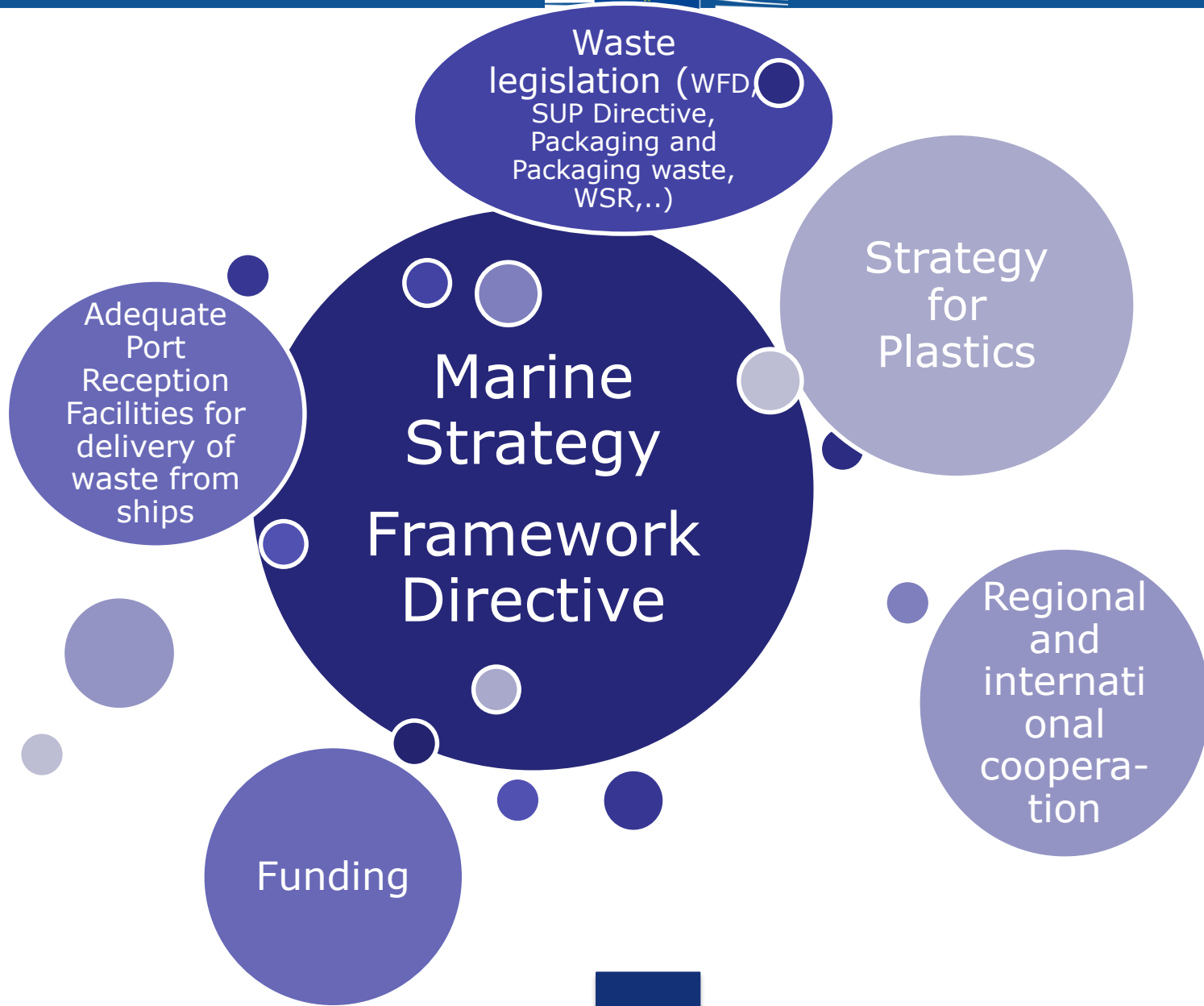




EU actions against marine litter Toward a NO-Plastic Sea 10th November 2020

Directorate General Environment
Marine Environment and Water Industry Unit





European Green Deal



| The EU as
a
global
leader

| A European
Climate Pact

Zero pollution ambition

Future actions:

1. Zero pollution action plan for air, water and soil (for 2021)
2. COM will: propose measures to address pollution such as micro plastics and chemicals

On marine pollution EU needs to better

- Monitor (MSFD monitoring programmes, EMODNET)
- Report (MSFD reporting on state, sources, gear reporting study and implementing regulation)
- Prevent (waste and waste water management)
- Remedy, including targeted removal activities ((collaborative work on MSFD, SUP, PRF implementation, FFL, beach clean-ups)



Mobilising industry for clean and circular economy

Digitalisation: new opportunities for distance monitoring of water pollution

COM will:

- ensure all packaging in the EU market is reusable or recyclable in an economically viable manner by 2030,
- **Develop a policy framework for biodegradable plastics**
- implement measures on SUP

Mobilising industry for clean and circular economy

The circular economy action plan:

- 'sustainable products' policy to support the circular design of products - common methodology and principles
- will foster new business models and
- set minimum requirements to prevent environmentally harmful products from being placed on the EU market.
- EPR will be strengthened.

