



EU Plastics Tax Proposal



Circular Plastics Alliance Update



SUP Directive - Definitions



SUP Directive - Implementation



Food Contact Regulation Workshop



Sustainability of PVC Cling Film



Food Contact Plastics Seminar 2020



2nd PVC for Cables Conference

"Plastics Tax" – European contribution based on unrecycled plastics packaging



The proposal for a national contribution calculated on the amount of non-recycled plastic packaging waste (which cannot exceed €1,00 per kilogram) is still discussed as part of a new set of resources that will be collected from Member States to the EU in order to ensure the financing of the EU's annual budget. This proposal is part of the bigger negotiations of the European Budget for the period 2021-2027 and it is unrelated to similar discussions currently taking place in some countries.

In particular, Italy has proposed to apply a tax on plastics packaging amounting to 1.00 Euro per kilo. The proposed 'Plastics Packaging Tax' is likely to have a negative impact on the local market, in terms of job losses and consumers being negatively affected by such a regressive tax. **EuPC** and the entire plastics industry are strongly advocating against those taxes.

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Circular Plastics Alliance – First steps



The Circular Plastics Alliance has been officially launched last month and will start in November the first round of meetings. Over 100 companies, business organisations and public authorities already signed the declaration, as well as standardisation bodies and research & technology organisations. Many plastics converters and NPAs have joined the Alliance, showing the big support from the industry to this initiative.

The Alliance will soon start its activities, working via dedicated Working Groups, each covering a market segment. Packaging, Building & Construction, R&D, Automotive and Agriculture are the WGs set up, in addition to a General Assembly of all Signatories and a Steering Committee. Additional WGs will be set up for Communication and Monitoring.

The goal, in line with the Plastics Strategy and the Pledge Campaign, is to reach 10 million tonnes of recyclates used annually by 2025. Signing the CPA is still possible at [this link](#), where information about Members and relevant activities are available.

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SUP Directive – Guidance on definitions



The Single Use Plastics Directive foresees the need of many implementing measures to ensure its smooth application. The first that will have to be ready by June 2020 is the Guidance on the definitions of the different concepts and products covered by the Directive.

The European Commission, under the lead of DG Environment, has already started to work on the definitions, gathering input of stakeholders with the help of a pool of

consultants during a first stakeholder consultation. The draft Guidance should be ready at the latest by spring 2020 and allow a second consultation in early 2020 to ensure a practical understanding of what exactly falls into the different measures in place.

A webinar with the presence of DG Environment to clarify some of the definitions of the Directive is scheduled for November 26th and will be organised by PCE on behalf of **EuPC** and PET Sheet Europe.

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SUP Directive - Transposition at national level



The Single-Use Plastics Directive will have to be implemented in detail by Member States by July 2021. However, some of them have already started to implement the Directive by preparing draft transposition texts sometimes going beyond of what is requested by the European legislator.

In fact, many countries, notably France and Italy as well as specific regions of Spain and Belgium, are very ahead of the discussions for single-use plastics thus creating a landscape of different regulations for the same items across Europe.

EuPC strives to ensure the best harmonization and even conditions throughout the Single market, to avoid the patchwork effect that now exists for carrier bags, where each country has different regulation in place.

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Workshop on Evaluation of the Framework Regulation for Food Contact Materials



On 9 September, the European Commission (DG Santé) organized a stakeholder workshop on the Evaluation of the Framework Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004 for Food Contact Materials. ECORYS (consultancy commissioned to conduct the Evaluation study) invited relevant stakeholders, i.e. Member States' representatives, European Food Safety Agency, Joint Research Centre, industry associations, laboratories and research institutes and NGOs. **EuPC** was invited and actively participated in the workshop.

The stakeholders were presented the preliminary findings and particular questions were discussed within smaller groups on the following topics: (1) Effectiveness of the approaches processes and tools set up by the FCM Regulation and its associated and implementing measures in relation to the original objectives of the Regulation; (2) Efficiency of the approaches, processes and tools set up by the FCM Regulation and its associated and implementing measures in relation to the resources used; (3) Relevance of the Regulation in relation to current scientific and technological developments in the field of FCMs, and stakeholders' needs and expectations; (4) Coherence internally and with other related interventions at National and European; and (5) EU added-value compared to what could have been achieved by Member States or otherwise without regulating FCMs at EU level.

EuPC provided feedback on all topics and ECORYS thanked the **EuPC** representative for active qualitative and quantitative contribution of **EuPC** members in the Public Consultation.

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Why a potential deselection of pvc cling films is not a sustainable choice



PVC cling film preserves more resources than it consumes and saves more waste than it creates. A new VFSE study confirms that PVC cling film's environmental benefits, in terms of reduced impact and avoided food waste, are much higher than the alleged issues.

In an environmental agreement recently signed in France by brand owners and retailers to phase out PVC cling films by 2022, PVC packaging was referred to as an 'uncommon plastic' resulting in 'problematic' waste. In other countries, anti-plastic packaging campaigns – with a certain degree of unjustified short-sightedness and fraught with consequences – have been launched by some NGOs. Unfortunately, these can have a major impact on the choices made by brand owners and retailers who are pushed to make decisions without appropriate analysis of the complete lifecycle of the product. This will result in an automatic increase of food waste, costs and resource uses.

Packaging plays a vital role in containing and protecting food as it moves through the supply chain, reducing food waste in transport and storage at the same time. Scientific literature agrees in considering cling films a 'high-quality food wrap film which makes food available with greater safety assurance from microorganisms, biological and chemical changes, keeps it fresh, and decreases the risk of food wastage by enhancing its shelf-life'. Technical-scientific evidences show that PVC cling films produced by VFSE member companies represent a sustainable choice for fresh food packaging, not only for their technical, functional and environmental performance, but because they also contribute to reducing the environmental impact of the food itself, extending its useful life and minimising waste, mainly at consumer and retail levels, where the main losses occur in developed countries. Additional information can be found [here](#).

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SAVE THE DATE - European Food Contact Plastics Seminar 2020



Polymer Comply Europe (PCE) is pleased to announce its upcoming European Food Contact Plastics Seminar, organised on behalf of European Plastics Converters (EuPC).

The seminar will take place on 23 - 24 April 2020 in Brussels and will focus on the latest developments in the area of food contact plastics. The discussion will gather experts from the industry, research institutes,

European and national authorities, food and drink companies and retailers. The draft programme will follow towards the end of 2019.

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2nd PVC4Cables Conference in Berlin



The 2nd PVC4Cables conference under the title "Innovation and Sustainability for Smart Electrical Systems" will take place at the Pullman Hotel in Berlin, Germany, on the 7th November, 2019

The conference will present and debate the state of the art on PVC cables and their numerous technical and functional benefits for users and consumers: from markets trends, standardisation, fire and smoke behaviour, to new Life Cycle Assessment and Total Cost of Ownership studies. Particular attention will be given to innovation in additives and formulations which make PVC cables more performant. The final programme and registration can be found [here](#).

More information: info@pvc4cables.org

Upcoming Meetings

EuPC Packaging Division ExCom	13 November 2019 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC B&C Division ExCom	13 November 2019 <i>Conference Call</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	14 November 2019 <i>Brussels</i>
Webinar Single-Use Plastics Directive	26 November 2019 <i>Webinar</i>
Food Contact Plastics Seminar	23-24 April 2020 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Annual Meeting	11/12 June 2020 <i>Brussels</i>