



Update on Legislative Developments in the EU (plastics, packaging, batteries)



ISCC PLUS Sustainability Conference
for the circular economy
Seoul, 23 January 2024

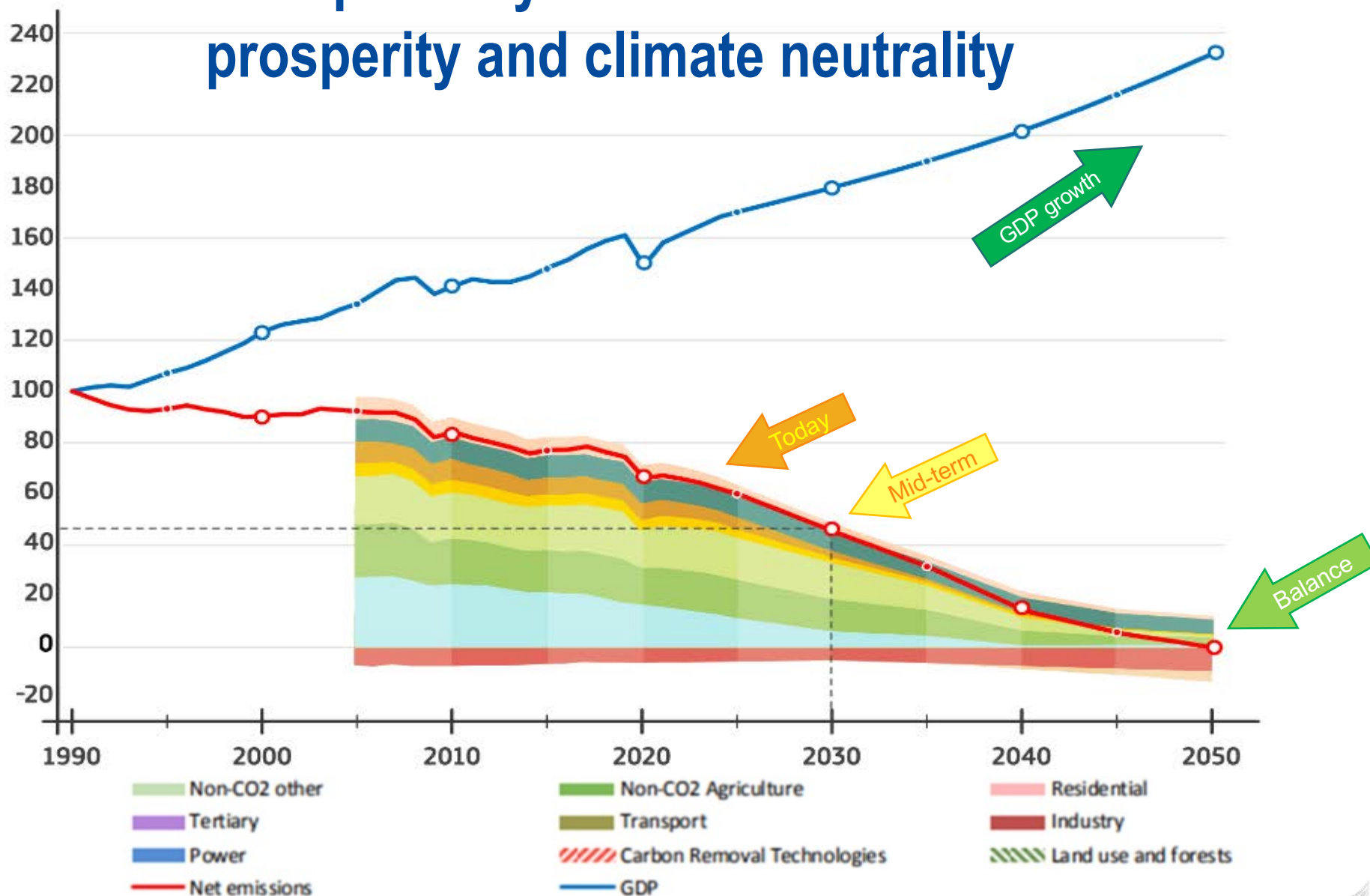
*Dr. Jorg Weberndorfer, Minister Counsellor
EU Delegation to the Republic of Korea*

