



EU Plastics Tax Update



CPA Packaging WG & National Plastics Pact



SUP Directive Implementing Acts



TiO2 in Official Journal



Industry4Europe General Assembly



Best Polymer Producers Awards - Voting Open

**EUROPEAN FOOD CONTACT PLASTICS SEMINAR:
SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING
23-24 April 2020 - Brussels**

Jointly organised by  and 

2020 Food Contact Seminar



EuPC Annual Meeting 2020

EU Plastics Tax Update



Discussions on the so-called plastic tax are still lively as a part of the overall negotiations by the Council on own resources and other revenues in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. The MFF needs the unanimity of the Council, which, at this moment, seems difficult to reach. In fact, due to insufficient progress, Council President Charles Michel has been given the mandate to continue negotiations instead of the Czech Presidency.

After a failure to make a development towards an agreement during the extraordinary European Council summit on 20 February, now, Member States and groups of Member States are expected to occupy an increasingly important role. Another extraordinary summit is expected when a compromise seems possible.

Heads of state and government are also expected to take stock of continued bilateral and multilateral meetings during the European Council summit on 26-27 March. However, the Croatian Presidency, the Council President and the Commission President likely aim for an agreement during the European Council summit on 18-19 June the latest. The European Parliament voiced its disappointment over the European Council's failure to find an agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 and what it considered insufficient proposals regarding a reform of the EU's own resources. The European Parliament has only a consultative role in the process but wishes to have more "European" own resources for the EU Budget.

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CPA Packaging WG & National Plastics Pact



The Circular Plastics Alliance, launched in September with the support of the European Commission, is starting to move its feet. A second round of the Working Groups is being carried out to reach the ultimate goal of 10 million tonnes of recyclates used into new products by 2025.

Meanwhile, some Member States are active launching their own national plastic pacts. Among these, the Netherlands, with the support of France and Denmark, will officially launch the European Plastic Pact on March 6th, 2020 in Brussels, which aims at reaching four goals by 2025:

- Reusability and recyclability: Design all plastic packaging and single-use plastic products placed on the market to be reusable where possible and in any case recyclable by 2025;
- Responsible use of plastics: move towards a more responsible use of plastic packaging and single-use plastic products, aiming to reduce virgin plastic products and packaging by at least 20% (by weight) by 2025, with half of this reduction coming from an absolute reduction in plastics;

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CPA Packaging WG & National Plastics Pact

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- Collection, sorting and recycling: increase the collection, sorting and recycling capacity by at least 25 percentage points by 2025 and reach a level that corresponds to market demand for recycled plastics;
- Use of recycled plastics: Increase the use of recycled plastics in new products and packaging by 2025, with plastics user companies achieving an average of at least 30% recycled plastics (by weight) in their product and packaging range.

Several governments from across Europe have already indicated they will sign the Pact: Slovenia, Sweden, Portugal, Finland, Spain and Greece; while the European Commission will sit as Permanent Observer.

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SUP Directive Implementing Acts



The Single-Use Plastics Directive needs many clarifications in order to be effectively implemented by all Member States. In fact, the Directive comes with a lengthy list of implementing acts that will have to be adopted in the coming years.

Chronologically, the first of these implementing acts are the draft guidelines on the definitions and criteria for the relevant product categories laid out by the SUP Directive which will be drafted by a pool of consultants (led by Ramboll), in consultation with the industry and eventually adopted by the European Commission. The guidelines will play an important part in the understanding of the different categories of products impacted by the Directive with clear pictures and indications for both Member States and companies. The official publication is foreseen by 1 July 2020.

In the meantime, the same pool of consultants is working on other implementing acts foreseen by the Directive:

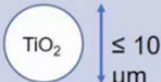

- Marking of certain SUP products
- Calculation and format for reporting on separate collection target for plastic bottles;
- Consumption reduction measurement and reporting;
- Development of guidelines on litter clean up costs.

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TiO2 classification was published in the EU Official Journal

On 18 February 2020, the [classification](#) of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) as a suspected carcinogen (cat. 2) by inhalation in certain powder forms was [published](#) in the EU Official Journal as an amendment to the EU Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) of substances and mixtures.

The industry will have a transition period of 18 months to comply with the new requirements starting 20 days after the publication in the Official Journal. According to the latest version of the classification proposal, classification applies only to pure TiO₂ or mixtures in powder form containing 1% or more of titanium dioxide which is in the form of or incorporated in particles with aerodynamic diameter $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$. (See the following figure)

1. in the form of titanium dioxide particles ≤ 10 microns	2. or particles containing titanium dioxide ≤ 10 micrometer ("incorporated in")
	

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TiO2 classification was published in the EU Official Journal

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This would prevent the classification of most pellets, masterbatches, compounds and recycle through the derogation provided in Note 10. Note 10 states that “The classification as a carcinogen by inhalation applies only to mixtures in powder form containing 1 % or more of titanium dioxide which is in the form of or incorporated in particles with aerodynamic diameter $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$.”

