



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B - Competitive Circular Economy & Clean Industrial Policy
ENV.B.1 – Bioeconomy and sustainable materials

Brussels,
ENV.B.1

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON WASTE ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 39 OF DIRECTIVE 2008/98/EC - PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE AND SINGLE USE PLASTICS DIRECTIVE

Friday 16 January 2026

1. Welcome and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair greeted the participants, introduced the proposed draft agenda and asked if there were any comments/questions on it. The agenda was adopted without changes.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings (SUPD 21/2/2025, PPWR 13/10/2025)

The minutes from the previous meetings on SUPD and PPWR were circulated. Approval was sought, and they were accepted.

3. Presentation of the updated draft Implementing Decision on recycled plastic content in SUP beverage bottles (amendment to account for additional recycling technologies) - rules for the calculation and verification of the targets (SUPD Article 6(5)) and format for reporting data and information (SUPD Article 13(1, e) and Article 13(4)) – no voting yet

DG ENV presented the main updates in the draft implementing act, which reflects the public feedback that took place last summer. These updates focus on (i) the limitation of the product scope to PET bottles, (ii) the geographical scope of 'recycled plastic', (iii) addition of a specific refinery pathway to the mass balance rules, and (iv) verification requirements.

Main points raised in the subsequent discussion:

(i) Product scope

- The necessity to retain mass balance accounting rules, including for dual-use outputs: PET bottles can undergo chemical recycling (depolymerisation), they can have components made of other polymers (e.g. PP/PE in the caps), and recycled content therein (e.g. obtained through pyrolysis) can contribute to the recycled content targets.
- Calculation rules for beverage bottles other than PET will be addressed in the upcoming implementing acts under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, planned for the end of this year. Once the PPWR requirements on recycled content (including for beverage bottles) will apply, which is planned for 1 January 2030, the SUPD targets will be repealed. While, legally, these are two different frameworks, future work will logically be inspired by existing legislation.

(ii) Geographical scope

- DG ENV clarified that pursuant to the draft, and in order to count towards the recycled content targets, until 21 November 2027 all recycling steps have to take place in the EU,

including sorting but excluding collection. While some Member States were positive about the geographical scope on the eligibility of recycled plastics, others expressed concern about a shortage of EU-recycled PET which could lead to price increases. DG ENV explained that the geographical scope addressed feedback from stakeholders and Member States during the public consultation and underlined the need to increase the circularity of plastics by stimulating demand for recyclates. The upcoming restriction of plastic waste exports to non-OECD countries will increase the amount of waste that has to be managed in the EU. The provision ensures that recycling contributing to the SUPD targets will be environmentally sound. A Commission-led evaluation is scheduled for May 2026 report on OECD environmental standards of third countries. No shortage of rPET on the EU market is expected, nor important price increases.

- DG ENV emphasized that the proposed geographical scope was carefully analysed by the Commission's trade and legal experts regarding its compatibility with international trade obligations.
- The updated self-declarations in Annex V ensure that operators reflect the correct geographical scope, so that MS can collect and report accurate information to the Commission
- DG ENV clarified that the responsibility for negotiating the arrangements or agreements with third countries referred to in Article 1(1) would be managed by the European Commission and involve the co-legislators.

(iii) Additional pathway for mass balance rules

- The addition of the propylene stream covers the major output of fluidized catalytic cracking (FCC), as had been confirmed by industry stakeholders. The addition of this pathway was discussed with a range of independent experts to ensure technical accuracy in the legislation.

(iv) Verification

- The draft proposes that only the certificate from the last chemical recycling step is to be passed along the value chain. This is reflected in paragraph 10 of Article 8.
- One Member State suggested that a list of eligible countries from which recycled plastics could count towards the targets would simplify compliance checks for countries. DG ENV took note of the request.
- The Food Contact Regulation continues to provide controls on the post-consumer status of input waste to ensure consumer health.

DG ENV indicated that it was ready to help Member States with the implementation.

Next steps: DG ENV asked MS to flag major concerns until 28 January 2026. The vote is scheduled for 6 February 2026.

4. Update on the evaluation of the SUPD

DG ENV provided an update on the ongoing SUPD evaluation, which is due by July 2027. The evaluation will assess the SUPD according to the EU's five better regulation criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, and EU added value and also cover the aspects listed in Article 15 of the Directive. A call for evidence and open public consultation had been launched before Christmas 2025, running until 17 March 2026. It will be complemented by targeted stakeholder consultations, including a survey for MS (planned for Q1/2026).

5. Implementing act under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, Article 44(14) concerning the register of producers for EPR

DG ENV presented the draft implementing act under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), Article 44(14) concerning the register of producers for EPR. The presentation focused on the legal obligations for MS and producers, the purpose of the act, the current state of play in MS and the granularity of data and packaging types and categories to be included when registering and reporting to the register.

MS raised a number of points focusing mainly on why the IA distinguishes between commercial, household and industrial packaging, the addition of new material categories and on national flexibility to ask for additional information. DG ENV clarified that the distinction between household/industrial/commercial packaging would not be mandatory but should be viewed as a help to distribute costs fairly and minimise free riding. As for the new categories, these were added to make the table exhaustive. DG ENV stressed that the PPWR only allows MS to ask for additional information in terms of registration, not reporting, given the objective to ensure a maximum level of harmonisation. After the discussion, DG ENV informed that the adoption of the IA is planned for April 2026 following a public consultation in March, and MS were invited to send writing comments to the draft IA by 31 January.