EU climate ambition for 2030 & 2050

European Climate Law of June 2021:

- Union-wide **climate-neutrality** objective for **2050**
- **2030** target of at **least 55% net GHG emissions reduction**
- Recognition of the need to enhance the EU's **carbon sink**

The EU's pathway to sustained economic prosperity and climate neutrality



Source: Source: Communication 'Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition – Investing in a climate-neutral future for the benefit of our people', European Commission, 2020

EU Legislative Train



Process:

European Commission proposal

European Council position
European Parliament position
Trilogue

EU Directives: Member States

transposition into national law (2 years) (not needed with EU

Regulations)

Application and
Monitoring

- **Important : many EU laws are not final / in force yet**
- **But : already pressure on companies due to consumers' expectations**



Interlinked EU Strategies (examples)



A climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy



Maintaining the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible, & minimising the generation of waste



Improving the economics and quality of recycling & curbing plastic waste & littering



Reduce air, water and soil pollution to non-harmful levels within the boundaries with which our planet can cope

The **Green Deal Industrial Plan** (February 2023)

Object: providing a **more supportive environment** for scaling up the EU's manufacturing capacity and products required to meet Europe's ambitious climate targets.



A predictable and simplified regulatory environment

Faster access to funding

Enhanced skills

Open trade for resilient supply chains

The Farm to Fork Strategy

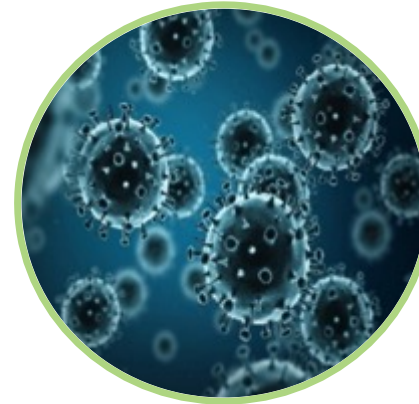
- 2020: Targets for sustainable food production by 2030



Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous **pesticides**



Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50 % while ensuring that no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20%



Reduce sales of **antimicrobials** for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50%



At least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under **organic farming** and bring back at least 10% of agricultural area under **high-diversity** landscape

Green Claims Initiative March 2023

- **Protect** consumers and companies from **greenwashing**
- **Enable** consumers to make informed purchasing decisions based on **credible environmental claims and labels**
- **Boost** the **competitiveness** of economic operators that **make efforts** to increase the **environmental sustainability**
- **Improve legal certainty** and create **cost saving opportunities** for such operators that are trading across borders.
- **Accelerate** transition towards a **circular, clean and climate neutral economy**



53% of green claims give vague, misleading or unfounded information



40% of claims have no supporting evidence

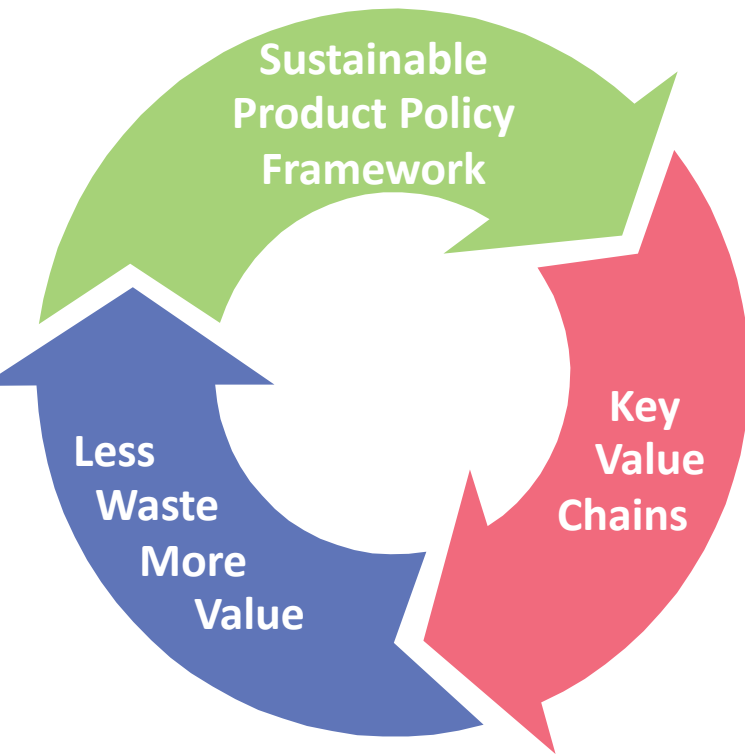


Half of all green labels offer weak or non-existent verification



There are 230 sustainability labels and 100 green energy labels in the EU, with vastly different levels of transparency