However, the obligation to label would apply to plastics despite the fact that they would not be classified. Concerning the label, the publication states: “The label on the packaging of solid mixtures containing 1 % or more of titanium dioxide shall bear the following statement: EUH212: ‘Warning! Hazardous respirable dust may be formed when used. Do not breathe dust.’ In addition, the label on the packaging of liquid and solid mixtures not intended for the general public and not classified as hazardous which are labelled with EUH211 or EUH212, shall bear statement EUH210.”

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Industry4Europe General Assembly 2020



On the 14th of February, the Industry4Europe coalition held its annual General assembly in brussels. The coalition the campaigns for an ambitious industrial strategy has continued to grow last year and reached a membership of 153 industry organisations, including **EuPC**. During the GA, Luisa Santos, Deputy Director General at BusinessEurope, presented their report on *The EU and China - Addressing the Systemic Challenge*, and Artur Runge-Metzger, Director at DG CLIMA of the European Commission, gave an overview of the European Green Deal.

In addition, the coalition members discussed the next steps in their advocacy campaign prior to the publication of the EU Industrial Strategy that is currently being prepared by DG GROW. The key messages and recommendations of the coalition were published at the end of last year in the joint position paper [A long-term strategy for Europe's industrial future: from words to action](#).

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Best Polymer Producers Awards 2020 — Voting Open



The Polymers for Europe Alliance has launched the 2020 voting for the Best Polymer Producers for Europe Awards. To reflect the efforts of the plastics industry to become more and more circular, the fifth edition of the awards will include for the first time circularity as a standalone criterion for the rating process.

All users of polymers in Europe can access this online customer satisfaction survey - free of charge and in strict confidence - and rate their suppliers' performances during the past 12 months. The voting tool is open for three months until the 22nd May 2020 here: www.polymercomplyeurope.eu/pce-services.

The rating tool is easy to understand, extremely user-friendly and provided in several languages in order to reach as many polymer users in Europe as possible. In case you do not yet have an account on the Polymers for Europe Alliance, you can register for free here: www.polymercomplyeurope.eu/node/210/register to get your exclusive access to the rating tool.

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EuPC and FoodDrinkEurope organise a unique seminar

**EUROPEAN FOOD CONTACT PLASTICS SEMINAR:
SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING
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Plastic packaging plays a vital role in protecting and preserving the safety and quality of food and drink products for consumers. However, there is an urgent need to rethink the way plastic packaging is designed, produced, reused and recycled. The EU Plastics Strategy adopted in November 2018 has paved the way for a circular economy; including proposals to improve design for recycling of plastic packaging to targets on recycled content for specific products.

European Plastics Converters (**EuPC**) and FoodDrinkEurope organise a joint seminar on how to ensure the sustainability of food contact plastic materials and articles, whilst maintaining their safety for consumers. This seminar will identify the key challenges and opportunities for the food and drink industry, such as how it can contribute to the EU sustainability objectives and meet their legal obligations in terms of consumer safety. Representatives of the European Commission, plastic packaging manufacturers, food and drink producers, research institutions and other stakeholders will join the discussion on 23-24 April 2020, in Brussels.

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EuPC Annual Meeting 2020 – Registration Open



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A Circular Future with Plastics

11-12 June 2020

Brussels

EuPC, is organising the 2020 edition of the conference *A Circular Future with Plastics* together with the Belgian plastics associations Agoria and Essenscia - PolyMatters. The event will take place on 11th & 12th June at the Renaissance Hotel in Brussels. During the morning of the 11th June, three Market Sessions on Packaging, Automotive and Building &

Construction will take place in parallel. In the afternoon, the packaging session continues, while company visits are organised for interested participants. During the conference on the 12th June, representatives of national and European politics, CEOs of the plastics manufacturing and converting world, as well as other industry leaders will share their knowledge and experience about the trends of the sector. To access more information and the registration, visit www.circularfuturewithplastics.eu

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Upcoming Meetings

EuPC Packaging Division ExCom	18 March 2020 <i>Conference Call</i>
EuPC SEF Meeting	Postponed, Date tbd
EuPC Steering Committee	19 March 2020 <i>Conference Call</i>
EuPC Members Executives Forum	26 March 2020 <i>Conference Call</i>
EuPC Building & Construction ExCom	1 April 2020 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Raw Materials Committee	2 April 2020 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Food Contact Seminar	23-24 April 2020 <i>Brussels</i>
EuPC Annual Meeting	11-12 June 2020 <i>Brussels</i>