



BOLLETTINO N° 105 - 16 dicembre 2022

Ciao da Bruxelles. Come sempre, vi portiamo tutte le ultime novità sull'economia circolare dall'Europa e non solo.

Colpiti da temperature negative, i burocrati di Bruxelles sono riusciti a concludere un accordo su **REPowerEU**, il meccanismo designato per porre fine alla dipendenza del blocco dai combustibili fossili russi. Allo stesso tempo, mentre l'anno volge al termine, Praga sta cercando di chiudere il maggior numero possibile di file dal dossier FitFor55. Dal **regolamento sulle batterie** al meccanismo di adeguamento del carbonio alle frontiere (**CBAM**), i negoziatori interistituzionali erano in sciopero, raggiungendo accordi uno dopo l'altro. Tuttavia, non c'è stata una fumata bianca da parte del Consiglio, che lotterà durante il fine settimana per trovare un terreno comune per concordare il mercato del carbonio del blocco (**EU ETS**).

Prima di continuare, assicurati di non perdere le nostre ultime notizie 

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REPowerEU: i negoziatori del Consiglio e del Parlamento europeo hanno raggiunto il 14 novembre un accordo provvisorio sulla proposta REPowerEU che mira a porre fine alla dipendenza del blocco dalle importazioni russe di combustibili fossili, rafforzando l'autonomia strategica dell'Unione diversificando gli approvvigionamenti energetici e rafforzando l'indipendenza e la sicurezza dell'approvvigionamento energetico dell'Unione. Il testo concordato è soggetto all'approvazione del Consiglio e del Parlamento europeo prima di essere sottoposto alla procedura formale di adozione. L'accordo include, tra l'altro, l'aumento dell'efficienza energetica negli edifici e nelle infrastrutture energetiche critiche, la decarbonizzazione dell'industria e l'aumento della produzione e dell'adozione di biometano sostenibile e idrogeno rinnovabile o privo di fossili. Per quanto riguarda il finanziamento delle sovvenzioni, i colegislatori hanno convenuto che le fonti saranno il Fondo per l'innovazione (60%) e le quote ETS anticipate (40%).

Massimale per il prezzo del gas: il 13 dicembre, i ministri dell'energia dell'UE non sono riusciti a raggiungere un accordo sul previsto tetto ai prezzi del gas, poiché gli Stati rimangono divisi sul piano. Nei negoziati di dieci ore, alcuni paesi hanno sostenuto che la sicurezza energetica e il buon funzionamento dei mercati finanziari dovrebbero essere protetti, mentre altri hanno spinto per un limite minimo per proteggersi dai prezzi elevati. Contexte ha riferito che Jozef Sikela, rappresentante di Praga presso il Consiglio, ha affermato che i ministri "sono quasi arrivati" e una volta che il nucleo del testo sarà "stabilizzato", il prezzo al quale il meccanismo deve essere attivato dovrà ancora essere deciso.

I capi di Stato e di governo dell'UE a 27 hanno chiesto ai ministri del blocco di finalizzare il dossier al Consiglio del 19 dicembre, si legge nelle conclusioni del Consiglio. Secondo Euractiv, la ragione principale del ritardo è l'incertezza su quando attivare il meccanismo". Dove abbiamo bisogno di più tempo per fare le cose bene è sulle soglie di attivazione e sui numeri. Nonostante gli abili sforzi della presidenza, ci sono ancora opinioni diverse su questo aspetto della proposta", ha dichiarato Kadri Simson, commissario europeo per l'energia.

A causa della mancanza di un accordo sul tetto massimo del prezzo del gas, i due regolamenti di emergenza sugli acquisti congiunti di gas e la diffusione accelerata delle energie rinnovabili, su cui i ministri avevano concordato a fine novembre, non hanno potuto

essere approvati, nonostante la loro adozione fosse all'ordine del giorno, ha riferito Contexte. I due testi torneranno anche al prossimo Consiglio "Energia".

Sistema di scambio di quote di emissione dell'UE (EU ETS): i negoziatori europei si sono incontrati il 16 novembre per finalizzare le discussioni sulla riforma del mercato del carbonio del blocco, nel tentativo di raggiungere gli obiettivi dell'UE di ridurre le emissioni nette di gas a effetto serra del 55% entro il 2030. All'inizio della settimana, nel tentativo di colmare le differenze tra il Parlamento e il Consiglio, l'esecutivo dell'UE ha presentato una proposta di compromesso sull'inclusione degli inceneritori di rifiuti nel mercato del carbonio nel 2028, ha riferito Contexte. La proposta prevede la preparazione di uno studio d'impatto entro la fine del 2026 sulla possibilità di includere il settore a partire dal 1° gennaio 2028. Per rivolgersi anche al Consiglio, la Commissione ha proposto di consentire agli Stati di derogare a tale norma ("opt-out") fino al 31 dicembre 2030. Contexte ha pubblicato una versione aggiornata del [documento a quattro colonne](#), che riassume le posizioni delle tre istituzioni e i punti su cui è stato raggiunto un compromesso, e quelli ancora aperti.

