

FEAD BULLETIN N° 92 - 16 September 2022

Hello from Brussels. As always, we bring to you all the latest news on circular economy in Europe and beyond. **What a week**: Europe's lawmakers met in Strasbourg for their plenary, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivered her State of the Union speech (SOTEU), and on that note, we will have a Critical Raw Material Act.

Before you read, make sure you do not miss out on our latest news 👇

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EVENTS REMINDER

Don't miss FEAD's and CAObH'S event on "**Greater Energy and Material Security in EU Countries**" that will take place on 22 September in Prague, Czechia. Register <u>here</u>

CALL FOR EXPERTS

FEAD is looking for **experts** to participate in the Partner Expert Group (PEG) for updating the Guidance on the Application of the CLP criteria for hazards to the aquatic environment, on **19 December** 2022. If interested, please contact us by <u>**30 September** 2022</u>

EU INSTITUTIONS MONITORING

Renewable Energy Directive (REDIII): MEPs <u>voted</u> in favour of the revision of REDIII, that, among others, tightened the criteria regarding the use of mixed wastes for "renewable energy" production. The provisions foresee an obligation for operators to sort the waste to remove fossil materials in case the mixed wastes are used for renewable energy. - FEAD will continue addressing our points in the trilogues.

Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR): Green MEP Bas Eickhout, as the rapporteur, debriefed MEPs of the EU Parliament's ENVI Committee on the outcome of the first trilogue on 8 September. The Committee and the Council are expected to continue informal negotiations in the coming weeks.

Social Climate Fund: The four-column table summarising the institutions' first positions on the Social Climate Fund was **published** on 13 September. The fund aims at addressing any social impacts that arise from the new separate trading system that will cover emissions trading to the building and road transport sectors.

Raw Materials Act: Commission President Ursula von der Leyen unveiled, during her SOTEU speech, that the EU Executive will present a European Critical Raw Materials Act to secure EU's strategic supplies. FEAD welcomes the announcement and calls for CRM recovery and reutilization to address the energy and raw material crisis. Read FEAD's press release <u>here</u>.

Ecolabel: Leaked information revealed that the Commission plans to revise the EU Ecolabel design criteria for textiles and footwear, as stated in the <u>EU Strategy for</u> <u>Sustainable and Circular Textiles</u>. The process has not started yet and the relevant Commission decision would not be ready by the end of 2022.

Swedish Presidency of the EU

With Sweden scheduled to take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU in January, a leaked draft <u>calendar</u> sees an Environment Council meeting on 16 March and 2 June, as well as an informal meeting of ENVI ministers on 18 April.

Ecodesign: The Ecodesign Regulation will be on the agenda of the EU industry ministers meeting, scheduled for 29 September. Ahead of the meeting, the Czech Presidency has prepared a position paper on the related environmental rules and the digital product passport. Ministers of the Industry committee will hold an informal meeting on 6 & 7 February 2023, according to the Swedish Presidency's draft calendar.

Batteries Regulation:

The Council's Working Party on the Environment is scheduled met on 15 September for another round of trilogues on the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on batteries and waste batteries. The third round of trilogues is provisionally expected to take place in early October 2022.

Chemicals: EU's Chemicals Agency has prolonged market authorisation for several pesticides and endocrine disruptors, including amidosulfuron, clomazone, daminozide, difenoconazole, diflufenican, fenoxaprop-P, fludioxonil, flufenacet and tritosulfuron.

In the meantime, in an <u>opinion</u> published on 8 September, the Advocate General of EU's top court, Szpunar advised CJEU to reject an appeal by Plastics Europe against the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), regarding the classification of Bisphenol A as a substance of very high concern (SVHC) because of its endocrine disrupting properties. Plastics Europe argued that in upholding ECHA's classification decision, the court failed to uphold the principle of scientific excellence, with Szpunar finding the argument "unfounded".

Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Revision: According to leaked information, the presentation of the CLP revision, that was initially envisaged by the Commission on 26 October as part of a legislative package on pollution, is no longer on the indicative agenda of the College for this semester.

Plastic Packaging: On 15 September, the Commission adopted a <u>Regulation</u> that establishes a new framework for recycling technologies for plastic food packaging to ensure a certain level of health safety. It also also sets conditions for assessing and approving new recycling technologies, including chemicals. The text will enter into force in October.