EU Circular Economy Action Plan



35 actions

Make sustainable products the norm in the EU
Empower consumers and public buyers
Sustainable production processes

Electronics and ICT
Batteries and vehicles
Packaging
Plastics
Textiles
Construction and buildings
Food, water and nutrients

Reduce Waste
Reduce Waste Exports
Boost market for high quality and safe secondary raw materials

Making circular economy work for people, regions and cities

Circular economy as a requisite for climate neutrality

Getting the Economics Right

Financial Markets

Investments and R&I

Global Level Playing Field

Monitoring

Circular economy transition opportunities

Fostering greener and more resilient value chains



Job creation: in waste management, digitalisation, materials innovation

Protecting nature: addressing resource scarcity, biodiversity loss, climate change



Eliminating Pollution / Waste to **avoid costs** and **create new revenue streams**

Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products

- **Political Agreement reached on 4 December 2023**
- **Broadening the Ecodesign Framework (2009)**
- 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
- **Digital product passport**

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***

EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles



European consumption of textiles has the **fourth highest impact** on the environment and climate change, after food, housing and mobility.



1% of material used to produce clothing is recycled into new clothing (globally)



About 5.8 million tones of textiles are discarded every year, equivalent to 11.3 kg per person (EU)



Almost 9/10 Europeans (88%) think that clothing should be made to last longer

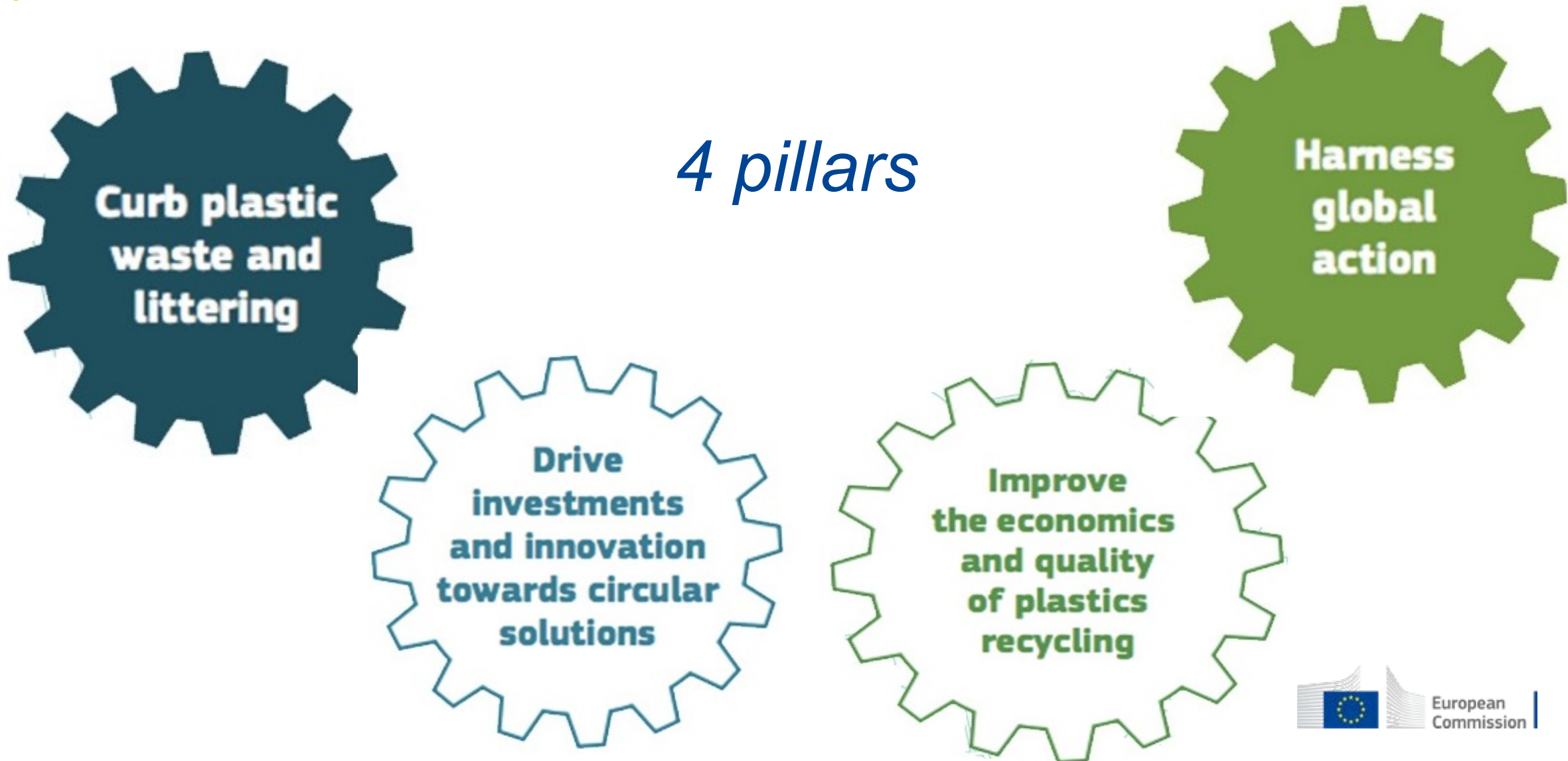


Textiles production doubled between 2000 and 2015 (globally)

Key actions:

1. New design requirements for textiles under the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation**
2. Stopping the destruction of unsold or returned textiles
3. Action to address the unintentional release of **microplastics** from synthetic textiles
4. Clearer information on textiles and a **Digital Product Passport**
5. Tackle **greenwashing**
6. Propose mandatory **Extended Producer Responsibility** for textiles with eco-modulation of fees

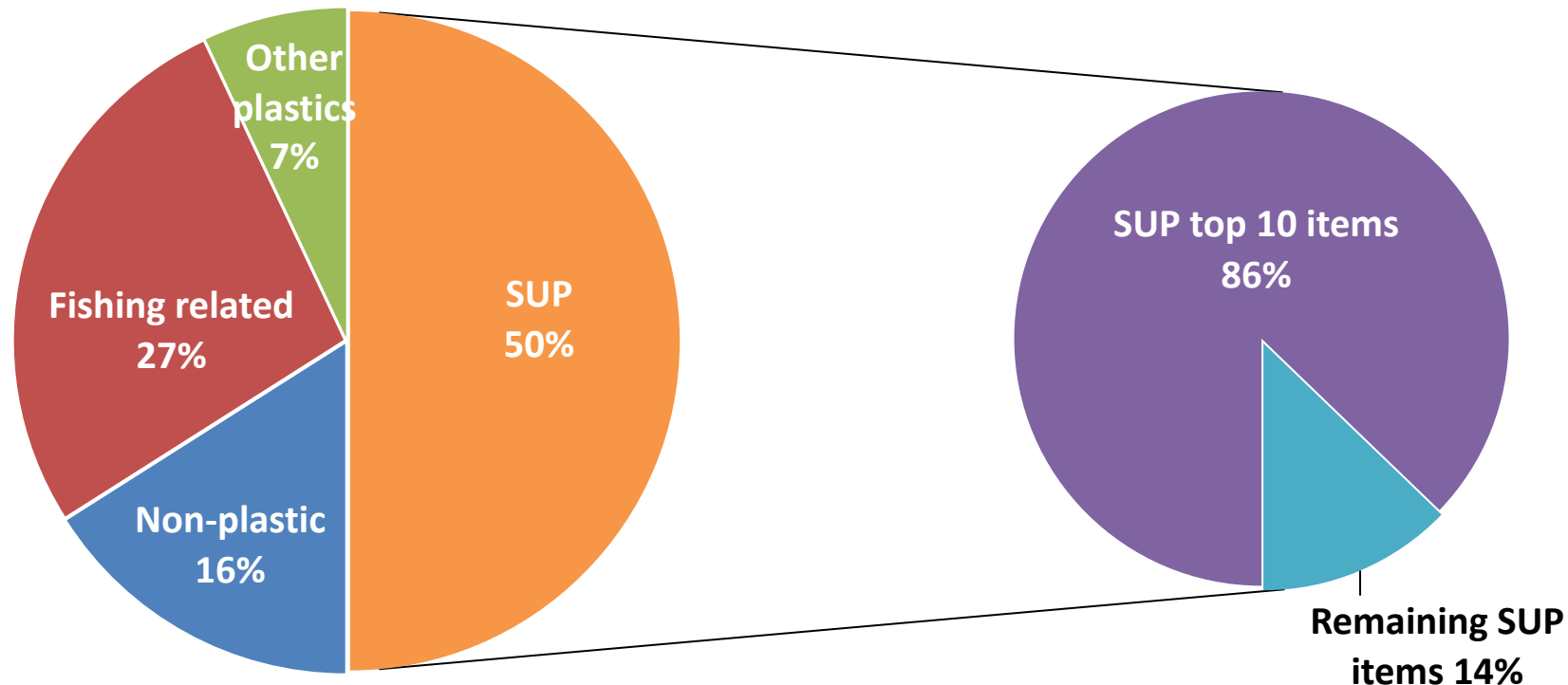
Plastics: The EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy



