Circular Economy
Action Plan

For a cleaner and
more competitive
Europe

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The European Green Deal

- CLIMATE PACT AND CLIMATE LAW
- INVESTING IN MORE SUSTAINABLE, SMARTER MOBILITY
- MOBILISING INDUSTRY FOR A CLEAN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- ELIMINATING POLLUTION
- ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL
- FINANCING GREEN PROJECTS
- MAKING HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENT
- LEADING THE GREEN CHANGE GLOBALLY
- FROM FARM TO FORK
- PROTECTING NATURE
- PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY

Need for action

3x

1970   2017

> From 1970 to 2017, the annual global extraction of materials **tripled** and it continues to grow.

Source: The International Resource Panel, Global Resources Outlook, 2019

> More than **90%** of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing.

Source: The International Resource Panel, Global Resources Outlook, 2019

> Annual waste generation will increase by **70%** by 2050

Source: World Bank
What a waste 2.0, 2018

> Only **12%** of the materials used by EU industry come from recycling.

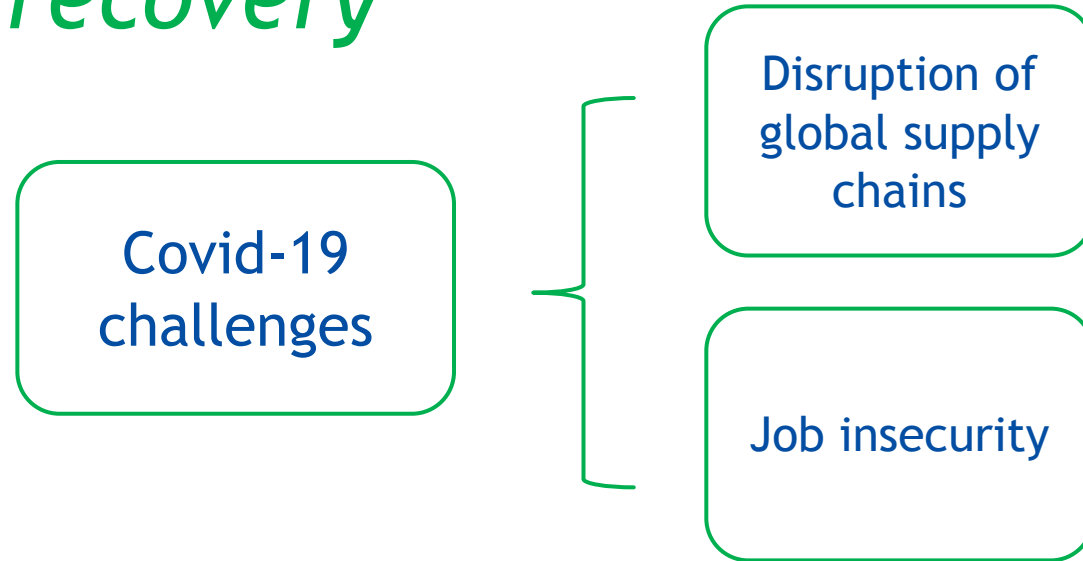*Source*: Eurostat, 2016 figures

> About **50%** of total greenhouse gas emissions come from resource extraction and processing

Source: The International Resource Panel, Global Resources Outlook, 2019

⊘ *There is only one planet Earth, yet by 2050, the world will be consuming as if there were three*

A key to recovery

Covid-19 challenges

Disruption of global supply chains

Job insecurity

Circular economy is expected to:

Impacts

A HEALTHIER PLANET

LOCAL GOOD-QUALITY JOBS

SOCIAL COHESION

MORE VALUE FROM AND FOR EU INDUSTRY

NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS

LESS POLLUTION

EU Recovery Plan & circular economy

Next Generation EU

A new recovery instrument of **€ 750 billion** boosting the EU budget with new financing raised on the financial markets

Multiannual Financial Framework

A reinforced long-term budget of the EU for 2021-2027 (€ 1.100 billion)

