Pollution Action Plan, Good Environmental Status for coastal and marine waters as per the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, the Port Reception Facilities Directive, the bioeconomy, the Global Plastic Treaty)?

In addition to covering the implementation of the SUPD, the evaluation will also look at the related secondary legislation and any related measures and good practices taken at national level in EU countries.

To support EU countries' implementation of the Directive, the Commission has adopted [seven implementing acts](#), [Guidelines on SUP products](#) and on [the costs of cleaning up litter](#) and harmonised standards (by CEN) on test methods for tethered caps and on the circularity of fishing gear.

In 2025, the Commission plans to adopt the last implementing act under the Directive. This will expand the existing methodology used to calculate, verify and report recycled content in SUP beverage bottles so that it covers all recycling technologies, including chemical recycling.

Drawing on Article 15 of the SUPD, the evaluation will also target the following issues:

- 1) assessing whether the scope of the Directive should be revised, including the list of single-use plastic products and respective measures;
- 2) assessing whether it would be feasible to set binding quantitative EU targets (to reduce consumption of beverage cups and food containers and on collection rates for waste fishing gear);
- 3) assessing the change in materials used in SUP products;
- 4) assessing scientific and technical progress concerning criteria and a standard for biodegradability in the marine environment;
- 5) considering the options for binding measures to reduce filters.

The evaluation will consider and collect evidence on all environmental, economic, social, employment, health and technological aspects and developments relating to the generation and management of SUP products and fishing gear containing plastic. It will provide an overview of the current situation and clear points of comparison against which we can judge changes, progress and the challenges faced.

The evaluation covers all EU countries and the EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). Cooperation with non-EU countries and multilateral bodies will be considered where relevant. This includes the impact of Regional Seas Conventions, as the SUPD is part of the EU's effort to align with international obligations laid down under that framework. The evaluation covers the period from July 2019, when the SUPD entered into force, to the present.

B. Better regulation

Consultation strategy

The envisaged consultation activities include:

- **a 12-week online public consultation** to collect feedback on different aspects of the Directive's implementation. This will be launched on the '[Have your say](#)' website in the fourth quarter of 2025 and will be open to all interested respondents. The consultation will be accessible in the 24 official EU languages, and respondents can reply in any of them. A factual summary report will be published on the webpage where the consultation is published within eight weeks of the public consultation's closure;
- **targeted consultations** to gather evidence and feedback from stakeholders who have had a role in implementing the SUPD and/or are otherwise engaged in achieving its targets and objectives. The targeted consultations may take the form of surveys, interviews or focus groups.

A synopsis report summarising the results of all the consultation activities will be annexed to the evaluation report.

Why we are consulting?

The consultation aims to:

- a) validate the topics and issues covered by the evaluation;
- b) gather information, data and experience on the implementation of the SUPD;

- c) solicit stakeholders' views on how far the Directive has met, or is on track to meet, its objectives;
- d) gather views on the Directive's relevance, taking into account developments impacting single-use plastic products and fishing gear.

Target audience

The public consultation aims to gather evidence and feedback from a wide range of stakeholders who have had a role in implementing the Single Use Plastics Directive and/or are otherwise engaged in achieving its targets and objectives. These include:

- EU, regional, national and local stakeholders and organisations;
- international stakeholders;
- trade partners;
- business associations, organisations and individual representatives in different sectors (e.g. plastics, netting and rope, consultants, fishing, waste management, port authorities, protection of the coastal and marine environment) and social partners in the appropriate forums;
- civil society organisations, environmental NGOs;
- national and local authorities;
- implementing agencies;
- researchers;
- the general public/consumers.

Data collection and methodology

The evaluation will be supported by a dedicated study. The study will draw on official information and evidence on the implementation of SUPD-related legislation in Member States. In particular, the evaluation will build on relevant Commission documents and studies carried out in relation to the SUPD. The non-exhaustive list below will be supplemented by studies and data compiled by other bodies and sources such as Eurostat, national authorities, registers, implementing agencies, sectoral associations (e.g. producers of SUP products and fishing gear, producer responsibility organisations, waste managers), civil society organisations, research organisations, and the public/consumers. A literature review will be also carried out.

Relevant studies carried out by the Commission include:

- [supporting study on assessment of measures to reduce marine litter from single use plastics](#)
- [report on European Coastline Macro Litter Trends 2015 - 2021](#).

The evaluation will also take into account relevant studies by various stakeholders, including the Rethink Plastic Alliance's [study to assess the implementation of the SUPD](#).

As part of the feedback to this call for evidence, we encourage stakeholders to provide us with (references to) data on costs and benefits and to help us identify the potential for reducing administrative burden. This will contribute to our assessment of the costs and benefits of implementing the SUPD-related legislation.