



## NEWSLETTER N° 127 - 30 May 2023

**Hello from Brussels.** In a surprising twist, Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo has taken a stand against the prevailing de-growth concept that dominated discussions in the European Parliament. Urging for a shift in focus, De Croo emphasised the need to prioritise "what truly matters" amidst the clamor to address multiple issues simultaneously. By echoing French President Emmanuel Macron's plea for a regulatory pause, De Croo has further intensified the discourse. However, his stance has also resulted in a divided nation, highlighting the contrasting views and opinions within Belgium.

Make sure you do not miss out on our latest news 📌

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**Renewable Energy Directive (RED):** Vote on Revised RED Directive Postponed to June as Member States Seek Approval.

**Industrial Emissions Directive (IED):** ENVI Committee Rejects Several IED Draft Report Amendments, Allows Waste Management Companies to Decide on Sorting of Residual Municipal Waste.

- Environmental NGOs Disappointed as European Parliament Environment Committee Fails to Retain Legal Limits on Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Industries

**Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR):** COMPET Council Adopts General Approach, Ambitious Framework for Ecodesign Requirements, Including Digital Product Passport and Ban on Destruction of Unsold Textiles.

**Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR):** Negotiations on Waste Shipment Rules Set to Begin as Council Approves Mandate, MEPs Push for Plastic Waste Export Ban.

**Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA):** Parliamentary Rapporteur's Draft Report Expands Supported Technologies for Net Zero Emissions, Excludes Nuclear Energy, Includes CCSU and Redefines Strategic Technologies, Contexte Reports.

- Spanish Secretary General for Industry & SMEs Voices Hopes for an Agreement on 'Net Zero Emissions' Regulation Under Upcoming Council Presidency, Contexte Reports.

**Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA):** European Commission's DG Grow Head of Unit, Peter Handley Stresses Need for Coherence Between Critical Raw Materials Regulation and Environmental Policies, Contexte Reports.

**Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR):** EPP, Italian S&D, and Germany's Renew Party Call for Removal of Reuse Targets in Packaging Regulation, Contexte Reports.

- Swedish Presidency to Discuss Relationship Between Packaging Regulation and Food Safety in EU Agriculture Ministers Meeting on 30 May.

**PFAS:** Chemsec Report Shows Global Cost of 'Forever Chemicals' PFAS Amounts to €16 Trillion.

**EU Taxonomy:** Commission Sets Adoption Date for Green Taxonomy Delegated Acts, Subject to Potential Timetable Changes - June 13th, Sources Told Contexte.

**State Aid:** European Commission to Conduct Impact Assessment on Citizens' and NGOs' Right to Challenge State Aid Decisions on Environmental Law Compliance - May 17th Announcement.

**Microplastics:** European Commission Removes Microplastics Text from Agenda until September.

**Plastics Treaty:** Limited Access Concerns Raised Ahead of Plastics Treaty Negotiations in Paris.

**Sewage Sludge Directive:** Published Evaluation of Sewage Sludge Directive Calls for Review of Contaminant Regulations and Risk Management Measures.

**Soil Health:** Presentation of Soil Health Guidelines Delayed to July, According to Updated Commissioner's Agenda.

**News from the European Commission:** Frans Timmermans Reaffirms Commitment to Green Deal Amid Criticism, Stands by Social Democrats' Environmental Agenda, Contexte Reports.

**Want to read the full version of our newsletter?**

**Get exclusive access to the latest news on waste management and a detailed newsletter delivered straight to your inbox every Friday.**

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## EU Biomethane Target

Joint letter to Member States, 23 May 2023

16 industry associations and 17 companies of the gas and biomethane value chains and end-use sectors call for a binding target of 35 bcm biomethane in the Gas Regulation.



Ahead of the gas package trilogue scheduled for 1 June, 16 industry associations and 17 companies have joined forces, calling on Member States to include a 35 bcm biomethane binding target in the Gas Regulation! 🚩 We propose the introduction of a new article setting an EU binding biomethane target of 35 bcm/year, leaving flexibility to Member States to define national strategies for its achievement. Read our joint letter [here](#).

🔔 **JOB ALERT:** FEAD is looking for a full-time **Junior Communications Officer** to start as soon as possible! Located in the heart of Brussels, close to the EU institutions, FEAD provides an exceptional opportunity to work in a European trade association representing the private waste management and resource industry. as a Junior Communications Officer, you'll play a pivotal role in our association, driving day-to-day communications to enhance visibility and outreach. Your efforts will ensure that FEAD's policy proposals and campaign messages reach the right eyes and ears, making a tangible difference.