Biodiversity Strategy

at least 30% of the land **and 30% of the sea should be protected in the EU**

at least one third of protected areas – representing 10% of EU land and **10% of EU sea – should be strictly protected**

in line with the proposed global ambition

EU commits to work towards a global agreement to reduce plastic marine litter

Greening national budgets and sending the right price signals

At national level, the EGD will

- *create the context for broad-based tax reforms,*
- *remove subsidies for fossil fuels,*
- *shift the tax burden from labour to pollution,*
- *take into account social considerations.*

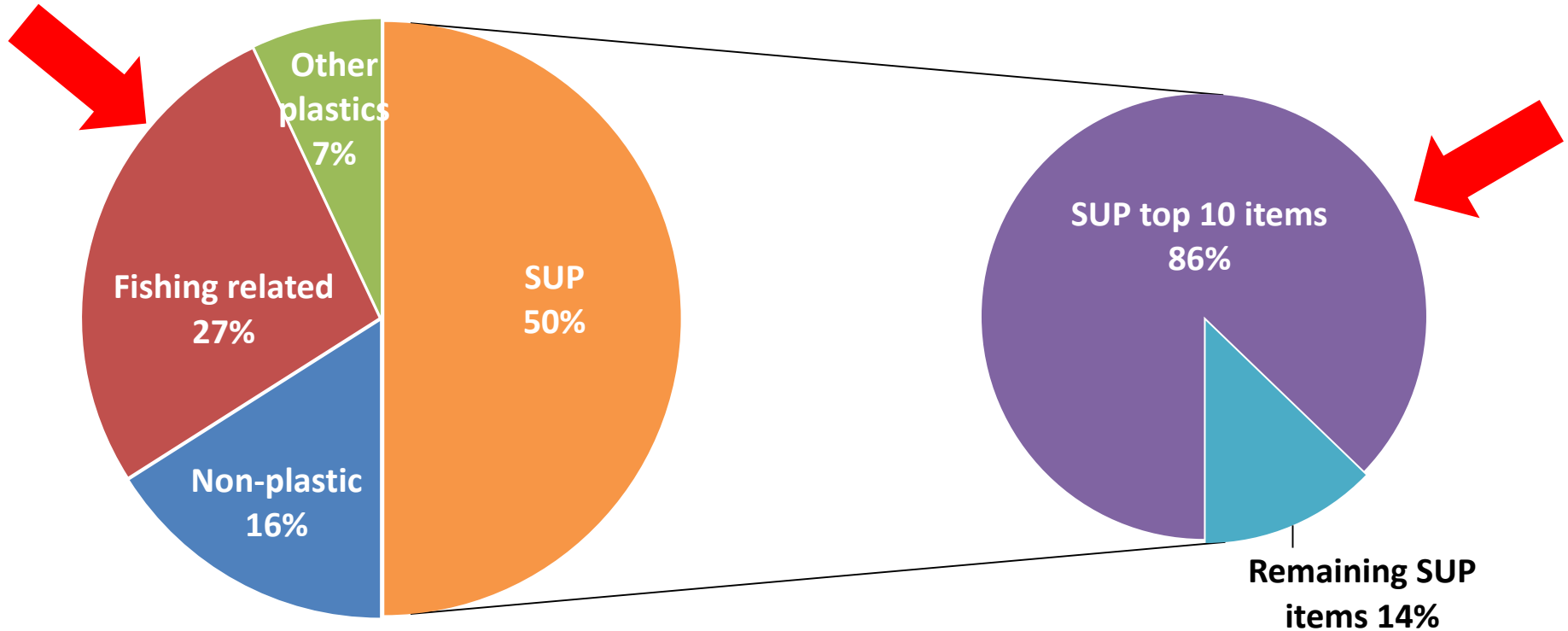
Halting marine litter – one of the objectives

MS to
identify
sources of
littering and
take
measures

6 years
National
Plans to fight
littering
coherent with
programs of
measures
under MSFD

Producers to
financially
contribute to
reduce
littering

Most found marine litter items on European beaches



- 70% covered of all marine litter: top 10 SUP (43%) + fishing gear (27%)

Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of certain plastic products on the environment of 5 June 2019

Objectives:

- **Prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, in particular the aquatic environment and on human health**
- **Promote the transition to a circular economy with innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials**
- **Contributing to the efficient functioning of the internal market**

Scope: single use plastic products and products made of oxo-degradable plastic

- ❖ **70% of all marine litter covered: top 10 SUP (43%) + fishing gear (27%)**

Transposition and Implementation

- MS have two years for bringing into force the national laws and regulations to comply with the Directive:
 - 3 July 2021
- **Article 17** provides specific application deadlines:
 - ✓ **Article 5** – from 3 July 2021
 - ✓ **Article 6(1)** – from 3 July 2024
 - ✓ **Article 7(1)** – from 3 July 2021
 - ✓ **Article 8** - *by* 31/12/2024
- *COM is monitoring the correct transposition and implementation by MS*



Implementation work (Commission)

➤ 2 sets of Guidelines:

❖ **SUP Guidelines**: what is to be considered a single use plastic product definitions, criteria of product categories (art. 12)

❖ **Guidelines on EPR**: criteria on costs of litter clean up (art. 8)

➤ **2 Standardisation requests**: - (1) **tethered caps and lids**, art. 6 (plastic bottles); (2) **circularity of fishing gear**, art. 8(9)

➤ 9 Implementing acts:

❖ **First wave (2020)**: marking, separate collection (calculation and reporting), reporting of (waste) fishing gear

❖ **Second wave (2021)**: measuring consumption reduction, reporting consumption reduction

❖ **Third wave (2022)**: measuring and reporting on recycled content, reporting of post consumption waste tobacco products



Bans

- Plastic cutlery, plates, straws
- Cups, food containers in expanded polystyrene
- Oxo-degradable plastics
- Cotton buds sticks made of plastic, balloon sticks

Consumption reduction (including MS consumption reduction targets)

- Plastic Food containers
- Plastic cups

Capture rates (separate collection) and product design

- Plastic bottles
- 77% by 2025, 90% by 2029
- PET bottles made with 25% (2025) and 30% (2030) recycled content
- Tethered caps and lids



Marking

- Wet wipes and sanitary items
- Cups
- Cigarette filters

Extended Producer Responsibility

- Costs of waste management, awareness raising, data gathering and clean up (*food and beverage containers incl. bottles, cups, packets and wrappers, plastic bags, tobacco products with filters*)
- Wet wipes and balloons: same, *except* collection costs
- Fishing gears – costs of collection based on National targets (EU later) + EU standards for design

Biodegradable plastics in the SUP Directive: some issues

- Biodegradable / bio-based plastic SUP are considered 'plastic' and are covered by the Directive.
- By July 2027 COM will evaluate the technical progress concerning criteria/standard for biodegradability in the marine environment
- Correct info & disposal is challenging for consumers
 - **Risk of being littered**
 - **Cross-contamination of waste streams**
- Under Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD): study finalised on compostable plastics; more studies to come on biodegradable plastics in the open environment and agricultural plastics (both conventional and biodegradable):
 - ⇒ EGD and new CEAP: policy framework on use of bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics with clear environmental benefits;
 - ⇒ Developing acceptable criteria for marine biodegradability

Plastic gear used in fishing and aquaculture

Extended producer responsibility

- **For producers of fishing gear containing plastic**
➤ To be established **by 31 December 2024**

National minimum annual collection rate

- **of waste fishing gear containing plastic for recycling to be set by the MS**

Monitoring and reporting of fishing gear

- **containing plastic placed on the market of the MS**
- **waste containing plastic collected**
- **report to the Commission**
 - **First reporting period is calendar year 2022 (MS to submit data within 18 months of the end of the reporting period)**
 - **External support study: final report June 2020 (formats for reporting, quality check report)**



Standard for circular design of fishing gear

CEN will be asked to develop harmonized standards relating to circular design of fishing gear to encourage re-use and to facilitate recyclability at the end of life

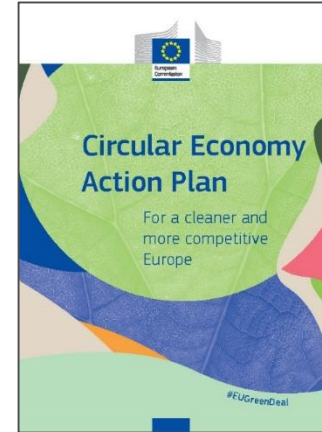
Workshop on circular design of fishing gear  I like it

Event date: 19/02/2020 (All day) to 20/02/2020 (All day) | iCal | View as pdf | 478 views | 1 like | 

Circa 11.000 tons of end of life fishing gear end up into European seas yearly. Single-use Plastics Directive, adopted 5 June 2019, among other things provides a requirement for the European Commission to request European Standardization Organization (ESO) to develop a standard for the circular design of the fishing gear. Indeed, 80% of negative environmental impact of products at the end of life could be reduced at the product design stage. To date design and development of fishing gear has not incorporated environmental considerations (ecodesign) including circularity. A European standard will provide guidelines on how to voluntarily improve this.



