

Single Use Plastics Directive

The EU Plastic Strategy



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EU Plastic Strategy - Timeline





Data and report available at:
<https://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/main/dev.py?N=41&O=441>

European Commission

JRC TECHNICAL REPORTS

Top Marine Beach Litter Items in Europe

A review and synthesis based on beach litter data

Anna Maria Addamo, Perrine Laroche, Georg Hanke
MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter

2017

Joint Research Centre

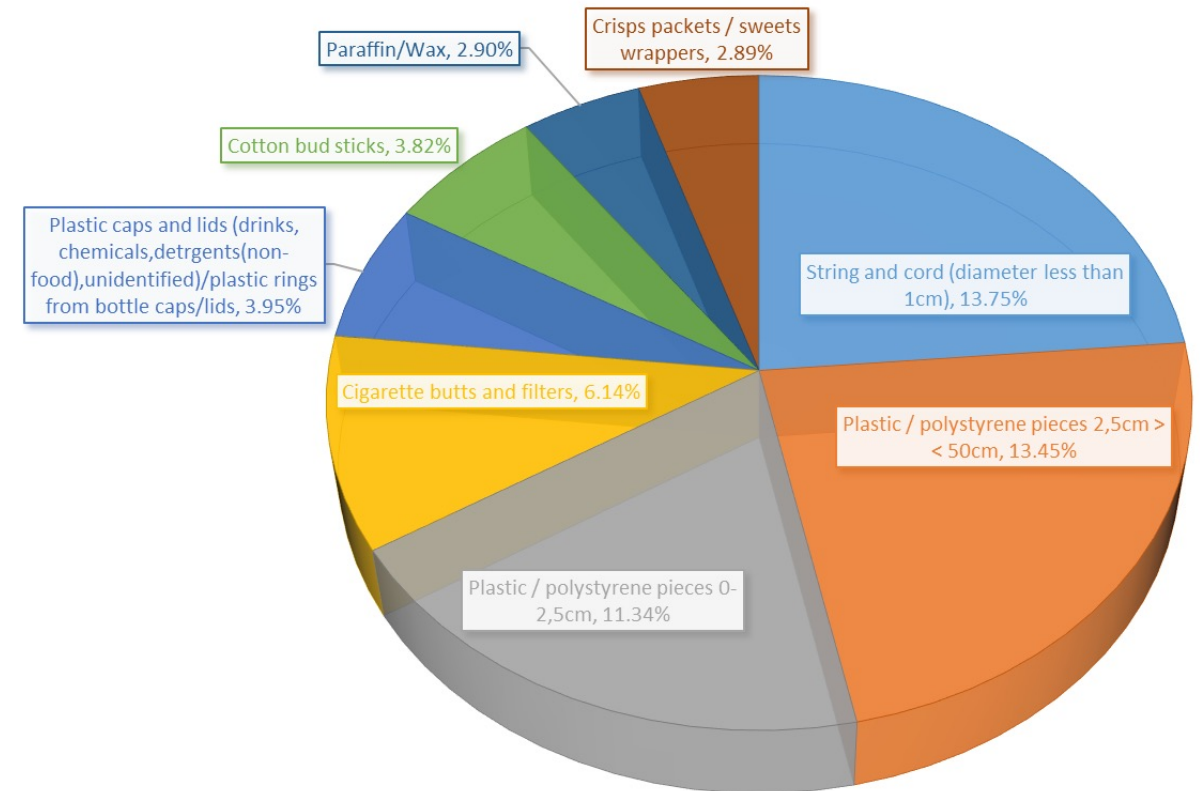
EUR 29249 EN

- 84 % of marine litter is plastic
- 50 % of litter items on EU beaches are single use plastic products

MARINE LITTER IN EUROPEAN BEACHES

TOP 10 ITEMS - 2016

(TOP 10 ITEMS REPRESENTING 62.73% OF THE TOTAL ITEMS FOUND)