Critical Raw Materials (CRMs): On 9 December, the European Union and Chile [concluded](#) negotiations on the modernisation of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, now named an Advanced Framework Agreement. The trade part of the agreement will provide new opportunities for EU businesses in Chile, for whom, EU is the third largest trade partner, comprising 12% of the country's total trade in 2020. The agreement foresees major commitments in raw materials, through greater access to raw materials and clean fuel crucial for the transition to the green economy, such as lithium, copper, and hydrogen, and ensures non-discriminatory access by prohibiting export and import monopolies for raw materials.

In the meantime, Kerstin Jorna, the Director-General of the Commission's DG Industry said during a webinar on 6 December that the Commission is also considering the exploitation of resources that the EU has on the surface, meaning mine tailings, Contexte reported. "We don't have any maps of these gold sites, they contain metals like rare earths or cobalt, which we need today. We need this information to build future business projects," she further explained according to the news outlet.

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR): The Rapporteur for the EP's Environment Committee on the file, Alessandra Moretti (S&Ds) issued on 12 December

her [draft Report](#) on the Commission's ecodesign [proposal](#), suggesting 97 amendments. The latter foresee, among others, the amendment of the subject matter of the Regulation, expanding its aims to make sustainable products the norm across the EU, reduce these products' environmental footprints, as well as improving their social sustainability. The Rapporteur suggested that the Commission provides proper adjustment periods for economic operators as it puts forward the Delegated Acts set out in the proposal, and also asked for extended access of the Digital Product Passport (DPP) to individual repairers and refurbishers, whilst ensuring that DPP remains available for the expected lifetimes of individual products. In her draft report, Moretti also suggests the prohibition by default the destruction of unsold goods in the textile and electronic devices sectors, where "there is ample evidence that destruction is taking place and that it has significant environmental impacts", while she also deems "disproportionate" to exempt medium-sized enterprises, as proposed by the Commission, and restricts this derogation to small and micro enterprises. As Contexte reported, Moretti also reinforces the transparency of the forum on ecodesign, which will have to be consulted by the executive, and adds waste management operators in its composition. The draft report will be presented to the Environment Committee in January 2023.

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR): A spokesperson by Germany's Environment Ministry told Contexte that more ambitious targets by the Commission on the matter "would be quite conceivable from the German point of view alone, but they would miss the reality of other member states, which are still in their infancy". Shortly after the Commission's unveiling of the proposal, the country's Environment Minister Steffi Lemke said that Berlin will not wait for Europe to go further, citing that in coordination with the Commission, Germany wants "to take other measures to transform packaging", citing the obligation to reuse packaging for drinks in the retail trade or the ban on providing takeaway meals with disposable dishes and cutlery, the news outlet further reported.

Plastics: In a [briefing](#) published on 12 December, the European Environment Agency (EEA) said that except for plastic in packaging, the majority of plastics used in construction, furniture, electronic objects, toys, textiles or vehicles are not subject to recycling or reuse obligations in the EU, citing the lack of data on these plastic flows. "Data on non-packaging plastic flows remain limited at both national and EU levels. Some data are available on Europe's plastic industry, but the amount of plastic imported as part of manufactured products is unclear," the note reads, also calling for increased traceability of these materials to support better management of their waste.

Environmental crime: On 9th December the EU Ministers of Justice adopted their [position](#) on the revision of the Directive on the protection of the environment

through criminal law, also known as the Environmental Crime Directive. Instead of the nine offences that currently exist under EU criminal law, the negotiating mandate defines 20 offences, broadening and clarifying the scope of conduct that is prohibited because it harms the environment. The new offences include timber trafficking, which is a major cause of deforestation in some parts of the world, the illegal recycling of polluting components of ships and serious breaches of legislation on chemicals.

News from the European Parliament:

- Ecodesign: The European Parliament's Environment committee is scheduled to hold discussions on the [draft report](#), prepared by S&Ds member Alessandra Moretti, on ecodesign of products on 12 January 2023.
- The non-legislative report on the textile strategy, drafted by Delara Burkhardt (S&Ds) is also on the agenda for the same day.

News from the Swedish Presidency:

- With Czechia's Council Presidency coming to an end, Sweden is poised to take over the rotating presidency on 1 January 2023. On 14 December, the country's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson presented Sweden's work program and priorities. In his [speech](#), Kristersson conveyed that his country's work pillars were ensuring security, resilience, prosperity, democratic values and the rule of law. Although there was a mention of the need to reduce emissions, complete the transition to a more resource-efficient and circular society, and make the EU independent of fossil energy, major green pledges were missing from the Presidency's [document](#) detailing its programme for Q1 2023. In particular, biodiversity, circular economy affairs and pollution, although present in the working document, they saw no concrete commitments on their conclusion.
- On circular economy, the document reads that the Swedish Presidency "will prioritise work on the interconnected negotiations on the new Ecodesign Regulation and Construction Products Regulation, both of which aim to ensure an efficient and effective internal market that contributes to a circular economy with reduced environmental and climate impacts." The packaging file was also mentioned, with Kristersson stating that Stockholm "intends to advance the work on the revision of the Packaging Directive." Similar was the case for the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), whose revision the Presidency will prioritise. Concerning waste shipments, the Presidency stated it will also "strive for as much progress as possible in the negotiations on the revision of the Waste Shipments Regulation. This plays an

important part in increasing controls of waste streams and tackling illegal waste shipments."

