




BULLETIN N° 98 - 28 October 2022

Hello from Brussels. As always, we bring you all the latest news on **circular economy** in Europe and beyond. This week you can find a special tribute to the Commission's plans to ease state aid in a bid to help companies facing rising energy bills.

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State Aid: According to a **draft** document published by Contexte, the Commission plans to ease the conditions for access to state aid, in a bid to help companies facing rising energy

bills. Among others, the initiative includes aid for additional costs due to exceptionally severe increases in natural gas and electricity prices, based on current or historical energy consumption. In addition, it also facilitates state aid to accelerate [...] the production of renewable hydrogen, biogas and biomethane from waste and residues, forms part of an appropriate, necessary and targeted solution to reduce the dependency on imported fossil fuels in the current context," reads the document. This will be considered compatible with the internal market provided that it meets the EU sustainability criteria in RED.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): On 24 October, the Council formally adopted the regulation to reduce limit values for the presence of POPs in waste. The regulation revises the annexes to POP regulation, introducing new chemicals on the list of these substances and restricting their presence in waste by strengthening the concentration limit values of certain substances.

Batteries Regulation: The Council's Working Party on the Environment met on 25 October to start its preparations for the fourth inter-institutional negotiations on the Commission's [proposal](#) for a regulation on batteries and waste batteries, following a briefing by the Czech Presidency earlier in the month. In the European Parliament, the ENVI Committee met on 24 October 2022 and along with the IMCO Committee were informed on the outcomes of the negotiations on 26 October 2022.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS): EU's Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson [announced](#) during the CCUS Forum in Oslo on 27 October that the EU Executive will table its strategic vision on carbon capture, storage and recovery, next year. Simson added that the vision aims at quantifying the potential role CCS and CCU can play in decarbonisation or clarifying the rules governing CO2 infrastructure, giving certainty to investors.

Construction Products Regulation (CPR): The European Parliament's IMCO committee issued on 26 October an updated provisional timetable for its work on the draft Report to the [proposal](#) for the CPR revision. According to the timetable, IMCO MEPs are still expected to discuss the draft Report on 28-29 November 2022. They would then have until 6 December 2022 to table amendments to the Rapporteur's text. According to information by Contexte, France is 'in favour of the possibility of setting thresholds relating to the essential characteristics of products, but not performance classes' which 'would not, in fact, make it possible to adapt to different national situations'.

EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS): The EP's ENVI committee met on 24 October

2022. The third trilogue on the [proposal](#) amending the EU ETS will be held on 10 November 2022, the chair of the Committee Pascal Canfin has announced.

NATIONAL NEWS: The German Bundestag (Parliament) adopted on 20 October a law deciding on municipal incinerators and hazardous waste incinerators to be subject to the German ETS as of 2024.

Ecodesign: The ENV Council met on 24 October 2022. The Council's ENV group saw general agreement across Member States on the sustainability criteria of the Commission's [proposal](#) establishing a framework on Ecodesign requirements for Sustainable Products (ESPR), whilst some disagreement was observed over product labelling, the use of Delegated Acts, and the future implementation of the proposal. According to information by Contexte, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and France, reacted to this proposal, citing that a ban directly in the regulation is needed, with the Dutch and Austrian ministers arguing that "Destroying unsold products should not be possible in the EU."

In the European Parliament, the IMCO Committee considered their Rapporteur's [draft opinion](#) on 26 October 2022. The Rapporteur argued that the proposal should prohibit planned obsolescence for both material and digital products, according to information by EU issue tracker. Additionally, he called for the proposal to introduce a repairability score for products, and to ensure greater levels of transparency across products' value chains. The Committee Chair MEP Anna Cavazzini (Greens/EFA, Germany) concluded the meeting by noting that the vote on the Opinion and any compromise amendments would take place in April 2023.

Once published, the ITRE committee is expected to discuss the expected draft Opinion on 28 November 2022. Following this, MEPs may submit amendments until 1 December 2022.

Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR): The EU Parliament's ENVI Committee met on 24 October 2022 and its Chair, Pascal Canfin reported back to lawmakers on the second trilogue on the proposal to amend the ESR, which took place on 11 October. Canfin announced that the next trilogue on the ESR revision will be held on 8 November.

Industrial Emissions Directive (IED): The ENV Council met on 24 to discuss the Commission's proposal for the revision of EU rules on IED. In the European Parliament, talks in the Agriculture and Rural Affairs (AGRI) committee were also held on the

rapporteur's draft opinion. Talks in the ENVI committee will be held on the draft report by Bulgarian MEP [Radan Kanev](#) (EPP) on 30 November and 1 December.

Plastic Pollution: Europe's environment ambassadors authorised on 24 October the EC to negotiate an international agreement on plastic pollution, with talks set to begin at the end of November in Uruguay. Earlier in the month, Coreper I ambassadors had approved EU's draft mandate, that had authorised negotiations only within the scope of competences that are exclusive to the EU, and not to those that the Union shares with M-S, excluding, thus, those related to the environment.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE): Earlier in October, MEPs had approved the [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. On 24 October, the Council gave its final green-light to the common charger directive.

Waste Water Treatment: On 26 October, the EU Commission presented a [proposal for a directive](#) concerning urban wastewater treatment, amending the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD), to address the remaining sources of urban pollution. The measure would reduce micropollutant emissions, monitor microplastics and certain pathogens, introduce the polluter pays principle and establish measures to make wastewater treatment plants a source of renewable energy to achieve energy neutrality for the sector by 2040.

Methane Emissions: Lawmakers of the European Parliament's ENVI and ITRE committees met on 24-25 October, after having tabled the amendments to the draft report on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector.

