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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.12.2025)

Chemical recycling can play an important role in reducing reliance on virgin resources for plastic production and avoiding incineration. It is notably beneficial for hard-to-recycle waste plastics not suitable for mechanical recycling or where specific quality requirements need to be reached. It has the potential to help the EU to meet its ambitious targets for recycling plastic waste and increasing recycled content in plastics. It has the potential to lower environmental impacts, advancing EU's circular economy objectives.

Circularity means turning waste into materials. If waste is transformed into fuels, it serves the same purpose as incineration with energy recovery, and no circularity gains or environmental benefits can be expected.

To foster the business case and provide investment security, the Commission is developing a clear, science-based and technologically neutral framework to ensure that chemical recycling technologies can play an important role in meeting these objectives. The first step will be under the Single-Use Plastics Directive¹.

The Commission has carried out a public consultation on the rules for calculating, verifying and reporting on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles². It closed on 19 August 2025. All the submissions will be duly taken into account ahead of the final decision.

¹ Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, OJ L 155, 12.6.2019, p. 1–19.

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13467-Single-use-plastic-beverage-bottles-EU-rules-for-calculating-verifying-and-reporting-on-recycled-plastic-content_en.