6. Implementation of Article 5 on the PFAS Restrictions in Food Packaging

DG ENV gave a short presentation on the PFAS restriction on food – contact packaging including the stepwise approach methodology. A task force was proposed to be established under the PPWR Expert Group with the aim of drafting a harmonized testing protocol. Few MS took the floor to:

- welcome the initiative of the Commission to work on such a harmonised testing protocol and to offer their support in accomplishing this task;
- express their concern with the present methodology arguing that even though initial screening for total fluorine is a sensible step, it is not sufficient for regulatory compliance; The PPWR includes three limit values that should be all checked. In addition, a risk – based approach might be necessary to determine whether a product requires additional testing;
- mention that there is a need of transparency in the value chain that should be factored in the guidance. Moreover, the need to involve experts in food contact material was asked for;
- ask about the way to determine PFAS in the case of a packaging unit;
- inquire about the authority responsible to verify the compliance with Article 5, in particular 5(5).

The Commission took note of the comments mentioning however that at the moment there was no evidence that samples compliant with the total fluorine limit value would not meet the other two limit values. It highlighted the ongoing cooperation with DG SANTE and the EU Reference Laboratories for Food Contact Material. As regards unit of packaging, since this was part of sample preparation, discussions were still ongoing within the Commission. It was clarified also that authority responsible to verify compliance with PFAS was the market surveillance authority established under PPWR. In addition, the Commission reminded MS to answer the letter sent in November 2025 concerning the national laboratories in charge of the PFAS analysis.

7. Establishment of a working group to support the development of implementing act establishing the methodology for assessing equivalence as referred to in Article 7(10)

DG ENV presented the recent development of the implementing act establishing the methodology for assessing equivalence as referred to in Article 7(10) and the creation of a new working group after the announcement at the Circular Economy Directors' meeting in November. They pointed

out that the first gathering was in January, with another meeting set for February. By Q3 2026, COM aims to have a draft methodology in place, followed by pilot tests by the MS. Final adoption is expected in Q4.

One MS asked about their absence from the working group and wanted to know whether the Impact Assessment related to recycling targets would be based on the SUP Directive. DG ENV clarified to use the SUP Directive as a base but that the specifics were not yet determined and furthermore need to respect the PPWR. It was highlighted that the purpose of the group is to bring together experts from MS and COM and to work within a tight schedule, not to replace the TAC.

8. Application date of the obligation to be part of an EPR scheme in view of the producer definition

DG ENV clarified that both the producer definition and EPR obligations will be enforced starting from 12th August 2026. They acknowledged unexpected challenges related to these obligations. They asserted that the harmonised definition of a producer will offer legal clarity to economic operators. DG ENV has chosen not to pursue this in an Environmental Omnibus to avoid reopening the regulation, emphasizing the need for stakeholders and MS to have clarity. On the producer definition, DG ENV urged MS to work on national solutions to implement the definition of a producer by 12th August 2026.

Two MS expressed interest in considering pragmatic solutions, noting various provisions under the PPWR that still require enforcement by MS, with definitions influenced by the PPWD. They suggested compiling all provisions, including registering, and wanted to elaborate further on pragmatic solutions. DG ENV responded by mentioning discussions at the TAC in October 2025. They highlighted that many industries are preparing for these requirements, and the 12th August deadline must be upheld, leaving no room for national reinterpretation.

9. Any other business

DG ENV announced that the COM notice is expected in the coming weeks. The FAQ will be sent to MS prior to publication.

Some MS inquired about the next steps concerning discussion points, specifically regarding the 5% thresholds on cups and the delegated act on wrapping and straps. DG ENV confirmed that public consultations have been conducted. DG ENV also affirmed that the definition regarding the 5% threshold on cups, related to composite materials, will be included in the COM notice.

Another MS raised points about law enforcement concerning PPWR, specifically sanctions under national legislation outlined in Article 68, and queried the obligations for online platforms under Article 45. They expressed interest in learning from other MS about enforcing laws via the email group.

Another MS requested COM to elaborate on the current work on bioplastics. DG ENV responded that work under Article 8 has commenced in collaboration with JRC, with contracts established and a basic impact assessment initiated. MS would be engaged on this matter soon. DG ENV noted that biobased plastics were also encompassed in the bioeconomy strategy.

10. Next meeting

The next TAC-meeting is scheduled for 06 February 2026; invitations have already been sent. The Chair concluded the meeting.

11. Participant list

European Commission, DG ENV, DG SANTE, DG GROW, DG ESTAT, DG MARE, SG, JRC-ISPRA

Country	Organisation
Austria	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility Innovation and Technology)
Belgium	Interregional Packaging Commission; Public waste Agency of Flanders
Bulgaria	
Croatia	Ministry of Environment and Energy
Cyprus	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment)
Czech Republic	Ministry of the Environment
Denmark	Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality, Environmental Protection Agency
Estonia	Environmental Inspectorate
Finland	Ministry of Environment, Centre for Economic Development
France	Ministry for Ecological Transition
Germany	Ministry of the Environment and German Environmental Agency
Greece	Ministry of Environment and Energy
Hungary	Ministry for Environmental Affairs
Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency
Ireland	Environmental Department
Italy	Ministry of the Environment
Latvia	Ministry of Climate and Energy
Lithuania	Ministry of Environment
Luxembourg	Administration de l'Environnement
Malta	Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning
Netherlands	Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat
Poland	Ministry of Climate and Environment
Portugal	Portuguese Environmental Agency), Resource Recovery & Recycling Agency, Environment & Resources Authority
Romania	Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests
Slovakia	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
Slovenia	Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy
Spain	Ministry of Ecological Transition
Sweden	Environmental Protection Agency
Norway	(EEA) Norwegian Environmental Agency