Single Use Plastics Directive (SUPD)

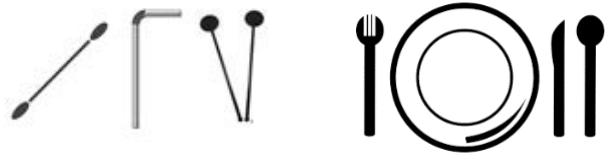
Date: 06/2019; Guidelines: 06/2021; Implementing Decision: 10/2021

- Covers 70% of all litter found on European beaches: top 10 SUP (43%) + fishing gear (27%)



SUPD: Different SUP products – different measures

1. Items with **available sustainable alternatives**



Promote less harmful alternatives:
market bans
(since 3 July 2021)

2. Items with **no clear sustainable alternatives available**



a) Prevention measures:
design requirements, consumption reduction, consumer information

b) Better waste management:
separate collection, marking requirements, extended producer responsibility, litter clean-up

Micro plastics

Work in progress

Cosmetics, detergents, paints

- Adoptions of restrictions and bans under the chemical legislation REACH (**25 September 2023**)

Pellets

Proposal of measures to reduce micro plastics pollution from plastic pellet pollution (**16 October 2023**)
Operation Clean Sweep (voluntary program)

Tyres, textiles, paints, geotextiles, detergent capsules

- Standards on measuring micro plastics releases
- Evaluation of measures along the value chain

Framework for **biobased plastics** and **biodegradable & compostable plastics**

Sourcing, labelling and use of **biobased plastics**

- Biobased content
- Sustainable sourcing

Use of biodegradable plastics

- “No license to litter”
- Effective biodegradation – system perspective

Use of compostable plastics

- Limit cross-contamination of waste streams
- Update of harmonized standard to consider real-life conditions
- Limited list of packaging types to be compostable (PPWD)

**Communication
November 2022**

Recycled content

Aim of the Plastics Strategy: 10 million tons of recycled plastics in new products on the EU market by 2025. Open to all public and private actors from European plastic value chains (2023: 336 signatories)



SUPD: targets for plastic bottles

Collection - 2025: 77%; 2029: 90%

Recycled content - 2025: 25%; 2030: 30%

Other laws: mandatory requirements for key products such as packaging, construction materials and vehicles



PACKAGING: Revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD)

Pending legislative proposal (launched 11/2022)

Objectives:

- **Prevent and reduce** packaging waste
- Make all packaging on the EU market **recyclable by 2030**
- Decrease the use of **virgin materials**
- Put the sector on track to climate neutrality by 2050



Key measures - 1 (EC proposal):



- **Targets and measures for packaging waste reduction at MS level**
- **Targets for minimum recycled content in most forms of secondary plastic packaging** from 1 January 2030 of between 10% and 35% depending on the use of the packaging
- **New targets for reduction of packaging waste** of 5%, 10% and 15% by 2030, 2035 and 2040 respectively
- **Mandatory reuse or refill targets in specific sectors** e.g. retail, catering
- **EU-wide standards for over-packaging**