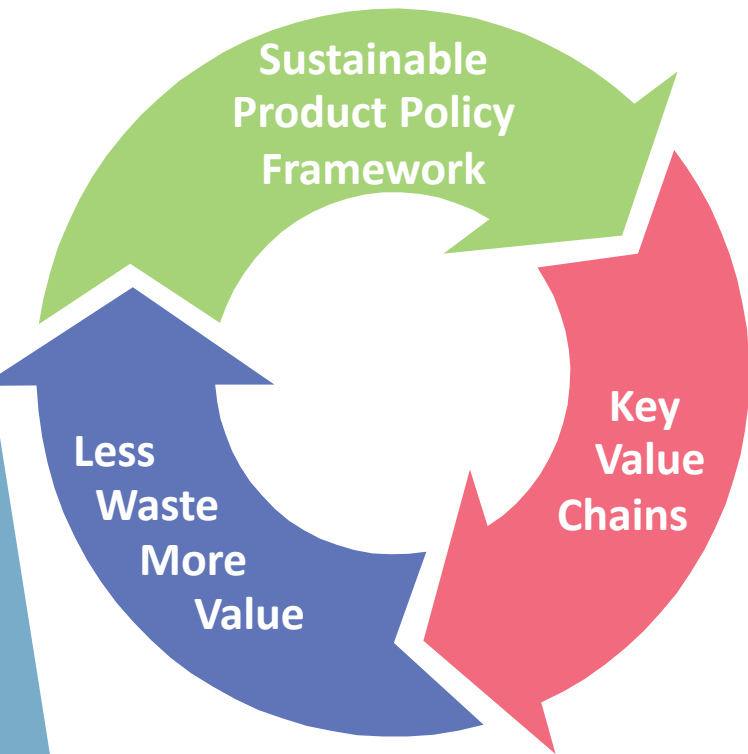*supporting the transition towards a circular economy*

Member States

to invest on circular economy in their **National Recovery & Resilience Plans,** as well as via **Cohesion Funds & REACT-EU,** and the **Just Transition Fund**

Stakeholders

to take advantage of the new circular economy funding opportunities within **Horizon Europe, LIFE Programme, InvestEU**

Changing the way Europe consumes and produces

Sustainable Product Policy Framework

Key Value Chains

Less Waste More Value

Make sustainable products the norm in the EU
Empower consumers and public buyers
Sustainable production processes

Electronics and ICT
Batteries and vehicles
Packaging
Plastics
Textiles
Construction and buildings
Food, water and nutrients

Reduce Waste
Reduce Waste Exports
Boost market for high quality and safe secondary raw materials

Making circular economy work for people, regions and cities

Circular economy as a requisite for climate neutrality

Getting the Economics Right

Financial Markets

Investments and R&I

Global Level Playing Field

Monitoring

35 actions

European Commission

The route so far

✓ Adopted:

- Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to protect our fragile natural resources

- Farm to Fork Strategy to make food systems more sustainable

- Renovation Wave to boost renovation in line with circular principles

- "Fit for 55" package to better integrate circular economy's contribution to the pathway towards climate-neutrality

- Chemical Strategy for Sustainability to ensure chemicals are safe and sustainable

- The New European Bauhaus initiative to integrate circularity concepts into an architecture able to shape sustainable ways of living

Circular Economy in the context of the European Green Deal

European Commission

The route so far: kick-starting CEAP implementation

- **New regulatory framework on batteries** proposed in December 2020

- **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency** launched in February 2021

- Proposal for a revision of the EU **Waste Shipment Regulation adopted** in November 2021

- **Green City Accord** launched in October 2020

- **Pact for Skills** launched in October 2020

- **Revision of the Skills Agenda** adopted in July 2020

- Proposal to review **EU rules on concentration limits of persistent organic pollutants in waste** adopted in October 2021

First measures of CEAP Annex adopted

Other actions mentioned in the CEAP, not in the Annex

What to expect next: highlights

- Start roll-out of the **Sustainable Product Policy Framework:**

  - Sustainable Products Initiative

  - Legislative proposal on substantiating **green claims** & Legislative proposal **empowering consumers** in the green transition

- Apply the framework to:
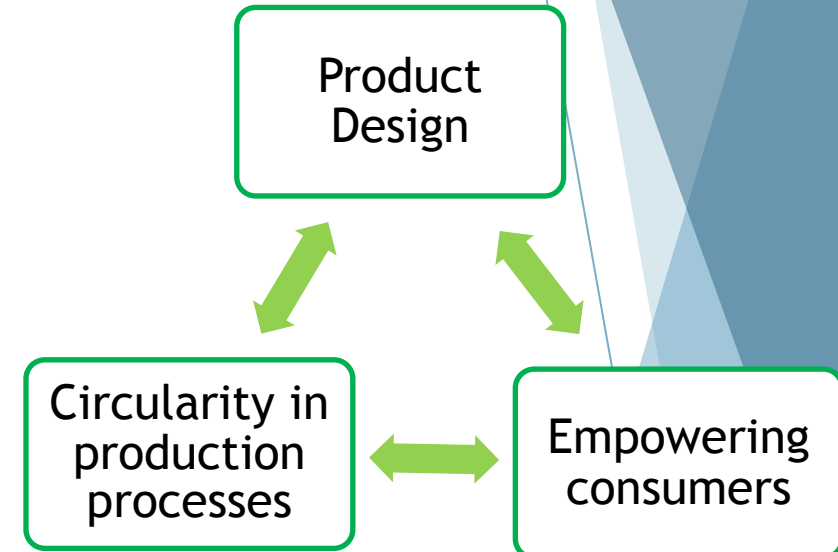
  - **Textiles**

  - **Plastics**

Towards a Sustainable Product Policy Framework

- Many **products** break down too quickly, cannot be easily reused, repaired or recycled, and many are made for single use only.

