



POLICY ISSUES

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S FINAL DRAFT ON HEARINGS, COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, TIMELINE, QUESTIONS

The head of the European Parliament's Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC), Bernd Lange, sent on Tuesday night an updated proposal outlining which committees should deal with which nominees for the next European Commission. [Check the document here.](#)

Source: Politico, 2/10/2024

COMMISSION ENHANCES SUPPORT FOR EUDR IMPLEMENTATION

On 2 October, the European Commission [released](#) additional guidance documents and reinforced its international cooperation framework to assist global stakeholders, Member States, and third countries in preparing for the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation. Furthermore, to answer the feedback from international partners regarding their level of preparedness, the Commission also proposed granting more time for affected parties to make necessary adjustments. If approved by the European Parliament and the Council, the regulation will then come into effect on 30 December 2025 for large companies and on 30 June 2026 for micro and small enterprises.

Source: OPP 2/10/2024

ECODESIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS REGULATION: COMMISSION PUBLISH FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

The [Commission's FAQ on the implementation of the Ecodesign Regulation](#) - The European executive answers some 170 questions in a document dated September 25 and posted online on the stakeholder forum page it consults for ecodesign and product labeling standards. Published in the Official Journal on June 28 and coming into force twenty days later, the Ecodesign Regulation must now be broken down into a series of delegated and implementing acts to establish standards, product by product. In this FAQ, the Commission explains the deadlines involved, and how the regulation fits in with other legislative texts such as the packaging regulation and chemicals legislation (such as REACH). It also indicates that the very first work program, which will list the products to be treated as a priority, including textiles, will be ready in spring 2025 - it has nine months, from the entry into force of the regulation, to finalize it.

Source: European Commission and Contexte, 1/10/2024

PARLIAMENT AGRI COMMITTEE: MEPS PREPARING HEARINGS OF COMMISSIONERS

On October 2, in the Agriculture and Environment committees of the European Parliament, MEPs are preparing for the hearings of designated commissioners. Political group leaders will decide on the schedule and distribution of hearings among different parliamentary committees. The Agriculture committee is holding a technical meeting to merge contributions from various political groups for these questions. However, a source within the European Parliament has expressed concerns about the process being last-minute and lacking transparency. The Environment committee is conducting a similar exercise on the same day, with the Social Democrats (S&D) having already prepared several proposed questions. They plan to ask Executive Vice President Raffaele Fitto about the future of the framework law for sustainable food systems and to invite Christophe Hansen to clarify his vision for the Common Agricultural Policy post-2027.

Source: CONTEXTE 02/10/2024

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: S&D MEPS TO GRILL COMMISSIONAER DESIGNATED ROSWALL ON REACH

The Socialists and Democrats aren't pulling any punches in their questions for commissioner-designate for the environment, Jessika Roswall, ahead of her upcoming confirmation hearing. According to their list of questions for the commissioner picks, the lawmakers want answers on whether Roswall will deliver the delayed revision of the EU's chemical policy framework (REACH) in 2025, and how she'll balance competitiveness while reducing chemical pollution. They're also asking about banning exports of chemicals that are banned in the EU, as well as new measures to tackle air pollution, nature protection, and to promote the circular economy.

Source: Politico, 2/10/2024

PFAS (RISK BASED APPROACH) – SPEECH BY GERMAN CHANCELLOR

12 September, during the [VCI Chemistry and Pharma Summit](#) in Berlin, German chancellor, Olaf Scholz stated that 'we reject a total and undifferentiated ban of all these chemical groups'. On the revision of REACH, the chancellor explained that a 'risk-based approach must be retained' in opposition to the generic risk approach (GRA).

Source: 15/09/2024

ON THE AGENDA FOR NEXT ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL: COP16, PLASTICS TREATY, CHEMICAL STRATEGY, AND DRAGHI REPORT

The Environment ministers of the Twenty-Seven will meet on October 14 in Luxembourg for their first formal meeting under the Hungarian presidency of the EU Council. The agenda will be discussed on October 2 by ambassadors. The ministers are expected to adopt conclusions from COP16 on biodiversity and COP29 on climate. The Hungarian presidency has planned a discussion on the 2020 strategy for sustainable chemicals, allowing ministers to contribute to the upcoming Commission's reflections on the chemical package announced by Ursula von der Leyen, aimed at "simplifying" the REACH regulation. Finally, during the ministers' lunch, there will be a discussion on the climate and environmental aspects of the Draghi report on competitiveness. Additionally, the ministers will approve two Green Deal legislations negotiated during the previous term: the directive on air quality and the regulation on the classification of chemical substances. These will then be published in the Official Journal before coming into effect.

