Circular Economy in EU policy
Need for action

Closing the loop – slow progress

Source: European Court of Auditors (2023). Circular economy Slow transition by member states despite EU action

Global impact by material resource type

Prospects for EU Member States of meeting the recycling targets for municipal waste and packaging waste

Risk score

- **Member states not at risk for both targets**
- **Member States not at risk for the municipal waste recycling target but at risk for the total packaging waste recycling target**
- **Member States at risk for the municipal waste recycling target but not at risk for the total packaging waste recycling target**
- **Member states at risk for both targets**
- **Outside coverage**

Reference data: ©ESRI
The European Green Deal

- Promoting clean energy
- Investing in more sustainable, smarter mobility
- Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy
- Eliminating pollution
- Ensuring a just transition for all
- Financing green projects
- Making homes energy efficient
- Leading the green change globally
- Protecting nature
- From farm to fork
- Climate pact and climate law

European Commission
Circular Economy Action Plan

35 actions & new approach

- Make sustainable products the norm
- Empower consumers and public buyers
- Sustainable production processes

Key Value Chains

- Electronics & ICT
- Batteries & vehicles
- Packaging
- Plastics
- Textiles
- Construction & buildings
- Food, water & nutrients

Sustainable Product Policy Framework

Less Waste More Value

Waste prevention (re-use, durability)
Reduce problematic waste exports
Markets for secondary raw materials
The provisionally agreed Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation will address the design of products placed on EU market to support circularity.

Key criteria are:

- Durability, reliability, reusability, upgradability
- Reparability, possibility of maintenance and refurbishment
- Presence of substances of concern
- Energy use or energy efficiency
- Resource use or resource efficiency
- Recycled content
- Possibility of remanufacturing and recycling
- Possibility of recovery of materials
- Environmental impacts, including carbon and environmental footprint
- Expected generation of waste materials
Use phase – empowering consumers

Consumer choices also depend on receiving adequate information on products

- Introduction of information requirements and a Digital Product Passport
- Introduce rules to strengthen consumer protection against untrustworthy or false environmental claims -> ban greenwashing and practices misleading consumers
- Tackle false environmental claims and create a level playing field for businesses
- Introduce measures to make repair easier and more attractive
End-of-life phase – waste management

Waste prevention

• Reduction targets for complex waste streams (e.g. food)
• Extended producer responsibility schemes (e.g. textiles, end-of-life vehicles, packaging)

Re-use & recycle

• Mainstream re-use, preparing for re-use and recycling
• Assess the scope to develop further EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams

Waste exports

• Revise the Waste Shipment Regulation to facilitate/digitalise intra-EU
  And condition extra-EU shipments
• Facilitate shipments to recovery facilities, which are subject to pre-consents by the competent authorities
**2020**
- New Batteries Regulation
- Green City Accord
- Pact for Skills and Revision of the Skills Agenda

**2021**
- Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency
- Review of EU rules on concentration limits of persistent organic pollutants (POPs)
- Proposal for a revision of the EU Waste Shipment Regulation

**2022**

**SPRING PACKAGE**
- Proposal for a Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products
- EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles
- Updated EU consumer rules to empower consumers for the green transition
- Revision of Construction Products Regulation

**AUTUMN PACKAGE**
- Policy framework on bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics
- Revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation
- Proposal for a Regulation on certification for carbon removals

**2023**
- Directive on substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims
- Proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods
- Revision of Circular Economy Monitoring Framework
- EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance criteria for circularity
- Targeted revision of the Waste Framework Directive for textiles and food
- Revision of rules on Circular Vehicles
- Regulation on preventing pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution
Information needs & way forward

- Information needs increased significantly for (i) impact assessments, and (ii) monitoring implementation of legislation (including legally binding targets)
- Data needs become (very) granular and specific, often within heterogeneous legal circumstances across EU Member States (e.g. on waste and non-waste status)
- Challenges for data management (Eurostat, EEA, JRC, etc.) and ensuring the quality, consistency and coherence of official statistics
- Information/data need indispensable for policy making, but reporting obligations need to be minimised to reduce administrative burden (assessment of existing requirements, digital solutions)
Thank you