- Overall, the Presidency vaguely said it will "also work on the EU regulatory frameworks that promote non-toxic material cycles, increased use of high-quality recycled materials in products, and other business models that promote a circular economy."



Richard Sonnenschein has officially become the head of the EU Commission's criminal justice unit, after the EC announced on 13 December his appointment. Sonnenschein, who was previously serving at the same post on an interim basis, will be overseeing works on the environmental crime directive.



Revision of EU rules on Food Contact Materials (FCM): The Commission has opened a public consultation on its initiative related to food safety policy. This includes rules on food contact materials (e.g. food packaging, kitchen and tableware and food processing equipment) and is part of the Farm-to-Fork strategy. The deadline to send us your feedback on FEAD's draft response to the Commission's FCM questionnaire is set on [11 January 2023](#).

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR): The European Commission released on 30 November its PPWR revision proposal. The adopted act is open for feedback for a minimum period of 8 weeks, until [10 February 2023](#).

Water pollution – EU rules on urban wastewater treatment: The Commission has opened the feedback period on its adopted act on making sure that urban wastewater is clean and safe is vital for protecting public health and the environment. This key part of EU water policy is covered by the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. This initiative will

revise the Directive after a recent evaluation of it identified certain shortcomings and new societal needs that must be addressed. The feedback period will run until [10 February 2023](#).



Coffee capsules allowed in blue PMD

bin bag from January: From January 2023, all coffee capsules will be allowed in the blue PMD bin bag, as a recycling system for them has now been worked out after years of research. While some consumers return their used coffee capsules to the producer, many are simply thrown away even though they still contain many valuable materials such as aluminium, polypropylene and other plastics that can be reused. *Read more from the [Brussels Times](#).*

‘We’re writing history’: MEP

Mohammed Chahim on CBAM and ETS

reform: The agreement reached on Tuesday on a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) for the trading bloc broadly reflects the demands of the European Parliament proclaimed Mohammed Chahim, a Dutch MEP with the Socialists and Democrats group, earlier this week as he [outlined](#) the terms of the tentative agreement. Parliament's negotiation success, he tells ENDS Europe, is attributable to lawmakers remaining united in the talks with the

EU strikes deal on world-first carbon

border tariff: After all-night negotiations, the European Union struck a political deal on Tuesday to impose a carbon dioxide emissions tariff on imports of polluting goods such as steel and cement, a world-first scheme aiming to support European industries as they decarbonise.

Negotiators from EU countries and the European Parliament reached a deal at around 5am in Brussels, on the law to impose CO2 emissions costs on imports of iron and steel, cement, fertilisers, aluminium and electricity. *Read more from [Reuters](#).*

EU's circular material use rate

decreased in 2021: According to Eurostat, in 2021, the EU's circular material use rate reached 11.7%. This means that almost 12% of the material resources used in the EU came from recycled waste materials. Compared with 2020, the circularity rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points (pp). The rate maintained a stable growth trend from 2004 (the first year for which data are available; 8.3%) to 2019 (12.0%), before

Commission and member state representatives. "We had good arguments on the table, we had done... our homework and we had a really good negotiation team from the parliament side [with] all political groups... coordinating with each other and making sure that we had one line towards the council," Chahim says. *Read more from [ENDS Europe](#).*

declining in the years affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (11.8% in 2020 and 11.7% in 2021). *Read more from the [Recycling Magazine](#).*



Safe and efficient waste shipments: The way towards a circular economy: The EU is strongly committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and the transition to a circular economy is a prerequisite towards this objective. In this context, safe shipments of waste are key, as they enable the re-looping of valuable secondary raw materials back into the economy and incentivise circular economy business models. However, it is clear to the waste management industry that the ongoing revision of the rules on the shipments of waste do not sufficiently consider and acknowledge this vital enabling role.

Achieving a circular and more resource efficient economy requires major changes in our production and consumption models and is intrinsically based on logistical chains across the EU and around the world. Our ambitious circular economy relies on cross-border supply chains, as market openness goes hand-in-hand with better economic performance. It is not questioned, that as in any other sector, rules are needed, and therefore the EU Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) should set a clear legal framework that will ensure their safety, efficiency, and alignment with environmentally sound practices.

Read FEAD's opinion article at the [Industrial Process News \(IPN\)](#).



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I welcome the political agreement on [#REPowerEU](#).

As Europe is turning its back on Russian gas, [#REPowerEU](#) is our plan for securing a clean energy future.

This agreement unlocks significant resources to roll out our plan, for the benefit of the whole EU.

7:37 AM · Dec 14, 2022

Virginijus Sinkevičius
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Together with the 🇪🇺 team we are ready to listen, and negotiate with all countries and leaders to land an ambitious deal [#ForNature](#).

In the coming days we will put all our efforts to make it happen.

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European Commission and 9 others

11:14 PM · Dec 14, 2022



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