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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.6.2026)

A functioning and integrated single market for secondary raw materials is paramount to accelerate progress on meeting the EU circularity targets. Currently, the business case for circular economy is hampered by regulatory obstacles. Complex legislation, implemented differently across Member States, hinders the business case for circularity. Measures under the Circular Economy Act are being considered to ensure the regulatory framework is simplified and barriers within the Single Market are addressed¹. Potential interventions may cover improving the recognition of the ‘end of waste’ status across Member States and the simplification, digitalisation and further harmonisation of extended producer responsibility schemes².

The Circular Economy Act proposal is under development, and as such, its precise legal basis has yet to be determined. The Commission is fully committed to ensuring that the Circular Economy Act establishes a well-functioning Single Market for secondary raw materials in line with broader sustainability and economic objectives. Further details on the legal framework will be provided in due course.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14812-Circular-Economy-Act_en.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0085>.