Chemicals - REACH: Several Environment Ministers (Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden, Finland, Austria) have expressed their "disappointment" concerning the postponement of the REACH regulation revision to the end of 2023, Contexte reported. These interventions took place during the debate on the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

Textiles Strategy: The ENVI committee and the ITRE committee have reached an agreement on the [distribution of competences](#) for the preparation of the report on the communication published last March, Contexte reported. The draft report in the ENVI committee, prepared by German socialist Delara Burkhardt, will be finalised by 6 December, to be debated on 12 January 2023. Adoption in committee is expected on

26 or 27 April, before a vote in the May plenary, the news outlet added.

Protection of the environment through criminal law: The ENV Council heard from the Council Presidency on 24 October 2022, at the request of the Commission. The Presidency outlined the two contentious issues which remained for the Council to reach an agreement, meaning i) the schedule of sanctions for natural and legal persons, and ii) the Commission's power to collect data on Member States' efforts to combat environmental crime. Prague aims to reach an overall general approach on the Commission's proposal for the [revision](#) of Environmental Criminal Law at the December Justice and Home Affairs Council.

In the European Parliament, the [draft report](#) by the JURI committee rapporteur foreseeing 72 amendments was published on 18 October, with the committee holding talks on the report on 27 October. The report was overall welcomed by the other groups, with disagreements spotted only on some points, however it raised eyebrows in Manders' political family (EPP), which thought Manders "went too far", Contexte reported.

The ENVI [compromise amendments](#) were adopted between the EPP, S&D, Renew, Green and the Left rapporteurs, and suggest extending the list of offences and also propose that the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) coordinates investigations and cross-border crime prosecutions.

The EP's Legal committee kickstarted its works on the matter.

The Dutch MEP Antonius Manders told Contexte that the objective is "not to punish, but to prevent environmental crimes", thus, pleading for the criminal liability of the members of a Board of Directors to be engaged in the event of a crime involving their firm. They "must no longer be able to hide behind a company ", he insisted, the news outlet further reported, adding that he specified in his report that the liability of legal persons does not exclude proceedings against natural persons, " especially in cases where the members of the board of directors [...] are aware, or should have known, of activities posing a high risk of environmental damage."

United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP27): Europe's environment ministers finalised preparations for the upcoming COP27, on 24 October in Luxembourg.



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. FEAD has prepared a draft document to respond to the European Commission's call for evidence. We kindly ask you to send us your feedback and comments by [2 November 2022](#).

Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) revision - Amendments: The deadline to provide us with your comments is [4 November 2022](#).

Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) Act: The Commission has opened a public consultation on its future legislation on ensuring an increase and diversification of its critical raw materials supplies. A call for evidence for an Impact Assessment (IA), on the Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) Act initiative has been launched. We kindly ask you to provide us with your feedback/contribution/ facts and figures, practical examples by [11 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](#).



- 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.



**Plastic Recycling Is A Dead-End Street
—Year After Year, Plastic Recycling
Declines Even as Plastic Waste**

Increases: A new Greenpeace USA Report published on October 24 concluded that most plastic simply cannot be recycled, The so-called **Circular Claims Fall Flat Again** report found that US households generated an estimated 51 million tons of plastic waste in 2021, only 2.4 million tons of which was recycled. It also found that no type of plastic packaging in the US meets the definition of recyclable used by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation’s New Plastic Economy (EMF NPE) Initiative. *Read more from [Greenpeace](#).*

Strategic Research and Innovation Plan for safe and sustainable Chemicals and Materials: The Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) announces a Strategic Research and Innovation

EEA countries can soon notify to SCIP

database: The obligation to submit notifications to the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) database of substances of concern in products (SCIP) has been extended to also cover companies supplying articles in the European Economic Area (EEA): Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. From 7 November, the database will be ready to receive their notifications. This change comes as the amendment to the Waste Framework Directive has been incorporated into the EEA Agreement. *Read more from [ECHA](#).*

Research by Recoup reveals bottleneck in UK plastic recycling infrastructure. A new report by plastic resource efficiency and recycling charity, RECOUP, has shown a bottleneck in the UK’s recycling infrastructure – available infrastructure cannot keep up with current

Agenda in 2022. The current Strategic Research and Innovation Plan (SRIP) delivers on this announcement and highlights current research and innovation (R&I) areas crucial for accelerating the transition to chemicals and materials that are safe and sustainable. *Read more from the [European Commission](#).*

demand. Titled '2022 UK Plastic Packaging Sorting Reprocessing Infrastructure report', the report found that current infrastructure needs to be increased five times for household packaging and nine times for food-grade plastic. *Read more from [Resource](#).*



EUWID - Plastics recycling chain members call for easier intra-EU waste shipments: Six European industry organisations from the plastics value chain have called on policymakers to use the revision of the EU Waste Shipments Regulation (WSR) "as an opportunity to facilitate intra-EU shipments". *Read more [here](#).*



 EU2022_CZ
@EU2022_CZ

 #ENVI |  EU Ministers adopted the revision of the persistent organic pollutants #POPs regulation.

The aim is to further restrict harmful chemicals in waste coming from products as furniture, plastics and electronic equipment. #EU2022CZ

More 
europa.eu/!dddGVp





ASEGRE
@asegre01

● El “IX Foro sobre la Gestión de los #Residuos Industriales” se ha celebrado en el @cbamadrid. Esta edición ha estado muy marcada por hitos tan importantes como la nueva ley de residuos y suelos contaminados asegre.com/alta-participa... #medioambiente #economiacircular #reciclaje

Translated from Spanish by Google

● The “IX Forum on the Management of #Residuos Industrials” was held in @cbamadrid . This edition has been marked by such important milestones as the new law on waste and contaminated soil asegre.com/alta-participa... #medioambiente #economiacircular #reciclaje



Revista Limpiezas and 9 others

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