

EN

E-000567/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.4.2026)

In response to the challenges facing the plastics recycling sector, the Commission adopted, in December 2025, a communication with a package of measures to accelerate Europe's transition to a circular economy¹.

In the responsible Comitology Committee, the Commission secured the necessary support from Member States on new rules on recycled content in polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic beverage bottles under the Single-Use Plastics Directive² on 6 February 2026³. The draft act is currently on its way to be adopted. These measures are expected to strengthen the sector's competitiveness and support the functioning of the internal market.

Moreover, Article 7(10) of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation⁴ establishes safeguards to ensure that imported plastic recyclates are subject to equivalent conditions regarding emissions, separate collection, and sustainability criteria for recycling technologies. The detailed rules will be set out in an implementing act planned to be adopted by the end of 2026. Similar provisions have been included in the provisionally agreed End-of-Life Vehicles Regulation⁵.

The Commission seeks to strike a balance between boosting demand and ensuring a sustainable supply of recycled materials. Upcoming initiatives are designed to support this objective. The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation⁶ further provides enabling conditions through circularity requirements related to recyclability and recycled content.

¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-accelerating-europes-transition-circular-economy-boosting-circularity-plastics_en; specific measures include: creation of separate customs codes for virgin and recycled plastics, monitoring efforts for EU and global markets for virgin and recycled plastics which will inform potential trade measures to ensure fair competition between EU-produced and imported plastics, investigations whenever evidence shows that EU industries are suffering injury from dumped or subsidised imports. Investigations continue where necessary, taking inspiration from the successful safeguard action in the steel sector. These measures complement anti-dumping duties on China and anti-subsidy duties on India, covering both recycled and virgin PET.

² 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.

³ Comitology Register, Meeting CMTD(2026)166, <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/comitology-register/screen/meetings/CMTD%282026%29166>.

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/publications/proposal-regulation-circularity-requirements-vehicle-design-and-management-end-life-vehicles_en.

⁶ 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.