

PLASTIC POLICIES

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1. Plastics as part of EU policies

Internal market	Free movement of goods	Agriculture and fisheries >> Food safety	Free movement of persons, services and capital
Freedom, security and justice	Competition, taxation	Economic and monetary policy	Transport
Employment	Social policy	European Social Fund	Education, vocational training, youth, sport
Culture	Public health	Consumer protection	Trans-European networks
Industry	Economic, social and territorial cohesion	R&D and space	Environment >> Waste
Energy	Tourism	Civil protection	Administrative cooperation

Packaging that is in contact with food

Bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics?

Waste management
Packaging and packaging waste
Plastic packaging



2. European vision

‘A vision for Europe’s new plastics economy’

“A smart, innovative and sustainable plastics industry, where design and production fully respects the needs of reuse, repair, and recycling, brings growth and jobs to Europe and helps cut EU's greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on imported fossil fuels.”

A European Strategy for plastics in a circular economy

Commission Decision (2018) 16



3. Key EU legislation

Waste framework directive 2008/98/EC

Directive on packaging and packaging waste 94/62/EC

Single-use plastics directive (EU) 2019/904

Lightweight plastic carrier bags directive (EU) 2015/720

Regulation on safe packaging (EC) 1935/2004

Materials in contact with food: Regulations 282/2008, 450/2009, 10/2011,
2023/2006

4. Plastics as packaging

General requirements applicable to all packaging

- Definitions
- Essential requirements (limits on weight and volume, safety, content of hazardous substances, design, markings etc.)
- Extended producer responsibility is obligatory
- Reporting requirements

Specifics related to plastic packaging

- Bans on lightweight plastic carrier bags and certain single use plastic products



5. Plastics in contact with food

- General requirements on materials in contact with food
(authorised substances, authorisation procedure, labelling, traceability...)
- Specifically for plastics
(compositional requirements, migration limits, multi-layer packaging ...)
- Recycled plastics in contact with food



6. Plastics as waste

General provisions on waste

- Waste hierarchy
- Polluter-pays principle
- Waste management requirements (responsibilities, permits, registries...)
- Municipal waste recycling targets (and calculation methodology)

Specifics related to plastic packaging waste

- Packaging waste recycling targets (and calculation methodology)