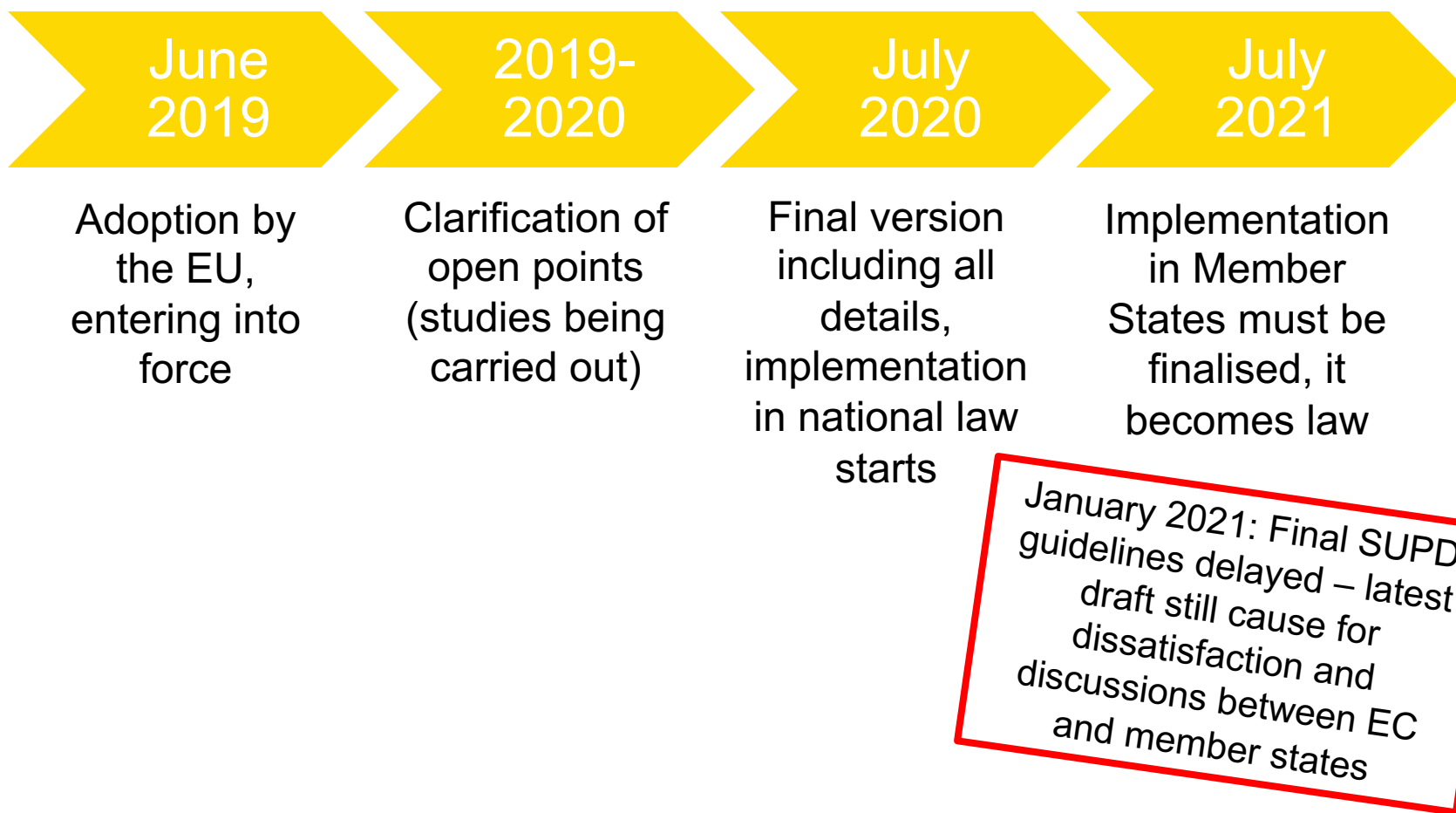


What is the SUPD all about?



- EU saw urgency to counteract plastic pollution
- Large share of plastic pollution stems from single use products
- **Hence:** Initial focus on single use plastic products with development of SUPD
- Objective: prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment
- promote the transition to a circular economy with innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials

SUP Directive – implementation timeline



- **Single use plastic product:** product that is made wholly or partly from plastic and that is not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish [...] multiple trips or rotations by being returned to a producer for refill or re-used for the same purpose for which it was conceived
- **Plastic:** a material consisting of a **polymer** [...] which can function as a **main structural component** of final products, with the **exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified**
- adapted definition of plastics covers polymer-based rubber items and bio-based and biodegradable plastics regardless of whether they are derived from biomass or are intended to biodegrade over time

**No exceptions for
bio-based or
biodegradable
plastics**

What is a “Natural Polymer”?

“Polymers which are a result of a **polymerisation process that has taken place in nature**, independently of the extraction process with which they have been extracted.”

But: Fermentation **not** understood as natural process, subsequently classifying **PHAs** as an unnatural polymer.