Source: Contexte, 01/10/2024

SUPERMARKETS SLAMMED FOR MISLEADING RECYCLING SCHEME

Supermarket chains in the UK have been accused of misleading customers with plastic collection and recycling schemes, after NGOs tracked several bundles of plastic and found that a lot of the plastic gets burned for energy overseas, [a report](#) published Tuesday by the Environmental Investigation Agency said.

Source: Politico, 02/10/2024

WASTE SCANDAL HAUNTS CYPRUS' EU PICK AS HE HEADS TO BRUSSELS

On Feb. 5, 2023, about a month before Costas Kadis was replaced as Cypriot environment minister, a report landed on his desk. It said that the government was responsible for years of illegal waste dumping in the southern region of Limassol, via a waste treatment project paid for by the EU. These findings are now following Kadis to Brussels, where he is hoping to become Europe's next commissioner for oceans and fisheries, but must face a parliamentary grilling first. According to the report, seen by POLITICO, the government of Cyprus knew the waste could not be used to make the right type of fuel before the project started, but signed an agreement with the EU anyway.

Source: Politico, 02/10/2024

EU CIVIL SOCIETY DEMANDS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO STOP 30 YEARS OF FALSE REPORTING OF COLLECTION, REUSE AND RECYCLING RESULTS

[A recent report by Eunomia, ZWE and Spanish Zero Waste Alliance](#), reveals that the packaging industry, represented by the PRO Ecoembes, has been falsely reporting the real performance of recycling systems for decades in order to block the implementation of waste legislation, such as a ban on certain packaging, the obligation to use reusable packaging or the implementation of deposit and return systems.

Source: OPP, 25/09/2024

MINUTES AFTER MEETING MACRON, SCHOLZ VOWS TO BRING EU-MERCOSUR DEAL TO 'HAPPY ENDING'

Negotiations on the trade and political agreement, which are already ongoing for 25 years, "should now be concluded quickly," Scholz told a trade association event in the German capital shortly after his 45-minute talk with Macron at the Federal Chancellery. Negotiators from the EU and Mercosur, which groups Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and newcomer Bolivia, are due to meet again next week in Brasília in a bid to hammer out outstanding issues. Speaking before Scholz, Dirk Jandura, the president of the German Association of Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA), told the audience that he had briefly discussed the Mercosur deal with Scholz on his way into the venue and they had both agreed that the deal may have to be pushed through even against French resistance trilogue on March 4.

Source: Politico, 02/10/2024

MORE EU STRENGTHENS SINGLE MARKET, LESS IT WILL NEED PUBLIC FINANCING, SAYS MARIO DRAGHI

Mario Draghi tried to put his call for massive investment in competitiveness on hold at a conference at the Bruegel think-tank on Monday 30 September. Questioned from all sides about his proposal to make further use of the common debt, he relativised the importance of this part compared to his report as a whole. Link [here](#)

Source: AGENCE EUROPE 30/09/2024

COP16, PLASTICS TREATY, CHEMICALS STRATEGY, AND DRAGHI REPORT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

The Environment ministers of the Twenty-Seven are set to meet on October 14 in Luxembourg for their first formal meeting under the Hungarian presidency of the EU Council. The agenda will be discussed on October 2 by ambassadors. Among the key items, ministers are expected to adopt conclusions from COP16 on biodiversity and COP29 on climate. They will also discuss negotiations on the plastics treaty, as this is their only meeting before the negotiation session in Busan, South Korea, at the end of November. The Hungarian presidency has also planned a discussion on the 2020 strategy for sustainable chemicals. This will provide an opportunity for ministers to contribute to the upcoming Commission's considerations regarding the chemicals package announced by Ursula von der Leyen, aimed at "simplifying" the Reach regulation. Finally, over lunch, ministers will discuss the climate and environmental aspects of the Draghi report on competitiveness (see our article). Additionally, they will approve two pieces of Green Deal legislation negotiated during the previous mandate: the directive on air quality and the regulation on the classification of chemical substances. These will then be published in the Official Journal before coming into effect

Source: Contexte, 01/10/2024

MEPS APPROVE DRAFT OPINION ON EU'S COMMITMENTS AT COP29

At the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) on Monday 30 September, MEPs adopted by 52 votes to 13 with 13 abstentions the draft opinion for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on the draft resolution on the EU's commitments at COP29 in Baku (Azerbaijan) in November . The rapporteur for this contribution is the [Chairman of the ITRE Committee, Poland's Borys Budka](#).