Key measures – 2 (EC proposal):



- **Design criteria** for all packaging to increase recycling rates
- **A ban on certain forms of unnecessary packaging**
- **Harmonized, obligatory 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
- **Mandatory compostability** for some packaging types

Batteries: New EU batteries regulation

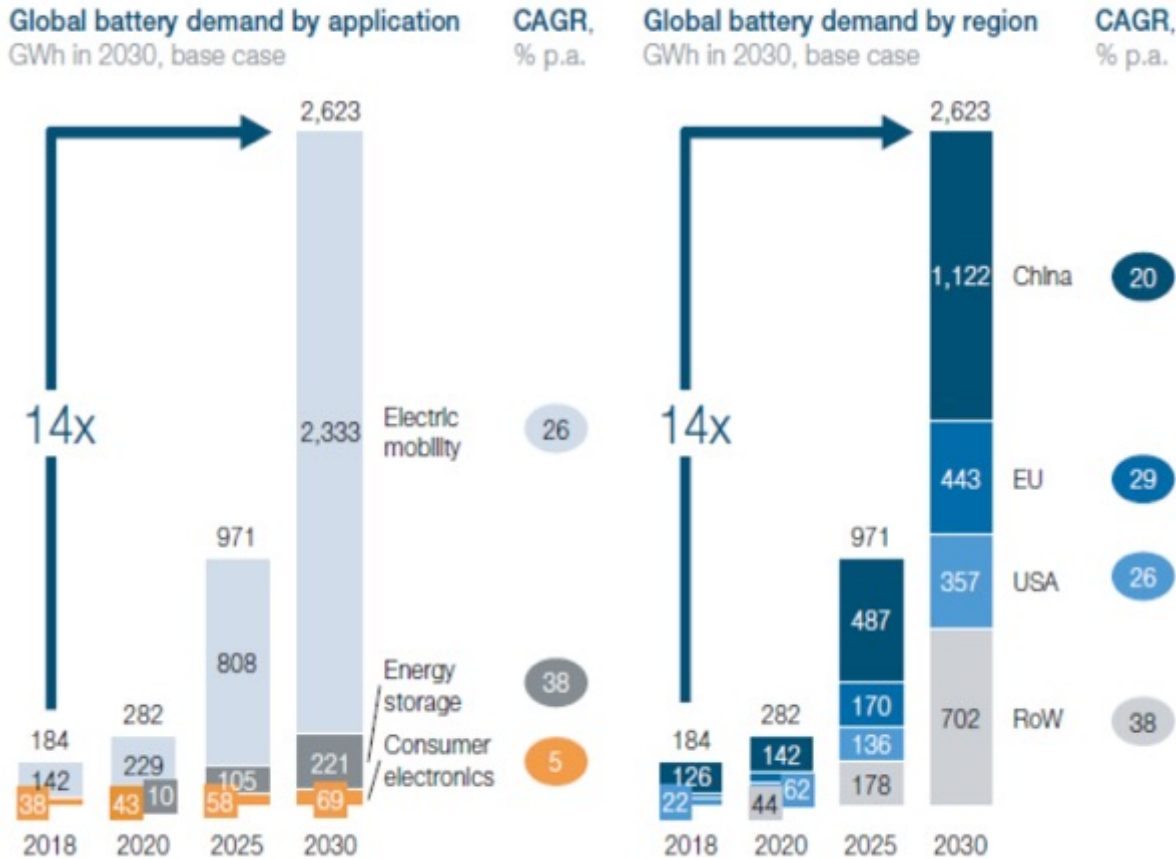
Date: 08/2023

Objectives:

- **Modernize** the 2006 EU batteries regulation
- Ensure that batteries are **produced in a resource efficient manner** using secondary raw materials and components
- Ensure that batteries are **long-lasting, efficient and safe**, and their use is optimised
- Ensure that at the end of their life, **batteries are repurposed, remanufactured or recycled**

