



CLIMATE CHANGE WON'T WAIT A SINGLE DAY FOR US - EUROPEAN COMMISSION



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Hello from Brussels. As always, we bring you all the latest news on **circular economy** from Europe and beyond. With the world's nations preparing for the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Egypt on 6-18 November 2022, Europe aspires to spearhead the fight against climate change.

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

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Critical Raw Materials (CRMs): The European Commission is organising a Raw Materials Week, to be held on 14-18 November. According to information by Contexte, Peter Handley, the Head of the EC DG Industry's Energy Intensive Industries and Raw Materials Unit spoke about the EU Executive's work on shaping agreements with third countries. During the conference held on 27 October, the EC official talked about the "strategic partnership" on "critical raw materials, batteries and renewable hydrogen" with

Kazakhstan, while he also noted that the Commission is "close to obtaining a mandate from the European Council" to start discussions with Greenland, and that negotiations are ongoing with Norway.

Waste Framework Directive (WFD): In an open [letter](#) sent to European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius on 2 November, 10 MEPs and 47 NGOs, called for urgent action in order to tackle the waste crisis. "We call for EU policies to match the European Green Deal's ambitions and narrative. Intending to achieve carbon neutrality and circularity by 2050, the current rate of 8.6% circularity, calculated by the 2022 Circularity Gap Report, is unacceptable and outright dangerous for Europe's future," the letter reads. In October, the EU Executive presented its Work Programme for 2023, which indicates a revision of the food waste and textile aspects of WFD, excluding the other parts of this framework legislation.

State Aid: The European Commission [announced](#) on 28 October the second revision of its state aid guidelines, that will replace the [Temporary Crisis Framework](#) adopted on 23 March 2022. The move came in a bid to respond to the energy crisis deriving from the bloc's dependency on Russian fossil fuels. According to the EU [communication](#), new categories of support have been introduced and the framework, which could give up to €150 million in total, is set to stay in place until December 2023.

According to information published by Contexte, a "high-level" working lunch is scheduled for 9 November, during which, the [note](#) prepared by the three Council Presidencies, namely the French, Czech and the upcoming Swedish one, will be discussed. The experts will touch upon the criteria used to define state aid schemes and the industries in Europe that are in need of protection in case of gas rationing.

Renewable Energy Directive (RED): The next trilogue on RED, scheduled for 9 November, has been postponed, with a new date likely to be decided by the end of the week, Contexte reported.

Ecodesign on Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR): In the European Parliament, MEPs have until 15 November to table amendments to the [draft opinion](#) of the IMCO committee, which is then expected to vote on the document and any amends in April 2023. The ITRE Committee Rapporteur is developing a draft Opinion on the Commission's proposal, with the committee then expected to discuss the expected draft Opinion, once published, on 28 November 2022. Following this, lawmakers will have until 1 December to submit any amendments.

Chemicals: The Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union [concluded](#), on 27 November, on the case between the European Parliament and the European Commission on the latter's implementing Decision of 18 December 2020, which partially granted an authorisation of a substance classified as being of very high concern by the REACH regulation, that "the requirements relating to the burden of proof cannot depend on the scope of the application for authorisation, in the sense that they can be regarded as less stringent where the application relates to a large number of uses and therefore of sites and undertakings potentially affected by those uses." The Advocate General concluded that the Court should annul the EC authorisation decision, while maintaining its effects until it had issued a new decision.

- **Chemicals - REACH:** Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden want to clarify the concept of "plausible biological link", used as a criterion for the identification of a substance as an endocrine disruptor, in order to avoid different interpretations, Contexte reported. For the new hazard classes for persistent, mobile and toxic (PMT) and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) substances, the French government, in a [note](#) dated 20 October, proposed adding a step by creating a hazard class for these "very high persistence" substances, the news outlet added.

Several M-S also noted they want a pictogram that will warn professionals and consumers about the endocrine properties of substances, Contexte said, adding that Belgium and Slovakia deplore the Commission's move to use secondary legislation to introduce these new hazard classes which are, according to both countries, "essential elements" of the CLP Regulation.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS): The European Commission announced on 3 November €3bn in new grants in its third call for large-scale industrial projects, under the EU Innovation Fund. According to the announcement by the EU Executive's Vice President for the Green Deal Frans Timmermans, one-third of the available funding is earmarked for carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) projects.

Construction Products Regulation (CPR): According to a provisional timetable issued last week by the Parliament's IMCO committee, its lawmakers are expected to discuss the draft Report on 28-29 November 2022. Then they would then have until 6 December 2022 to table amendments to the Rapporteur's text.

EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS): 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. Speaking on the EU ETS trilogues, Pieter Liese said that still there are "too many open questions" and the only possibility of concluding the discussions would be EP giving up its ambitious proposals, Politico reported, adding that that option is against Liese's will. The key lawmaker also confirmed there will be a "supertrilogue"/ "jumbo trilogue" to reach an agreement on the matter, along with CMAB and the Social Climate Fund, to be held in mid-December, in a bid for the Czech Presidency to take care of all the Fit For 55 files.

Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR): As announced by the EU Parliament's ENVI Committee Chair, Pascal Canfin, the next inter-institutional discussions on the ESR revision will be held on 8 November. During the next trilogue, which could be the conclusive one, negotiators will need to decide on the flexibilities the EU27 will have to achieve their climate objectives, Contexte reported, adding that M-S are asking for more flexibility than the EP on the possibility to exchange "ESR quotas". The news outlet added that the Council and the EP will not touch the target of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the sectors covered by this regulation (mainly road transport, buildings, waste, agriculture) or its national variations.

Industrial Emissions Directive (IED): Talks in the ENVI committee will be held on the draft report by Bulgarian MEP [Radan Kanev](#) (EPP) on 30 November and 1 December. On 4 November, the Commission's implementing decision establishing best available techniques (BAT) conclusions under IED for ferrous metal processing industries (FMP) was published in the EU Official Journal and entered into force on the same day. The Commission Decision establishes the BAT conclusions under the IED concerning FMPs.

Waste Water Treatment: On 4 November, the Environment Working Group of the Council of the EU held a meeting to receive a presentation by the Commission of the revision of the Urban Waste Water Directive. Last week, the EU Executive had presented its [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.

United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP27): The Council approved on 28 October the [figure](#) of €23.04 billion in climate finance from public sources, earmarked for supporting developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The move came in preparation for UN COP27, which will take place from 6 to 18 November in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. The figure is based on the detailed EU climate finance reporting rules laid down in the governance regulation.



Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) revision - Amendments: LAST REMINDER: We kindly ask you to send us your feedback, especially for amendments that have more options and for the new ones by [4 November 2022](#).

Ecodesign on Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR): On 27 October, the European Commission outlined its [intention](#) to publish a call for a feasibility study on the establishment of ESPR digital product passport (DPP) registry. The deadline to declare interest for the tender is [10 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](#).

Plastic Wastes: Please provide us with your feedback on the notes from the co-leads of the Small Intersessional Working Group (SIWG) on the technical guidelines on the ESM of plastic wastes, by [15 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](#).



- 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.
- 30 November, online: ECHA Workshop on the Forum pilot project on Recovered Substances exempted from REACH registration - **FEAD representative to be a speaker.**



‘Golden age of gas’ drawing to a close, IEA says: In its annual **‘world energy outlook’**, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said that gas demand in the EU and UK could be as much as 45% lower in 2035 than what it had modelled in a 2011 report entitled ‘the golden age of gas’.
Read more from [ENDS Europe](#).

Copenhagen replaces natural gas with biomethane from food waste: Starting this month Copenhagen will use the food waste that has been collected from households and businesses all over the

Almost a fifth of waste handled illegally says EA: The EA estimates that only 25% of waste crimes are reported to the EA, meaning that 18% of all waste is managed illegally at some point, equivalent to 34m tonnes a year. In its annual report on regulatory activity, the EA said it closed 561 illegal waste sites, with 445 new sites uncovered in 2021. *Read more from [Materials Recycling World](#).*

Wastewater treatment plants can catch a cold: New research from Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, reveals

city to produce biogas and biomethane to use for electricity and heat generation as well as to replace natural gas in the gas grid. *Read more from [WEKA Industrie Medien](#).*

the implications for the surrounding environment in case the plant catches a cold. From the study, the researchers have shown there is a clear relationship between virus concentration and the amount of dissolved organic carbon present in the effluent water. This is because viruses could affect the concentration in two ways, firstly because they themselves contain carbon, and secondly because they rupture host bacteria cells, causing carbon to be released. *Read more from the [RECYCLING Magazine](#).*



Recycling International - Spotlight on Europe's recycling future at Rotterdam conference: Ever-stricter scrap trade rules and corporate sustainability goals for recovered paper and plastics flows within and from Europe will be among the main topics to be addressed at the Paper & Plastics Recycling Conference Europe in Rotterdam, the Netherlands on 15-16 November. The opening session will feature speakers from two Brussels-based organisations on the front lines of the recycling challenges: the European Waste Management Association (FEAD) and the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI). *Read more [here](#).*



Today, we've decided to prolong and amend the State aid Temporary Crisis Framework in order to support the economy in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine.

The framework enables EU countries to support those that need it, using the full flexibility of State aid rules.



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State aid Temporary Crisis Framework

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At #COP27, we will call on all Parties to take urgent action to bring down greenhouse gas emissions and comply with the Paris Agreement.

Climate change won't wait a single day for us.



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