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E-002567/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.8.2025)

Since adoption of the 8th Environment Action Programme, most proposals from the 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan¹ have been adopted; a few are still being negotiated. The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)² promotes durable, repairable and recyclable products, as will the durability and recycle requirements of the Batteries Regulation³ and the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation⁴. Rules for micro and bio-based plastics will tackle plastic consumption at source. Internationally, the EU is pushing for an ambitious treaty on plastic pollution⁵. Horizon Europe⁶ supports research on circularity and sustainable consumption. The Recommendation on tax incentives to support the Clean Industrial Deal⁷ covers fiscal support for companies' circularity investments. The ESPR working plan 2025-2030⁸ schedules future requirements for concrete product groups.

The focus is now on implementing those rules in close consultation with stakeholders, European institutions and national administrations. Its full impact will unfold over the coming years.

The Commission shares the Honourable Member's assessment that the circular transition needs to be accelerated to ensure meeting the objectives. The Commission will thus prepare a Circular Economy Act, based on an open public consultation to identify all measures necessary to ensure that scarce materials are used and reused efficiently, thereby contributing to sustainable resource management. In addition, a Bioeconomy Strategy⁹ will incentivise higher-value uses of biomass. The new European Bauhaus¹⁰ will facilitate circularity in buildings. Finally, the Commission is working on filling the corresponding investment gaps by leveraging public and private finance.

¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en.

² Regulation (EU) 2024/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 establishing a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for sustainable products, amending Directive (EU) 2020/1828 and Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 and repealing Directive 2009/125/EC, OJ L, 2024/1781, 28.6.2024.

³ Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2023 concerning batteries and waste batteries, amending Directive 2008/98/EC and Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and repealing Directive 2006/66/EC, OJ L 191, 28.7.2023, p. 1–117.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2025/40 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC, OJ L, 2025/40, 22.1.2025.

⁵ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-calls-agreement-conclude-global-plastics-treaty-2024-11-25_en.

⁶ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁷ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/ae2ea9ea-d037-4920-bbf6-a4183b747e34_en?filename=COM_2025_378_1_EN_ACT_part1_v5.pdf.

⁸ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/document/5f7ff5e2-eb9-4bd4-a139-db881bd6398f_en.

⁹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/environment/bioeconomy/bioeconomy-strategy_en.

¹⁰ https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en.