State Aid: A consultation on the Commission's idea to allow NGOs to challenge European decisions on state aid will be open until 5 October. The EU Executive is considering three option to comply with the Aarhus Convention, that provides for a right to challenge administrative acts that contravene environmental law.

Protection of the environment through criminal law: The Czech Presidency on 14 September forwarded to delegations a new set of questions on the sanctions component of the Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law, re-proposing to review the classification of offences.

FEAD EVENTS CALENDAR



Greetings from Geneva.

FEAD participated in the Joint Meeting of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the RID Committee of Experts (<u>RID/ADR/ADN Joint</u> <u>Meeting</u>) that was held on 12-16 September in Geneva, Switzerland.

- <u>4 October</u>, Strasbourg : Parliamentary dinner organised ahead of the revision of the WFD. Co-organised by FEAD with EURiC, CEWEP, Municipal Waste Europe.
- <u>15-16 November</u>, Rotterdam: Public conference on Paper and Plastic recycling a
 FEAD representative to be a speaker

ONLINE SURVEYS & CONSULTATIONS

• **Plastic Packaging:** The Commission wants to ensure that the annual statements that Member States send it on the amount generated by this own resource introduced in 2021 are comparable and based on the same statistics.

The deadline to submit feedback on the EC draft act is **<u>4 October 2022</u>**.

• Follow-up from the COP 15 of the Basel Convention

Parties and observers have been <u>invited</u> to submit feedback on several topics. You can find all the information <u>online</u>.

• Waste containing POPs:

REMINDER: Deadline to *comment* on the technical guidelines is by <u>30</u> <u>September 2022 COB.</u>

REMINDER: If interested in submitting *feedback* to the Basel Convention, please provide us with possible further/more detailed information (challenges, best practices, possible approaches) by <u>31 October COB.</u>

• <u>ESM:</u>

Please let us know if you would like to submit any feedback.

- Preliminary draft structure of a new version of the Classification of Products by Activity (CPA)
 - **REMINDER:** Deadline for comments on the <u>preliminary draft structure</u> of a new version of the CPA classification is **16 September.**

PRESS REVIEW & REPORTS

Paper value chain reached a 71.4% recycling rate. According to the 2021 Monitoring Report, released on 9 September, 71.4% of all paper and board consumed in Europe was recycled in 2021.The total amount of paper and board collected and recycled in the paper sector in 2021 increased by 2%, compared to the previous year. *Read more from <u>Recycling</u> <u>Magazine</u>.*

European Parliament backs 45% renewable energy goal for 2030.

Europe's lawmakers voted on 14 September in favour of a 45% target for renewable energy in the EU's energy mix by 2030, paving the way for negotiations with the 27 member states to finalise the text before the end of the year. *Read more from* <u>EURACTIV</u>.

EU sets new rules for use of chemical recycling for food packaging. The

EU Policy must ensure producers are held globally responsible for electronics waste, researchers urge. In a transdisciplinary study published earlier in September, researchers called on EU policy makers to globally extend the the so-called - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulatory system that holds electronics producers and importers responsible for the treatment of e-waste in Europe under the 'polluter pays' principle for the treatment of e-waste in Europe, so that it takes into consideration circularity, sustainability and fairness. Read more from Utrecht <u>University</u>.

European Commission has announced that new rules on authorising the use of recycled plastic in food and drink packaging, including through "chemical recycling", will enter into force next month. *Read more from ENDS*.

TWEETS OF THE WEEK



#pillolecircolari #economiacircolare

 II 36,8% dei rifiuti urbani che esportiamo viene destinato a recupero di energia da altri Paesi
 Circa 214 mila tonnellate che lasciano il nostro Paese, fortemente dipendente dall'estero, per diventare energia altrove.





Raw material will fuel our green and digital future.

Almost 90% of rare earths and 60% of lithium are processed in China.

With our Critical Raw Materials Act we will:

- · Identify strategic projects along the supply chain
- Build up strategic reserves for our Union





WEBINARS & CONFERENCES

Chemical Recycling Europe Annual Conference:

- 13-14 October 2022 in Brussels, Belgium. Find out more here.
- European Commission: Circular Week
 - 3-9 October 2022 in Brussels, Belgium. Find out more here

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