- **Consumers** do not repair products, find too many labels and some green claims are misleading.

- **Production processes** in Europe are not resource efficient and can pollute our air, water and soil.

Our response

Product Design

Circularity in production processes
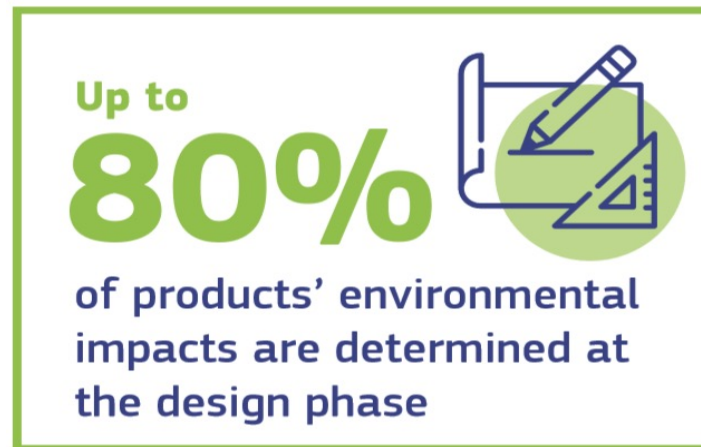
Empowering consumers

*A new **overarching framework** addressing all products placed on the EU market, supporting more sustainable patterns of consumption and cutting waste by e.g. promoting better design*

European Commission

Designing sustainable products

Sustainable Products Initiative

How?

- Legislative initiative to ensure products placed on the EU market become increasingly more sustainable

- Widen the Ecodesign Directive beyond energy-related products

Up to **80%** of products' environmental impacts are determined at the design phase

« Sustainable products should be the norm, not the exception »

Designing sustainable products

Sustainable Products Initiative

What?

- Improve **durability, reusability, upgradability and reparability**

- Address presence of **hazardous chemicals** and i**ncreasing recycled content**

- Restrict **single-use** and counter **premature obsolescence**

- Incentivise **product-as-a-service**

- **Digitalisation**, including digital product passport

Implementation in key product value chains is priority: these include electronics, ICT, textiles, furniture and intermediate products such as steel, cement, chemicals

European Commission

Empowering consumers and public buyers

- Revision of the **consumer law**: consumers to receive trustworthy and relevant information on products at the point of sale

- Establishing a new "**Right to repair**"

- Legislative proposal to ensure companies substantiate their **green claims** using Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint methods

- Include more systematically durability, recyclability and recycled content in EU Ecolabel criteria

Public authorities' purchasing power represents **14%** of EU GDP

- Proposal for **mandatory Green Public Procurement** (GPP) criteria and targets in sectoral legislation

- Phasing-in **mandatory reporting** on GPP

European Commission

Key product value chains

Food, water & nutrients

Electronics and ICT

Construction & buildings

Circular Economy Action Plan

For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

Batteries & vehicles

Textiles

Plastics

Packaging

European Commission

Textiles

- **EU Textiles Strategy:** Applying the new sustainable product framework including **Ecodesign measures**

- Boosting the **sorting**, **re-use** and **recycling** of textiles through innovation

- Providing incentives and support to create new **circular business models**

Less than 1% of all textiles worldwide are recycled

Less waste, more value

Prevent waste in the first place

- Specific waste reduction targets for more complex streams
- Enhance the implementation of the requirements for EPR schemes
- Continue modernising EU waste laws (packaging, end-of-life vehicles, hazardous substances in electronic equipment; batteries adopted Q4 2020)
- Propose to harmonise separate waste collection systems

Transform waste into high-quality and safe resources in markets for recycled materials

- Develop chemicals that are sustainable and safe by design
- Reduce the presence of hazardous substances detrimental to health and the environment
- Assess the scope to develop further EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams

Address waste exports

- Establish 'recycled in the EU' as a benchmark for quality secondary materials
- Thoroughly review EU rules on waste shipments, increasing the processing of materials
- Adopt multilateral, regional and bilateral measures to combat environmental crime

Stakeholder engagement

#CEstakeholderEU

European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

A joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee

- **Advancing the circular economy concept on the ground**
- **Strengthening cooperation among stakeholders' networks**

representatives of networks of businesses, civil society and local, regional and national public authorities

Submit your own good practices, knowledge, strategies and voluntary commitments!

Link to website: http://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/

Learn more & Keep in touch

Circular economy action plan (europa.eu)

@EU_ENV

@EUEnvironment

EU Environment and Climate

ourplanet_eu

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Thank you