Circular Economy Action Plan



In addition to reducing plastic litter, addresses microplastics by:

- *restricting intentionally added microplastics and tackling pellets (with European Chemicals Agency)*
- *developing labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures on unintentional release of microplastics, including measures to increase the capture of microplastics at all relevant stages of products' lifecycle*
- *further developing and harmonising methods for measuring unintentionally released microplastics, especially from tyres and textiles, and delivering harmonised data on microplastics concentrations in seawater*
- *closing the gaps on scientific knowledge related to the risk and occurrence of microplastics in the environment, drinking water and foods.*

Elements of the proposed restriction for intentionally used microplastics



Prohibition on 'placing on the market'

Uses where microplastic releases to the environment are inevitable



Derogated uses

Natural/biodegradable polymers; uses with no microplastic release; already regulated



Mandatory 'safe use information'

uses where microplastic release can be minimised with instructions for use



Mandatory 'reporting'

identity, description of use (function), tonnage, releases

Microplastics: legislative and non-legislative work per sources

Cosmetics, detergents,
paints,
Oxo plastics

- Towards general ban through REACH restriction dossier
- REACH
- Single Use Plastics Directive

Tyres, Textiles

- Testing harmonization
- Labelling, minimum requirements
- Studies on cost and benefits of taking action to be launched soon

Plastic pellets

- Chain certification
- Permitting
- Partially covered by restriction process

Others

- Research through LIFE, Horizon2020

Microplastics: legislative and non-legislative work per sources

Cosmetics Specific study to be launched by DG ENV

- 12 months duration
- Addressing the presence of microplastics in the environment, emitted from three source categories i.e. pellets, textiles and tyres
- Looking at policy options in order to reduce such presence
- Providing the Commission with recommendations on the best way forward, be it regulatory or voluntary action, supporting an open and comprehensive analysis
- Consulting stakeholders through open public and targeted consultation

Port Reception Facilities (PRF) Directive - (EU) 2019/883

AIM:

- Alignment with MARPOL (Annexes I, II, IV, V and VI)
- Enhance the availability and use of port reception waste facilities
- Reduction of waste from ships at sea, through a **mix of incentive and enforcement measures:**
 - ❖ All ships must deliver their waste before departure, *including* fishing vessels and recreational craft;
 - ❖ Cost Recovery system based on the 100% Indirect Fee for Annex V waste;
 - ❖ Scope covers also fishing gear and passively fished waste.
- Improve the management of waste from ships in ports: adequate PRF to provide for separate collection, waste reception and handling plans, electronic reporting and exchange of information.
- **EPR schemes for fishing gear included in the SUP directive should support the proposed 100% indirect fee system and help to avoid any increase in the fee and ensure a right of delivery.**

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- Beach litter baselines available

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eu-marine-beach-litter-baselines>

- Joint List of Litter items adopted
- Beach litter threshold adopted

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/european-threshold-value-and-assessment-method-macro-litter-coastlines>

- Updating of monitoring protocols ongoing
- Coordinated determination of GES



Regional/International activities to curb marine plastic pollution

Regional Action Plans against marine litter in all seas around Europe, developed and implemented with EU support

G7 and G20 Action Plans against marine litter

IMO (International Maritime Organisation) Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, adopted in October 2018

*UNEA-4 (March 2019) resolutions on
Plastic litter and microplastics*

Single-use plastic products

Sustainable consumption and production

Towards a global agreement on plastics

Lead efforts at international level to reach a global agreement on plastics, and promote the **uptake of the EU's circular economy approach** on plastics:

- ❖ No dedicated international instrument in place specifically designed to **focus on the production and consumption elements relating to plastic**
- ❖ To address both **land and sea-based sources** as well as intentionally added and un-intentionally released **microplastics**
- ❖ Building on and complementing **Basel Convention, International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** and **regional seas conventions (RSCs)**
- ❖ Possibly launched at the next meeting of the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5, February 2021)**
- ❖ **Meeting of like-minded countries** organized by Commission on 4th September 2020 in view of a joint submission





http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/index_en.htm



Thank you for your attention!