Many scientists disagree with this classification and see PHAs as natural polymers. PHAs are produced by the same bacteria – in nature and in industrial fermentation.

The ban for PHAs is not only a disaster for the young PHAs industries, but also a problem for paper and cellulose fibre industry looking for alternative polymer coating.

ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) 2012. Guidance for monomers and polymers – Guidance for the implementation of REACH. Version 2.0. ECHA (Ed.), Helsinki, Finland, 2012-04. Download at https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/23036412/polymers_en.pdf/9a74545f-05be-4e10-8555-4d7cf051bbed

- **Viscose and Lyocell** originally classified as ‘not plastic’ in the **Sept. 9th 2020** draft guideline
- However, latest guidelines draft (**Dec. 2020**) defines new interpretation of SUPD
- Latest guidelines draft distinguishes between **chemically modified** and **unmodified** polymers
 - **chemically modified**, if covalent bonds are broken or formed in the production process
 - **chemically unmodified**, if **no** covalent bonds are broken or formed in the production process
- Results in **ban of viscose and cellophane** and **approval of Lyocell** in latest SUPD Guidance draft
- Met with incomprehension and controversial discussions by stakeholders, seen as **not technically justified** by stakeholders
- Jan. 19th workshop between member states and commission did not yield a plausible explanation for change of mind

“Why doing research if one of the purest celluloses available is classified as plastic?”

(paper of Antje Potthast, Thomas Rosenau – BOKU University Vienna, January 8th 2021)

The consequences for consumers are:

- Non-science based information about materials
- Possible wrong disposal of the product containing viscose or cellophane in plastic container

Which products fall in the scope of the SUPD?

ANNEX Part A: Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve an **ambitious and sustained reduction** in the consumption of the following single-use plastic products:

- Cups for beverages (including lids)
- Food containers

ANNEX Part D: Member States shall ensure that each of the following products bears a **clear marking on its packaging** regarding appropriate waste management and the presence of plastics in the product:

- Sanitary towels (pads)
- Tampons and tampon applicators
- Wet wipes, i.e. pre-wetted personal care and domestic wipes
- Tobacco products with filters and filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products
- Cups for beverages

Which products fall in the scope of the SUPD?