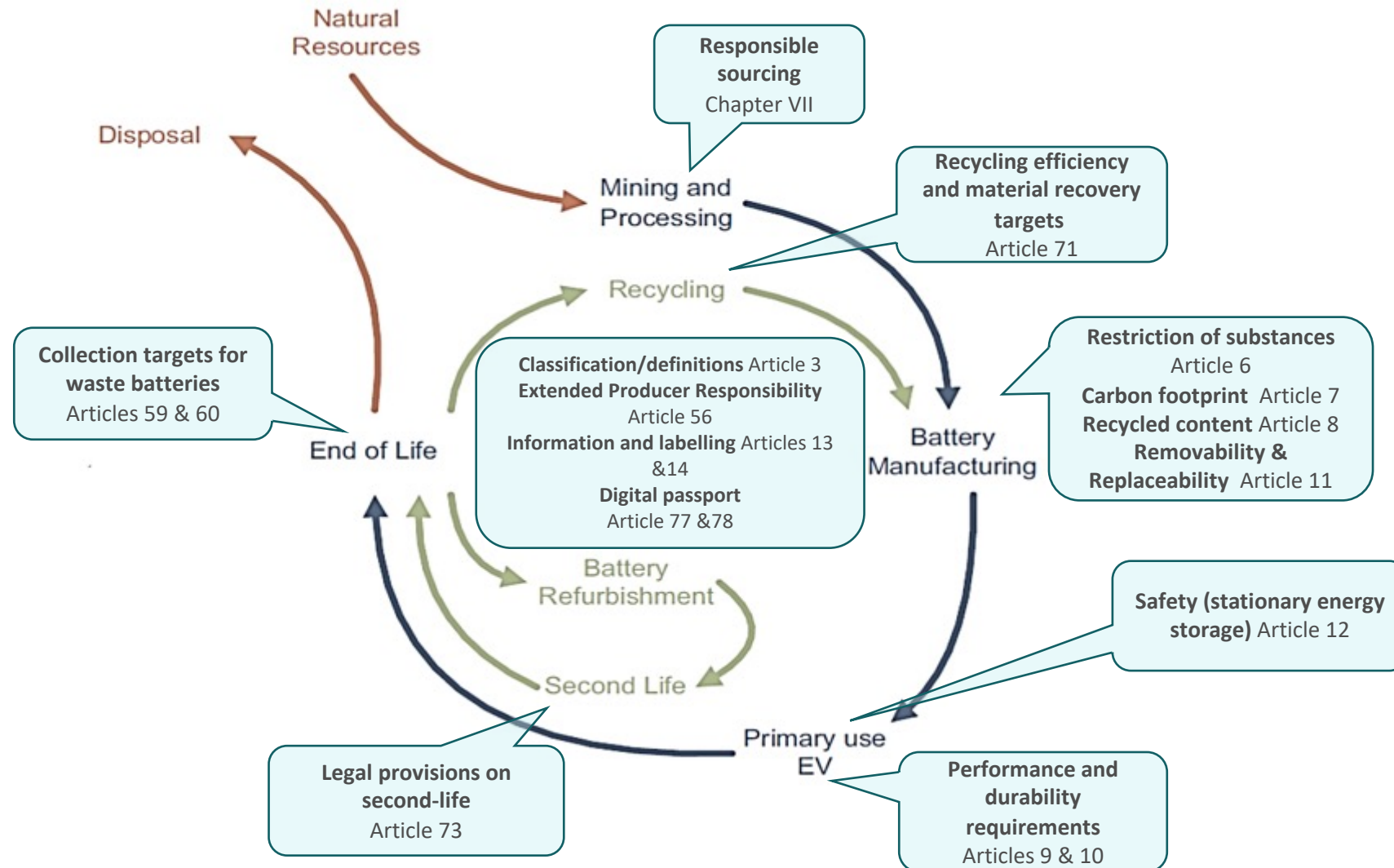
Context: growing demand for batteries

Compared to today, global battery demand is expected to grow by a factor of ~14 to reach ~2,600 in 2030



- **Global demand for batteries is set to increase 14-fold by 2030, mostly driven by electric transport, followed by energy storage and consumer electronics**
- **Annual global battery production revenues in 2030 could reach up to \$300 billion, (mostly in China) of which over \$30 billion could be in the EU**

