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Hello from Brussels. As always, we bring to you all the latest news on **circular economy** in Europe and beyond. This week we have updates on EU lawmakers who met in Strasbourg for their plenary session and from several trilogues.

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

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Waste Shipment: Following a request by MEPs, the EU parliament's legal service conducted a study on the **revision** of the conditions for waste shipment, Contexte reported. The study concluded that to be compatible with international law, the introduction of a total or partial and unconditional ban on exports to third countries "must be

proportionate and "justified on grounds of public policy", such as the protection of health and environment. The Legal Service is of the opinion that any potential ban should be as targeted and limited as possible, and should be introduced in response to specific problems and shortcomings.

A new meeting between the rapporteurs is scheduled for 12 October, to discuss several political issues, including but not limited to, export restrictions and conditions, possible exemptions, as well as the fate of plastic waste, the news outlet also reported.

Renewable Energy Directive (RED) - Amendment: The first negotiation trilogue on the renewables directive was held on 6 October. Contexte has published the [agenda](#) of the scheduled meetings.

Emissions Trading System (ETS): Ahead of the upcoming trilogue scheduled for 10 October, FEAD has reiterated its [position](#) on the inclusion of municipal waste incineration in the EU ETS. Contexte reported that the extension of the scope of the ETS, in particular to biomass power plants or waste incineration, will also be on the [agenda](#) of the next trilogue.

Batteries Regulation: Contexte has published the [draft revision](#) of the negotiating mandate of the Council of the EU, which Prague submitted to the EU27 ambassadors (Coreper 1) on 6 October, ahead of the third trilogue on the batteries and waste batteries [regulation](#) scheduled for 11 October. According to the text, the Presidency expects that the targets for the collection of battery waste " will remain a key political issue until the end of the negotiations " and that this new trialogue will " explore the possibilities for progress ".

Chemicals:

- 1. Classification, labelling and packaging of Substances and Mixtures Regulation revision (CLP):** The Commission has made available an [Impact Assessment](#) (IA) for the CLP regulation revision to accompany the [draft](#) delegated regulation introducing new hazard classes in the CLP.
- 2. REACH:** The REACH Committee is scheduled to discuss on 26-27 October, the Commission's [draft regulation](#) restricting lead in PVC.

In the meantime, in a [letter](#) sent to the Commission's three Executive Vice-Presidents, as well as to Commissioner Thierry Breton and Virginijus Sinkevičius, and published by Contexte, eight member states including Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France,

Germany Luxembourg and Norway, voiced their concerns about the timetable for the REACH revision. The MS specifically asked the current leadership to not leave the revision to the next Commission.

Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Act:

See our *Consultations & online surveys section* for the Commission's launch of a public consultation for a CRM Act and don't forget to read FEAD's [reaction](#) to the Commission's relevant announcement.

Ecodesign Regulation: The Council's Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth met on 7 October 2022 to hold an exchange of views on the Commission's [proposal](#). According to Contexte, Czechia is planning a political debate on the Ecodesign Regulation at the next Environment Council on 24 October in Luxembourg.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE): MEPs greenlighted on Monday a resolution endorsing a single-charger (USB Type-C charging port) for all 15 electronic products, including all mobile phones, tablets and cameras sold in the EU. Earlier in June, the Council of the EU and the Commission had reached an agreement on the matter and following the EP's approval, the matter has now to be approved by the EU27.

See our *Consultations & online surveys section* for the Commission's call for papers to evaluate the WEEE [Directive](#) before a public consultation is launched in early 2023.

Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR): The second round of inter-institutional (trilogue) negotiations on the ESR revision will take place on 11 October.

Industrial Emissions Directive (IED): The Council's Working Group on Environment met on 6 October, ahead of the upcoming COP15. According to Contexte, Czechia is planning a political debate on the IED revision at the next Environment Council on 24 October in Luxembourg.

Packaging Directive: The revision of the directive got the nod from the Commission's internal review committee, Contexte reported, which also added that the draft impact assessment accompanying the revision was approved - with reservations as of each study -, by experts in the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, at the beginning of October. Following the approval, the EU Executive now can launch the inter-service consultation, which is the final step before the publication of the text, initially scheduled for 30 November.

However, with the Commission envisaging changing the Directive into a Regulation, informal sources told FEAD that M-S strongly oppose this idea. Irrespective of the outcome, this could significantly delay the adoption of the proposal.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): Following prior approval from the EP's ENVI committee, MEPs [agreed](#) on 4 October on new rules imposing stricter limits on POPs, and the ways to manage waste that contains them. The [provisional agreement](#) amending Annexes IV and V to the POPs Regulation was approved, with 534 MEPs voting in favour, 25 against and 66 abstaining.

The adopted text reads that “...the Commission should therefore assess whether it is appropriate that **waste which contains any persistent organic pollutants exceeding the concentration limits specified in Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 is to be classified as hazardous**, and put forward, if appropriate, a legislative proposal to amend Directive 2008/98/EC or a proposal to amend Commission Decision 2000/532/EC2, or both, accordingly.”

Protection of the environment through criminal law: According to information by Context, the Czech Presidency of the Council has sent an enquiry point to the European Commission on the ongoing work on the Directive on the protection of the matter.

Sewage Sludge: Two [studies](#) in support of the upcoming Evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive (SSD) on sewage sludge in agriculture, indicated that various Member States have set stricter national requirements on the use of sewage sludge than the SSD established.

State Aid: On 6 October, the Commission sent to Member States for consultation a draft proposal to prolong and adjust the [State aid Temporary Crisis Framework](#), adopted in March, to enable M-S to use the flexibility foreseen under State aid rules to support the economy in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. The proposal foresees, among others, additional measures aimed at supporting electricity demand reduction.