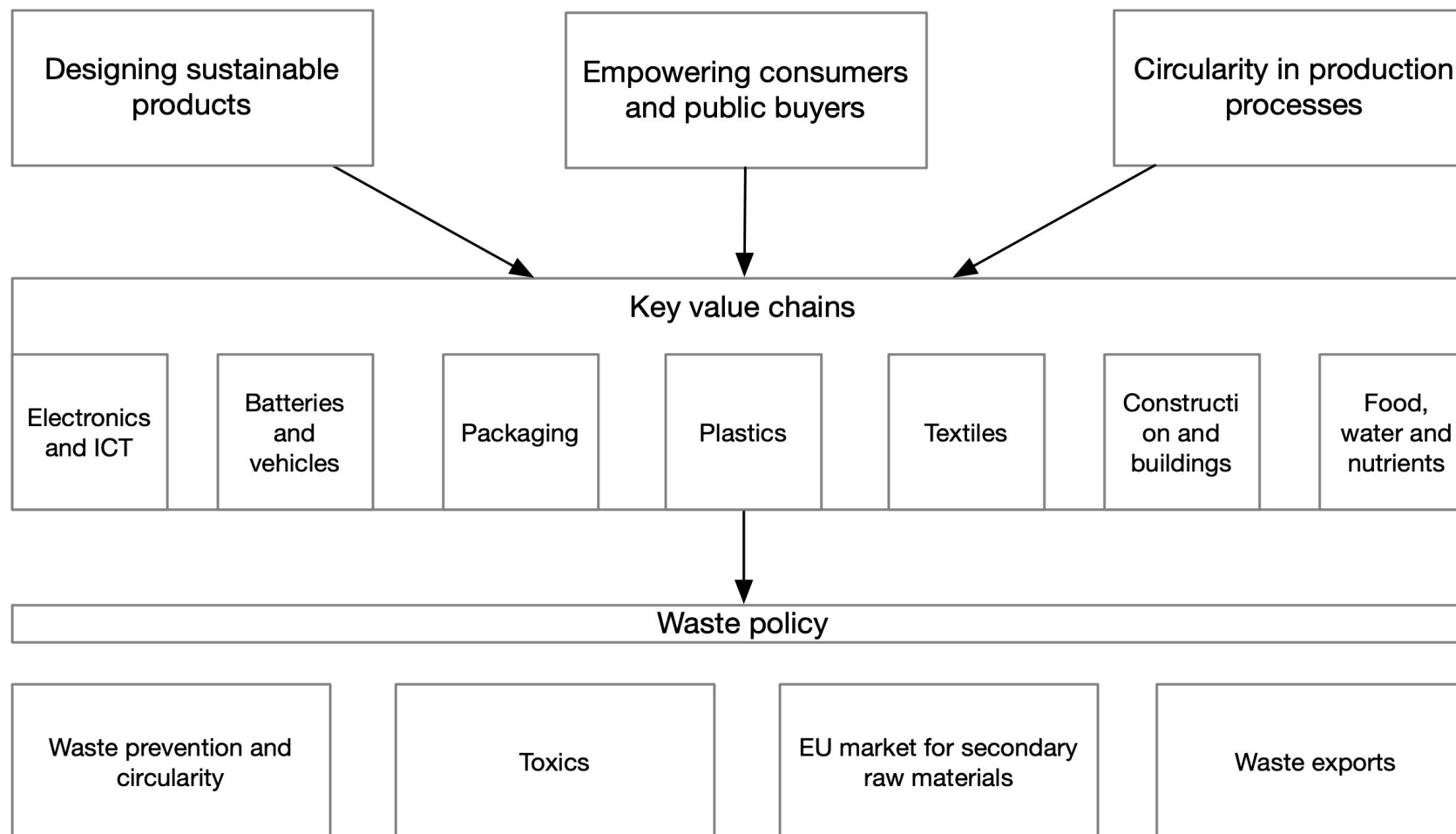
- **ANNEX Part E:** Member States shall ensure that the producers of the following single-use plastic products cover costs pursuant to **extended producer responsibility** measures
- **ANNEX Part G:** Member States shall take **measures to inform consumers** about re-usable alternatives, the impact of littering and inappropriate means of waste disposal
- Part E & G:
 - Food containers
 - Packets and wrappers made from flexible material containing food that is intended for immediate consumption
 - Beverage containers with a capacity of up to three litres
 - Cups for beverages, including their covers and lids
 - Tobacco products
 - Wet wipes
 - Balloons
 - Lightweight plastic carrier bags
- Part G only:
 - Sanitary towels (pads), tampons and tampon applicators

Which products are banned in the scope of the SUPD?

Annex part B: Member States shall prohibit the placing on the market of the following single-use plastic products:

- Balloon sticks
- Beverage stirrers
- Cotton bud sticks
- Cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks)
- Plates
- Straws
- Cups for beverages made of expanded polystyrene
- Food containers made of expanded polystyrene
- Beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene
- In general: products made from oxo-degradable plastic

The New Circular Action Plan



KEY PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS	
Circular Electronics Initiative, common charger solution, and reward systems to return old devices	2021/2021
Review of the Directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment and guidance to clarify its links with REACH and Ecodesign requirements	2021
Proposal for a new regulatory framework for batteries	2020
Review of the rules on end-of-life vehicles	2021
Review of the rules on proper treatment of waste oils	2022
Review to reinforce the essential requirements for packaging and reduce (over)packaging and packaging waste	2021
Mandatory requirements on recycled plastic content and plastic waste reduction measures for key products such as packaging, construction materials and vehicles	2021/2022
Restriction of intentionally added microplastics and measures on unintentional release of microplastics	2021
Policy framework for bio-based plastics and biodegradable or compostable plastics	2021
EU Strategy for Textiles	2021
Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment	2021
Initiative to substitute single-use packaging, tableware and cutlery by reusable products in food services	2021

Mechanism and urban initiatives

CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS

Improving measurement, modelling and policy tools to capture synergies between the circular economy and climate change mitigation and adaptation at EU and national level	as of 2020
Regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals	2023
Reflecting circular economy objectives in the revision of the guidelines on state aid in the field of environment and energy	2021
Mainstreaming circular economy objectives in the context of the rules on non-financial reporting, and initiatives on sustainable corporate governance and on environmental accounting	2021/2021

LEADING EFFORTS AT GLOBAL LEVEL

Leading efforts towards reaching a global agreement on plastics	as of 2020
Proposing a Global Circular Economy Alliance, and initiating discussions on an international agreement on the management of natural resources	as of 2021
Mainstreaming circular economy objectives in free trade agreements, in bilateral, regional and	as of 2020

Thank you for your attention!



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