



Circular Economy Action Plan

For a cleaner and
more competitive
Europe

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Need for action: the Consumption Problem

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



- 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.

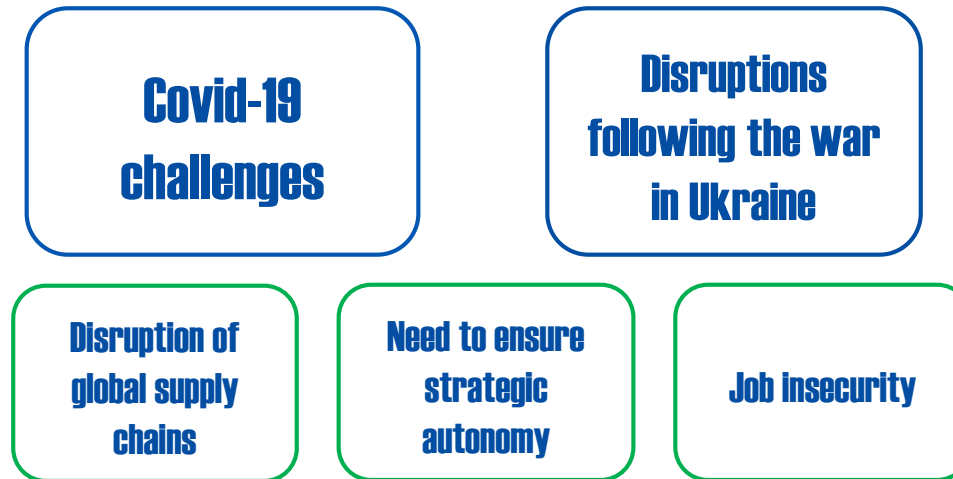
Source: [Eurostat](#),
2016 figures



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

Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook](#), 2019

A key to strategic autonomy

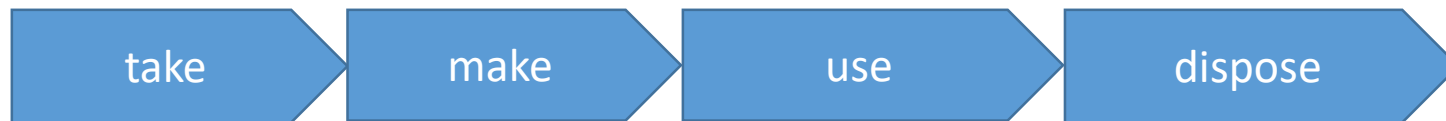


Circular economy is expected to:

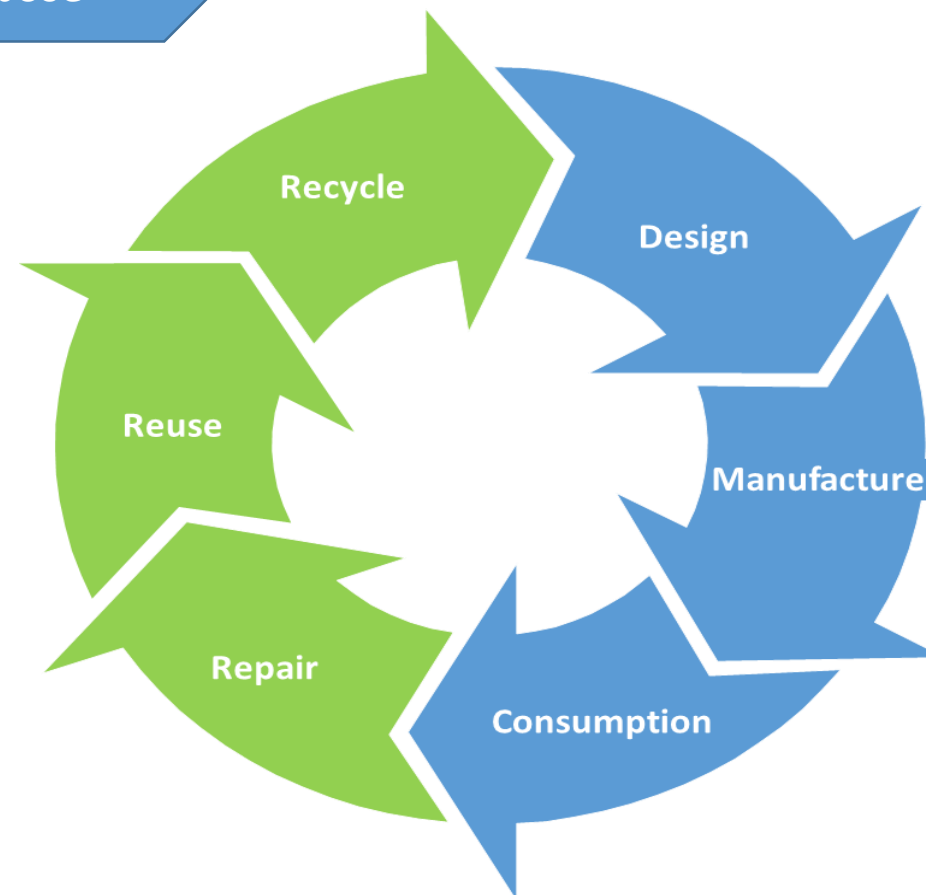
Impacts



Transitioning from a linear to a circular model



The New Circular Economy Action Plan
A focus on the entire product lifecycle



EU Recovery Plan & Circular Economy

Supporting the transition towards a circular economy. Innovation and investment



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)**



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**

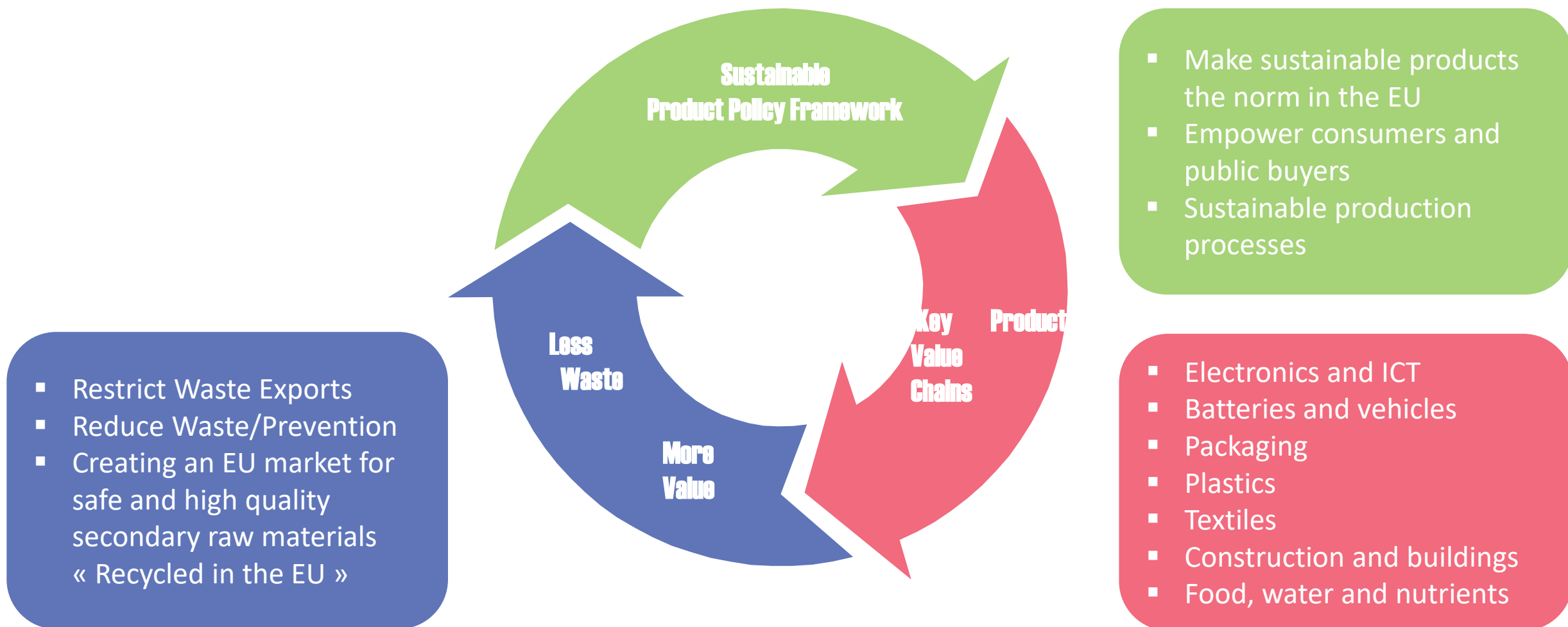


Stakeholders

- **To take advantage of the new circular economy funding opportunities within Horizon Europe, LIFE Programme, Investees**