Source: Agence Europe 30/09/2024

PORTFOLIOS OF EUROPEAN COMMISSIONERS ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY FOCUSED ON COMPETITIVENESS

The Confederation of European Entrepreneurs (CEA-PME) is denouncing inconsistencies in the portfolios of the European Commissioners-designate. "European SME and Mid-Caps fear that the focus is not clearly enough on relaunching economic growth and for a realistic industry policy", said the CEA-PME in a press release on Tuesday 1 October.

Source: Agence Europe 02/10/2024

EU MEMBER STATES TRY TO AVOID CRUCIAL ISSUE OF INVESTMENTS IN 'DRAGHI' REPORT

On Thursday 26 September, the Hungarian Presidency of the EU Council invited Member States' ministers for the Internal market and industry to pinpoint the elements of the 'Draghi' report that they considered most relevant. Hungary's aim was to provide input for discussions on the future 'Budapest Declaration', or the 'new competitiveness pact', expected to be launched at the informal summit of heads of state or government on 8 November.

Source: Agence Europe, 30/09/2024

NORDIC MINISTERS SIGN DECLARATION ON MICROPLASTICS

Today the Nordic ministers to The Environment and Climate take yet another step in their efforts to end plastic pollution with a [declaration on microplastics](#). The declaration is adopted as State Leaders from all over the world are gathered for the United Nations General Assembly in New York city.

Source: OPP, 25/09/2024

100 NGOS, INCLUDING GREENPEACE AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, CALL ON EU TO STOP "HYPOCRITICAL" EXPORT OF PRODUCTS BANNED IN EUROPE

On Thursday 26 September, more than 100 NGOs, including Greenpeace Europe and Amnesty International, called on the European Union to stop exporting products banned in Europe to other parts of the world. These "hypocritical commercial loopholes" appear, they claim, in the REACH regulation, the pesticides regulation, the directive on children's toys, the directive on single-use plastics, the regulation on the eco-design of sustainable products, the proposed regulation on toy safety and the legislation on artificial intelligence. Mirror clauses were a major issue in the last European elections. They were often used to denounce the importing into the EU of products that could lead to unfair competition for European farmers and risks to the health of European citizens. What is at issue here is quite the contrary.

Source: AGENCE EUROPE 30/09/2024

REELING IN THE GEAR: NEW STANDARDS REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE FROM FISHING

[ECOS](#) has participated in the development of new European standards for the 'Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment'. These standards will help to reduce plastics, microplastics, and other waste in our oceans that harm wildlife.

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EUROPEAN PACT FOR THE FUTURE – THE ACTION PLAN

Europe needs a Pact for the Future that fosters hope and courage, opens opportunities, creates wellbeing for all, catalyses competitiveness through sustainability and drives the needed transformative system change for a sustainable future.

Source: OPP, 23/09/2024

POSITION PAPERS

[ECOS](#): Toward toxic-free design for a healthy circular economy

[Amchamber Position paper](#) - EU Deforestation Regulation: effective implementation not possible without deferred application

[JBCE's Position Paper on Waste Shipment Regulation](#)

[Orgalim Position and Recommendations](#) on the Essential Use Concept Communication

[EuRIC expands into ship recycling, with new working group](#)

[TIC Council](#) Welcomes New Regulation Preventing Plastic Pellet Losses

[SEAS AT RISK](#): 140 organisations call on new EU leadership to prioritise ocean health with new fund and ban on destructive activities

[ECOS](#): A holistic plastic strategy: Addressing polymers and plastics under the ESPR

[GREENPEACE](#) - Cruel" trade loopholes let European companies export toxic products banned from EU market

[EUROSPACE](#): Universal" PFAS restriction proposal under EU REACH and European Space Sector response: Summary in different languages to inform interested stakeholders