✦ To [apply](#), send your CV and cover letter to [recruitment@fead.be](mailto:recruitment@fead.be) with the subject line "Junior Communications Officer application". Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis until the position is filled.



### Coming up:

- **30 May 2023** – ADR meeting- Informal Working group on Waste – dedicated to Packaging
- **31 May 2023** - Monthly EU Policy updates session



- **30 May 2023** - FEAD Workshop on "Packaging legislation: the Commission's proposal and the key role of the waste management industry in the Circular Economy", at the Digital Green Week, organised by Ecomondo
- **6 June 2023** – FEAD General Assembly
- **20-22 June 2023** – FEAD visits plants in Italy
- **28-29 June 2023** – FEAD Legal & Policy Officer, Aizea Astor Hoschen at E-waste conference, Panel on Illegal Shipments, Frankfurt
- **SAVE THE DATE - 6 July 2023** – FEAD event at CEN/CENELEC



## The green technology expoEcomondo: Call for Papers

The call for papers for this years Ecomondo is officially open. Interested parties can submit an abstract on a core theme of the Expo on the website. Until 30 June 2023, it is possible to [submit an abstract](#) dedicated to a research project, best practice or successful experience and be included as a speaker in the conference programme of Ecomondo 2023.

This year's trade fair and expo will host more than 100 conferences and workshops on innovation best practices, policy and regulatory issues, research and innovation priorities and funding opportunities, entrepreneurship, international networking and partnership creation, financing, education and communication in the Green and Circular Economy and Green Deal sectors.

### The core topics of Ecomondo

A number of the conferences are open to contributions from delegates, representatives and researchers from the public and private sectors, regulators and society, who will be able to integrate the contributions of invited experts with their own experiences, views and best practices from different sectors and countries. The [Ecomondo 2023 Call for Papers](#) is linked to the core themes of the exhibition: waste treatment and resource recovery, water cycle and blue economy, industrial symbiosis for the circular economy, energy from forests, indoor air quality and odour emissions, sustainable strategies for the remediation of polluted sites.

Ecomondo will take place from **7-10 November 2023 in Rimini, Italy.**







## CEDEFOP Circular Economy Policy Brief

The linear 'take, make, waste' model, which took hold with the first industrial revolution and has powered economic development around the globe since then, has an enormous environmental and carbon footprint. Resource extraction, processing of materials and fuels, and food production account for an estimated 50% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and are responsible for 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress (situations where water resources in a country or region do not meet needs) (European Commission, 2019). COVID-19 and the energy crisis that followed the invasion of Ukraine have disrupted supply chains. Crises can facilitate the transition to circularity. From a corporate perspective, adopting circular practices in times of crisis can become a risk mitigation strategy (i.e. real reasons for becoming circular). Soaring energy prices and increasing awareness of the fragility of global supply chains can incentivise businesses to adopt circularity practices to maintain competitiveness and to secure stable supply of materials

### Birmingham to become UK's first centre for rare earth magnet recycling

Recycling Magazine: Rare earth recycling company HyProMag, which was formed by researchers from the University of Birmingham's School of Metallurgy and Materials, is to be acquired by Maginito. HyProMag's core technology is based upon the patented process – Hydrogen Processing of Magnet Scrap (HPMS), which was originally developed within the University's Magnetic Materials Group (MMG) to extract rare earth magnets from scrap and redundant equipment and subsequently licensed to HyProMag.



## Czech government lays out plans for DRS

EUWID: The Czech Ministry of the Environment unveiled plans for the implementation of a mandatory deposit return system (DRS) for PET bottles and drinks cans on Tuesday. The ministry intends to present an amendment to the Act on Packaging by the end of this year. If the legislation is approved, the deposit return system (DRS) could be operational by mid-2025.



## ENDS Europe Interview: ECHA's new director on reform of EU chemicals regulations

The European Commission is currently finalising a proposal to reform the EU's flagship chemicals legislation, the REACH Regulation, in the context of the CSS. But large parts of the European chemicals industry have been unequivocal in their assertion that the reform is unnecessary. "I think from an industry perspective, it's always about the certainty and the predictability of legislation," McGuinness says. "You can understand from an industry perspective, and notwithstanding any other comments around about whether REACH is working or not, they've known it for 15, 16 years, so they're familiar with it."