Methane Emissions: The Council's Working Party on Energy discussed the [proposal](#) for a regulation on methane emission reductions in the energy sector on 6 October 2022. MEPs in the ENVI and ITRE Committees will be able to table amendments to the draft Report on the proposal until 19 October following next week's discussion in the European Parliament's joint lead committees.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM): Political negotiations on CBAM

between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission resumed on 4 October.



- **Anna Hubáčková**, the Environment Minister of the Czech Republic, announced on 3 October that she had resigned from the post due to health reasons. Petr Hladík will take over the position and will represent the country that currently chairs the Council of the EU, in the many ongoing interinstitutional negotiations.
- **Sharon McGuinness** is the new head of Europe's Chemicals Agency (ECHA), according to a [statement](#) issued by the agency. McGuinness was greenlighted by MEPs in July and will serve as Executive Director for the next 5 years, as of 1 December. **Paul Krajník**, was re-elected to chair ECHA's governing board for the next two years.



LAST CALL:

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 as soon as possible.



Plastic Packaging: The Commission wants to ensure that the annual statements that Member States send 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 was on [04 October 2022](#). Please submit your feedback as soon as possible.

Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED):

On 5 April 2022, the Commission adopted proposals for revised EU measures to address pollution from large industrial installations. Following its publication, the proposal was sent to the European Parliament and the Council for examination. We prepared a draft of the amendments based on the feedback we sent on 23 June 2022. The deadline to send us your comments has been extended to [07 October 2022](#).

Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) of Substances and Mixtures

Regulation revision: The deadline to provide us with *feedback* on the Commission's draft act on introducing new hazard classes and their criteria into the CLP Regulation for its adaptation to technical and scientific progress, is set to [10 October 2022](#).

Ship recycling – European list of ship recycling facilities: The Commission's initiative on the updated list of approved ship recycling facilities is open for feedback until [17 October 2022](#).

Waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE): The Commission has opened a call for evidence for an evaluation of its initiative that aims at assessing the progress made under the Directive on waste from electrical and electronic equipment. Deadline to send us your feedback is [21 October 2022](#).

Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Act: The Commission has opened a public consultation on its future legislation on ensuring an increase and diversification of its critical raw materials supplies. Deadline to submit feedback on the EC draft legislation is [25 November 2022](#).

Revision of EU rules on food contact materials: 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 submit feedback on the EC regulation proposal is [11 January 2023](#).

Follow-up from the COP 15 of the Basel Convention

Parties and observers have been [invited](#) to submit feedback on several topics. You can find all the information [online](#).

- **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 **31 October COB.**
- **ESM:**
Please let us know if you would like to submit any *feedback*.
- **Establishing de minimis concentration values, concentration limit values and cut-off values should be established in Annex III.**
Please provide us with your *feedback* by **10 October 2022 COB.**
- **PIC:**
REMINDER: Deadline to fill in the joint **survey** by FEAD and EERA on the introduction of PIC procedure for shipments of non-hazardous electronic waste between the EU and other OECD countries is **14 October 2022 COB.**



- **10 November:** *UNECE* · Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (*WP.15*). - **FEAD representative to be a speaker**
- **15-16 November,** Rotterdam: Public conference on Paper and Plastic recycling – **FEAD representative to be a speaker**
- **16 November,** Brussels: 6th meeting of the ADR - **Informal Working Group on the Transport of Hazardous Waste**, dedicated to the transport of asbestos waste in bulk.

Non-FEAD events

- European Commission: Circular Week
 - **3-9 October 2022** in Brussels, Belgium. Find out more [here](#)
- Chemical Recycling Europe Annual Conference
 - **13-14 October 2022** in Brussels, Belgium. Find out more [here](#).



Securing reverse supply chains for a resource efficient: A working paper published by OECD explores the opportunities and challenges for governments to facilitate cross-border reverse supply chains for a resource efficient and circular economy. It mainly focuses on the role of trade facilitation mechanisms and standards, and provides potential ways forward in utilising them to improve and strengthen cross-border reverse supply chains. *Read more from [OECD](#).*

MEPs urge wealthy countries to meet their commitments ahead of COP27: The European Parliament's environment committee says Europe and other wealthy nations should make concrete commitments to increase their CO2 reduction targets and put more money on the table to help developing countries make the clean energy transition and tackle the effects of rising heat, ahead of the UN climate summit in Sharm El Sheikh next month. *Read more from [ENDS](#).*

Trade for an inclusive circular economy. A framework for collective action: A paper published by Clatham House, the Circular Economy Coalition of Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Circular Economy Alliance, the UN Industrial Development Organization, and the Institute for European Environmental Policy, sets out a framework for inclusive circular trade, intended to enable a more inclusive pathway for the circular economy transition. *Read more from [EU - Clatham House](#).*

Europe must set the bar high on packaging reuse systems to curb waste: The revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD) is a rare opportunity to scale up a competitive reuse sector in Europe and reverse a half-century addiction to single-use packaging and record levels of waste. *Read more from [EURACTIV](#).*





Uvědomuji si naléhavost celé situace. Teď, když celá Evropa prochází transformací energetiky a Česká republika předsedá Radě Evropské unie, je důležité, aby odchod paní ministryně neohrozil fungování ministerstva. S velkou pokorou a respektem proto tuto žádost přijímám.

Translated from Czech by Google

I realize the urgency of the whole situation. Now that the whole of Europe is undergoing energy transformation and the Czech Republic presides over the Council of the European Union, it is important that the minister's departure does not jeopardize the functioning of the ministry. I therefore accept this request with great humility and respect.

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