



PPWR

PETITION PUSHES FOR EU-ONLY RECOGNITION OF RECYCLED PLASTICS IN REGULATORY TARGETS

Nearly 500 organisations have signed a new petition launched by Zero Waste Europe and Plastic Recyclers Europe calling for EU recycled content targets to apply exclusively to plastic produced within the EU, EFTA countries, and the UK. The plastics sector aims to influence upcoming regulatory decisions following months of appeals to the European Commission. This request mirrors the temporary approach taken under the Single-Use Plastics Directive for PET bottles until 2027, which the signatories hope will also guide the rollout of the new Packaging Regulation. Discussions are ongoing as the Commission, Member States, and industry work to finalise guidance and calculation methods for implementing these rules. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 23/03/2026

EUROPEAN AGENDA

EU CHEMICALS AGENCY LAUNCHES CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SEAC PFAS OPINION

ECHA is opening a public consultation on the draft opinion of its Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) regarding the proposed restriction of PFAS, inviting stakeholders from industry, NGOs, research, and the general public to contribute between 26 March and 25 May 2026. The consultation focuses on the socio-economic impacts of restricting PFAS and the availability of feasible alternatives, using a structured survey to gather evidence-based input. Hazard and risk information will not be reassessed, as this has already been covered by the Committee for Risk Assessment. Participants are encouraged to review the draft SEAC opinion, use the published guidelines, and consult the mapping of PFAS uses to ensure high-quality submissions. All non-confidential contributions will be made publicly available, and the collected information will help SEAC refine or confirm its conclusions before adopting its final opinion by the end of 2026. These opinions will then be forwarded to the European Commission, which will prepare a restriction proposal for Member States to discuss and vote on under the REACH Committee. This consultation follows earlier work by several EU/EEA countries to address PFAS emissions and aligns with the broader effort to make products and processes safer for people and the environment. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: ECHA NEWSLETTER 25/03/2026

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SEEKS FEEDBACK ON REVISION OF CRITERIA FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The EU Taxonomy is the classification system for sustainable economic activities. The EU Taxonomy Regulation is a cornerstone of the EU's sustainable finance framework, steering investments towards sustainable projects. Its 'technical screening criteria' define the conditions that economic activities must meet to be considered sustainable. The European Commission is seeking feedback on potential revisions to the EU taxonomy criteria. The goal of this revision exercise is to make the EU Taxonomy

more workable for circular business models and more useful for unlocking finance. The changes cover most activities under the Climate and Environmental Delegated Acts, including criteria for 'substantial contribution to circular economy', forestry and environmental protection, manufacturing, energy, transport and construction, and all the generic 'do no significant harm' appendices. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: EUROPEAN CIRCULAR ECONOMY STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM 19/03/2026

EUROPE REAFFIRMS EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEM WHILE CLIMATE CONCERNS LINGER AT MARCH SUMMIT

At the 19 March European Council summit, leaders rejected calls from several countries to suspend the EU Emissions Trading System, reaffirming that rising energy prices stem from fossil fuel imports rather than climate policies. The Commission pledged to keep free carbon allowances for industry beyond 2035 and to introduce a €30-billion investment accelerator to support decarbonisation efforts. While climate advocates welcomed the avoidance of an ETS rollback, organisations like WWF warned that ongoing political pressure shows a lack of understanding and risks weakening Europe's long-term transition away from fossil fuels. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: CONTEXTE 24/03/2026

CLIMATE POLICY

EU AND UNEP REINFORCE SCIENCE-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION FOR 2026–2029

The European Commission and UNEP met in Brussels on 16 March to strengthen their cooperation for 2026–2029. Both stressed that scientific evidence is essential for shaping environmental policy amid rising geopolitical tensions. They agreed to work more closely on tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, building global alliances ahead of major climate and biodiversity negotiations. The partnership also aims to reinforce the link between science and policymaking and advance talks on a global treaty to end plastic pollution. Recent progress in global environmental governance (such as new agreements on chemicals, marine biodiversity, and outcomes from UNEA-7) was also highlighted. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: EU COMMISSION 16/03/2026

COMMISSION LAUNCHES NEW STRATEGY TO TACKLE RISING WILDFIRE THREAT

The European Commission has unveiled a new integrated strategy to confront Europe's escalating wildfire threat, following a record-breaking 2025 season in which more than one million hectares burned. The plan strengthens prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, aiming to build more fire-resilient landscapes and protect people, nature, infrastructure, and cultural heritage. A strong emphasis is placed on ecosystem-based prevention, with new guidance on how Natura 2000 sites can adapt to climate change while reducing fire risks. The Commission will expand early-warning systems, enhance AI-supported fire modelling, and invest in updated risk assessments, citizen awareness initiatives, and cross-border cooperation. Preparedness measures include pre-positioning firefighters, expanding the rescEU fleet with new planes and helicopters, and developing a dedicated firefighting hub in Cyprus. Additional efforts will focus on understanding long-term health risks for firefighters and improving post-fire recovery practices. These actions are part of a broader push to create a more resilient Europe under the Preparedness Union Strategy, ensuring that healthy ecosystems and coordinated response systems can better withstand the growing impacts of climate change. [Read more.](#)

SOURCE: EU COMMISSION 25/03/2026

For contact: info@citpa-europe.org