

Declaration of the Circular Plastics Alliance

The vision of the Circular Plastics Alliance is to deliver on the circular economy for plastics and substantially increase the use of recycled plastics into new products.

The Circular Plastics Alliance endorses the ambitious target that by 2025 at least 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics should find their way into products and packaging in Europe each year (hereafter referred to as "the 10 million tonnes target"), helping to deliver the circular economy with a life cycle approach.

We, private and public stakeholders involved in the plastics value chains, have joined together in the Circular Plastics Alliance, supported by the European Commission in the context of the European Plastics Strategy, to promote the use of more recycled plastics in Europe through voluntary action.

Plastics and plastic waste are valuable resources for the circular economy. Increasing collection of plastic waste for recycling contributes to reducing plastic pollution.

We intend to work together along the plastics value chains, including all relevant public and private actors across Europe, to reach this objective whilst ensuring the functionalities of plastic products and packaging, not compromising on consumer protection, safety and hygiene.

We will join our forces to realise the full potential of recycled plastics in the circular economy and help the European market for recycled plastics grow steadily in the future, with policies and measures that facilitate the free movement of plastic waste for recycling and recycled plastics in the EU.

We the signatories commit to work together, each within our own competencies, statutory mandates (where applicable) and responsibilities, to deliver the content of this Declaration.

All signatories and persons involved in the activities of the Circular Plastics Alliance shall fully respect all applicable laws and regulations, in particular EU and national competition rules. The Circular Plastics Alliance will adopt a competition compliance programme and abide by it.

Design for recycling

We commit to develop, update or revise design for recycling guidelines for all plastic products and ensure they are revised on a regular basis to take into account innovation. These guidelines should consider products' or packaging's functionalities, while taking into account impacts over the life cycle. We aim at improving the recyclability of plastic products in order to deliver the volumes and quality of recycled plastics necessary to meet the end market needs.

We commit to actively contribute to the update of CEN and industry standards on recyclability and related ones.

We commit to agree by 1/3/2020 on a work plan for the delivery of the necessary guidelines and standards.

We call for harmonised definitions of recyclability per product group to safeguard the Single Market.

We commit to deliver by 1/1/2021 an overview of the current status of the production of recycled plastics in the EU, identify untapped potential for more recycling and map the necessary investments in recycling facilities in each Member State to reach the 10 million tonnes target. We call for the support of the public authorities in Europe in this work.

Collection and sorting

We declare that there should be a shift to zero plastic waste to nature and zero landfilling of plastic waste and all plastic waste should be properly disposed of and collected.

We call on all public authorities across the EU to eliminate the landfilling of plastic waste in their territory.

We call for initiatives in the EU to inform and raise awareness of consumers and businesses on zero littering and proper management of plastic waste and commit to participate.

We commit to work with all relevant public and private actors across Europe to create an effective framework for the separate collection of all plastic waste with the aim to optimise the sorting for quality recycling.

We commit to deliver by 1/6/2020 a state-of-play on collected and sorted plastic waste in the EU, identify untapped potential for more collection and sorting for recycling and by 1/1/2021, map the necessary investments in collection and sorting facilities and infrastructures in each Member State to reach the 10 million tonnes target. We call on all public authorities in the EU to contribute to this analysis and make or foster the necessary investments.

We commit to develop standardised methods to assess the quality of sorted plastic waste.

Recycled content

We commit to increase the uptake of recycled plastics up to at least 10 million tonnes, in all plastic products, whilst ensuring product quality and safety.

We commit to work with all relevant public and private actors across Europe to create effective conditions for the increased uptake of recycled plastics. We will identify the legal, economic and technical requirements ensuring more uptake of recycled plastics and report on these with solutions by 1/1/2021.

We call for new voluntary pledges to use more recycled plastics.

We commit to actively support the development or revision of European standards and guidelines on the quality of plastics recycling and recycled plastics, where necessary, and promote their use in the value chains.

We commit to communicate and promote the positive value of recycled plastics in a circular economy.

R&D and investments, including chemical recycling

We commit to define the R&D and investment needs, including the scale up of chemical recycling, in order to deliver the 10 million tonnes target.

We commit to build by 1/3/2020 a research and development agenda on circular plastics, to address the technological barriers to meet the market and regulatory needs.

We commit to map by 1/1/2021 the investments and funding needed in collection, sorting, recycling and converting of plastics, and list the technological, economic and regulatory challenges to make these investments.

We call for the plastics value chains and public authorities to further invest along the lines of the R&D agenda and the mapping of investments mentioned above.

Monitoring

We commit to set up by 1/1/2021 a harmonised EU value chain voluntary system to monitor volumes¹ of recycled plastics used in European products². The system will be transparent, trusted and ensure traceability of the data.

The objective is to aggregate and/or generate data from these three stages:

- collected & sorted plastics waste;
- the recyclers' inputs, the inputs to the recycling operations and the recyclers' outputs (including imports and exports); and
- the converters' inputs and outputs of the use in market segments of recycled plastics (including imports and exports).

We commit to have the system and data audited.

We call on all stakeholders to actively support the set-up and use of the system. We call on all public authorities across the EU, as well as Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, to collect and share the necessary data.

Governance

We will pursue action until 2025 to deliver our commitments, with the support of the European Commission.

We will create a Steering Committee to coordinate our activities, establish roles and responsibilities and produce annual reports, which will describe the progress made towards the 10 million tonnes target. The Steering Committee, which shall be representative of the signatories, will establish working groups, monitor the delivery of the commitments and may propose corrective action.

We will communicate our objectives and actions to the public and to all stakeholders

By signing this Declaration, the signatories mandate the Steering Committee to deliver its tasks.

¹ Preferably by mass balance, by polymer/country/market segment /legal compliances

² On an aggregate tonnage basis in order to track the 10 million tonnes target