EU Battery Regulation: Coverage of entire life-cycle



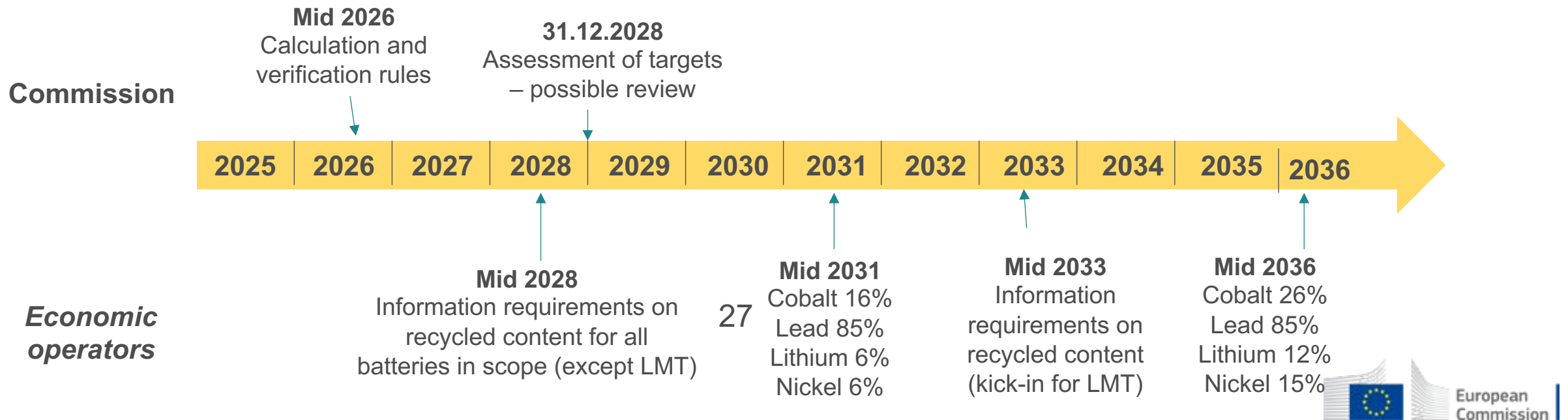
Key concepts

- Battery carbon footprint declaration (Chapter II, Article 7)
- Battery due diligence obligations (Chapter VII, Articles 47-53)
- Labelling and marking requirements (Chapter III, Article 13)
- Digital battery passport (Chapter IX, Articles 77-578)
- **Minimum content of recycled material**
- **Collection targets**

Minimum content of recycled materials in batteries

(Chapter II, Article 8)

- Introduction of minimum levels of recycled content of **cobalt, lead, lithium and nickel** in batteries, hereby following a staged approach



Collection targets

(Chapter II, Article 59/60)

Producers or **portable batteries**

- 45% by 31 December 2023
- 63% by 31 December 2027
- 73% by 31 December 2039

Producers of **LMT batteries** (Light Means of Transport)

- 51% by 31 December 2028
- 61% by 31 December 2031



EU green / sustainable policies: cross-cutting issues

1. Citizens' involvement

- Consultations are key



2. Getting the economics right

- Economic enablers and sustainable finance



3. Innovation support

- Horizon Europe



4. Leading efforts at global level

- EU Green Diplomacy



EU Green Diplomacy

- The EU is well aware of **global scale of challenges**
- The EU will always be **import-dependent**



Approach:

- **International leadership** in multilateral fora (UNEA, GACERE, COP, OECD, WTO)
- **EU global financing and technical support programs**
- **Free Trade Agreements** (TSD chapters)
- **Bilateral Green Partnerships**

EU Korea Green Partnership (May 2023)

- Strengthening efforts on combating climate change
- Increasing cooperation on environmental issues with a focus on halting and reversing biodiversity loss, forest degradation and deforestation, **promoting circular economy and addressing the full life cycle of plastics** as well as the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Supporting a clean and fair energy transition
- Working with third countries to facilitate their green transition,
- Joining forces in other areas such as business cooperation, sustainable finance, research & innovation, sustainable food systems, sustainability and resilience of our supply chains; etc.

refuse



share



reuse



return
&
collect



sort



recycle



Learn more about the plastics and the circular economy:

[Circular economy action plan \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-operations/infographic-117466.attachments) & [Plastics \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/euro-observatory/en/infographic-117466.attachments)



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