Changing the way Europe produces and consumes

Making circularity work for people, regions and cities, and leading global efforts on circular economy



Towards a Sustainable Product Policy Framework

A framework that enables stakeholder groups to act differently

Product Design

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

Circularity in Production Processes

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



Empowering Consumers

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

Designing Sustainable Products

Sustainable Products Initiative: product principles and requirements

Up to

80%



of products' environmental
impacts are determined at
the design phase

- Improve **durability, reusability, upgradability and reparability**
- Eliminate **hazardous chemicals** and increase **recycled content**
- Restrict **single-use** and counter **premature obsolescence**
- Incentivise **product-as-a-service**
- Digitalise, including a **digital product passport** (traceability)

Empowering Consumers and Public Buyers

Proposals



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



- Companies to substantiate their **green claims** using Product and Organisation Environmental Footprint method



- **Minimum mandatory green public procurement** criteria and targets

Public authorities' purchasing power represents

14%
of EU GDP



Key Product Value Chains



Food, water & nutrients



Electronics and ICT



Batteries & vehicles



Construction & buildings



Textiles



Plastics



Packaging

Less Waste, More Value



Preventing waste from being created in the first place is key

Boosting Waste Prevention

- Explore reduction targets

Circularity in a toxic-free environment

- Chemical Strategy for Sustainability

Once waste has been created, it needs to be **transformed into high-quality resources**

EU market for Secondary Raw Materials

- Remove barriers to the uptake of recycled materials

Reducing Waste exports

- Revise the EU Shipment Regulation
- Increase the EU high quality recycling capacity

Recent CE initiatives

For detailed information, please consult :

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en#actions

- **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles**

Proposal for a Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products

- Part of the **Circular Economy Package of March 2022**
- **Broadening the Ecodesign Framework**
- Regularly updated **multiannual working plans** setting out priorities
- **Framework legislation + Product-specific measures** based on dedicated impact assessments

New features:

- **Broader scope:**
Making sustainable products the norm
- **Ecodesign requirements:**
 - Circularity, life-cycle environmental sustainability & energy efficiency
 - Performance & information requirements
- Incentives for **Best Performing Products**

Examples of product aspects & parameters:

- Durability ► **Guaranteed lifetime**
- Reusability
- Upgradability
- Reparability ► **Availability of spare parts**
- Recycled Content
- Energy Use & Efficiency ► **Consumption of energy**
- Resource Use & Efficiency ► **Consumption of water & other resources**
- Presence of Substances of Concern
- Possibility of remanufacturing & recycling, waste generation
- Environmental impacts ► **Carbon & environmental footprint, emissions, microplastics release**

Revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive

- **Targets and measures for packaging waste reduction at MS level and mandatory reuse or refill targets in specific sectors e.g. retail, catering**
- **EU-wide standards for over-packaging and a ban on certain forms of unnecessary packaging**
- **A definition and assessment procedure to ensure that all packaging placed on the market is 'recycled'**
- **Mandatory recycled content targets (inclusion rates) for plastic packaging to be per unit of packaging in 2030 and 2040**
- **Mandatory compostability for some packaging types**
- **Harmonized labelling to facilitate consumer sorting, as well as for reusable packaging, DRS and recycled content**
- **Mandatory deposit return systems for single-use plastic beverage bottles and metal cans**
- **Labels on all packaging to facilitate correct waste sorting by consumers**



Policy framework on bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics

Perceived in Europe and internationally as good or better for the environment – not true

The policy framework:

- Clarifies what these plastics are - characteristics, opportunities, challenges
- Bans generic claims such as 'bioplastics'; as to 'biobased', 'biodegradable' and 'compostable', they should be specified
- Sets the conditions for sustainable bio-based plastics (biobased content, sustainable sourcing)
- Sets conditions for sustainable biodegradable and compostable plastics (applications, standards, infras



Moving towards a Global Circular Economy

An agenda to promote circular economy at bilateral, regional and multilateral level, including through development & international cooperation programmes



EU-Japan Green Alliance
27 May 2021

- Global Agreement on Plastics
- Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)
- Free Trade Agreements
- Outreach activities – Circular Economy Missions

Thank you



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