

The Global Plastics Agreement



Plastics Europe strongly supports the goal of **ending plastic pollution by 2040** through an international legally binding instrument.

Key Policy Drivers

Plastics Europe's recommendations on the International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution (ILBI – PP)



Sustainable Production and Consumption

We support an approach that fosters sustainable plastics production and consumption by improving circularity and reducing dependency on fossil fuels. The international agreement should prioritise three fundamental principles: enabling plastics circularity, an application-based approach, and robust monitoring and financing mechanisms.

1.

Introduce measures to foster circular plastics production

- a. Set mandatory recycled content targets per industry sector at national level to create demand drivers for recycled plastics and feedstocks.
- b. Consider the potential of national re-use targets for specific applications, especially in packaging, and focus on products that contribute most to plastic waste.
- c. Encourage the use of circular feedstocks to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for plastic production.
- d. Consider the socio-economic and environmental consequences of production caps and bans on certain plastics.

2.

Implement a plastic application-based approach towards sustainable consumption of plastic products, including reuse and refill, and design for recycling / circularity

- a. Foster sustainable consumption by developing a global methodology that identifies problematic and avoidable plastics applications. For instance, the decision tree as proposed by Plastics Europe:
 - i. Proposes criteria for identifying and addressing problematic plastic applications that could be adopted worldwide while allowing governments to devise national action plans recognising diverse local needs and circumstances.
 - ii. Adopts a science-based, material-neutral approach that can apply to all products from all materials
 - iii. Prioritises actions to reduce pollution of high-leakage applications, i.e., those highly likely to contribute to environmental pollution, fostering a swift pathway to ending pollution by 2040.
- b. Develop common product design principles based on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to enhance reuse and recycling.

3.

Set up a robust metrics system for monitoring and assessment.

- a. Include an assessment system for plastic pollution as an essential component of the instrument.
- b. Develop a monitoring system to track progress made by the implementation of the global criteria-based measures to guide and validate our collective efforts.



Environmentally sound management for all plastic waste

Plastics Europe supports the development of global guidelines and best practices in the global agreement or via technical standards to support the development of plastic waste management plans and infrastructure (involving citizens, the informal sector, and consumers). We call for the consideration of the following supplementary measures aimed at ensuring environmentally sound management of all plastic waste:

1. Mandatory recycling rates with adapted timelines

- a. Set mandatory targets on separate collection, sorting and recycling rates with adapted timelines per industry sector (e.g. packaging, or building & construction waste).
- b. Tailor timelines to reflect the current availability and status of collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure at local or regional levels.

2. Acceptance of all recycling technologies in national policies

- a. Support all recycling technologies, including mechanical, physical, organic, and chemical recycling (be technology-neutral).
- b. Create a supportive framework for scaling up recycling technologies.
- c. Implement transparent mass balance accounting systems for measuring recycled content.

3. Global ambition to transition away from incineration or landfill of recyclable plastic waste

- a. Ensure universal access to integrated waste management systems for all waste types.
- b. Involve citizens, the informal sector, and consumers in the design of collection systems.
- c. Emphasise circular waste treatment practices like recycling over linear treatments such as incineration or landfill.





Sustainable Finance Mechanisms

Plastics Europe calls for a policy framework that aligns private and public financial flows with circular economy goals. Both government funding and private investments are essential for transitioning the plastics ecosystem. According to an OECD report published in 2022, an annual investment of EUR 25 billion is needed to establish effective waste management infrastructure in countries currently lacking such robust systems. Engaging private sector funding is therefore crucial to ending plastic pollution.

- 1. Create a policy framework for private investments in plastics circularity**
 - a. Set mandatory recycled content targets per industry sector at the national level to create demand drivers for recycled plastics and feedstocks. This will:
 - i. Attract private investors and new sources of financing.
 - ii. Foster public-private partnerships to advance the circular plastics industry.
- 2. Leveraging national and sector-specific Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) or EPR-like systems**
 - a. Implement material-neutral national EPR and EPR-like schemes to ensure that companies responsible for placing products on the market also finance their end-of-life management.
 - b. Adopt minimum requirements for best-practice EPR schemes tailored to local conditions across various market sectors and help to build sustainable business models that benefit local communities, including the informal workers/waste collectors.
 - c. Ensure EPR systems support innovation, increase in recycling, including new recycling technologies, and improvements in collection and sorting.
 - d. Facilitate access to high-quality recycled materials through EPR systems.
- 3. Assistance and capacity-building support for sustainable waste management practices**
 - a. Establish robust policy frameworks for effective investments in waste management resources in regions with less robust collection, sorting, and disposal infrastructure.
 - b. Prioritise expanding coverage to all people lacking access to sustainable waste services and
 - c. Secure a sustainable revenue stream to cover operational expenses for basic waste collection.
 - d. Align strategies with specific country priorities to maximise impact and stimulate funding.
 - e. Facilitate access to existing financing mechanisms while exploring additional innovative funding avenues.



**PLASTICS
EUROPE**

Plastics Europe is the pan-European association of plastics manufacturers with offices across Europe. For over 100 years, science and innovation has been the DNA that cuts across our industry. With close to 100 members producing over 90% of all polymers across Europe, we are the catalyst for the industry with a responsibility to openly engage with stakeholders and deliver solutions which are safe, circular and sustainable. We are committed to implementing long-lasting positive change.

“ We call for ambitious measures and an enabling framework to facilitate a global transformation of the plastics system. An international legally binding instrument is an opportunity to enable circularity and ending plastic pollution in the shortest period possible while protecting human health and the environment. ”

Virginia Janssens,

Managing Director Plastics Europe

View Plastics Europe's resources and positions on the global plastics agreement:



Our goal is to end plastic pollution by 2040.

We can achieve this through a circular economy in which all plastic applications are reused, recycled, and responsibly managed during production, use, and end-of-life.

This would enable society to end plastic pollution and help achieve a climate-neutral plastics industry.



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