**DRAFT European Plastics Pact**

**To be discussed on 18 December 2019 in Brussels**

**Towards a circular plastics economy - introduction**

Plastics are everywhere in our daily lives, bringing many economic and environmental benefits. Plastics are strong, durable, versatile materials. They can enhance comfort, safety, shelf life, hygiene and energy efficiency. Light and innovative materials used in transport of goods or in cars and planes help save fuel and cut carbon emissions. In packaging, plastics help ensure food safety and reduce food waste, which is a major contributor to climate change. Finally, plastics are relatively cheap to produce and turn into products.

All these elements added together have resulted in a huge and growing plastics production. Over the past fifty years, the use of plastics worldwide has increased twentyfold. This is also what make plastics a growing worldwide problem. Roughly half the plastic production worldwide is used for fast-moving consumer goods and packaging, designed to be disposed of after a single use. Many plastics are in principle recyclable, are designed in a way that prevents effective and cost-efficient recycling. In addition, the majority is not yet sufficiently collected and ends up as garbage to be incinerated or landfilled. Or it ends up as litter, adding up to plastic soup in our rivers and seas (80% of marine litter consists of single-use plastics). Degrading plastics also lead to the spread of microplastics in our environment with potential risks to our health and ecosystems.

The potential for plastics reuse, reduction and recycling is currently still greatly underdeveloped. This means that while the use of finite fossil fuels to produce new plastics is rapidly growing (currently around 8%, but estimated to rise to 20% of oil production by 2050), valuable recyclable materials are just as rapidly being wasted. With all the accompanying effects on carbon emissions, both in the production and disposal of plastics.

**Action on many levels**

Plastic wastage and pollution have captured the attention of the public, governments and businesses around the world. Action is currently undertaken at many levels. On the global level important initiatives are the United Nations Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Basel Convention, the Global Plastic Action Partnership, the Global Alliance to End Plastic Waste, the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy and the Global Commitment of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation’s New Plastics Economy. For Europe the European legislation, strengthened by the EU Plastics Strategy and the Circular Plastics Alliance provides the most important framework. At the national level many countries have developed additional strategies, plans, plastics pacts and practices.

**The need for a new initiative**

In order to avoid more plastics wastage and environmental pollution, we have to speed up and increase our ambitions, together, in a network of businesses and governments alike. This is necessary to get us in the systemic shift: a transition towards a circular economy for plastics, in which plastics are used as a valuable resource and never become waste.

We, a growing network of ambitious companies and countries, see room for a pan-European coalition of the willing to further speed up change: the European Plastics Pact. We adopt the vision of the New Plastics Economy of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in full, as this provides a global framework for our actions.

In the context of this vision, we work towards voluntary but bold and quantifiable commitments that help develop a circular economy for single-use plastic products and packaging. These commit­ments are formulated around groups of stakeholders. The European Plastics Pact drives towards a circular economy in plastics by focusing on four key areas:

* The circular design of plastic products and packaging: all single-use plastic products and packaging which are brought to the market by the participants have to be reusable as much as possible, and always fully recyclable in 2025, except in those specific applications in which it offers significant sustainable co-benefits to produce compostable plastics instead;
* Responsible use of plastics: where possible participants reuse plastics, reduce unnecessary use of plastics and/or use alternative, more sustainable materials in 2025;
* The recycling of plastics when these are discarded: participants which have the capability invest in the improvement and upscaling of the sorting and recycling capacity in Europe in such a way that there will be enough recycled plastics on the European market to meet the demand of recycled plastics in 2025;
* The use of recycled plastics: participants apply as much recycled plastics as possible in the plastic products and packaging they bring to the market or demand as much recycled plastics in the context of their procurement power in 2025.

National governments joining the Pact can make a major contribution by committing to policies, which create an enabling environment, such as investment in their collection and recycling infra­structure, supportive legislative and fiscal policies and consumer education and awareness raising.

**Approach and added value**

The European Plastics Pact brings together private and public frontrunners from the entire value chain to work together, to discuss barriers and best practices, to inspire others and to show it is possible to close the plastics loop by creating innovative partnerships. The Pact aims at accelerating the transition towards a circular plastics economy. This means it enhances and supports the work of national and European initiatives and avoids actions, which duplicate or interfere with these. National pacts, both existing and new, keep their relevance as they deal with national implemen­tation issues that do not fit the European scale.

The European Plastics Pact creates a broad movement of front-running companies, governments and other organisations within Europe, taking action and showing what needs to be done to close the plastics loop. This adds a threefold value to existing (national) initiatives:

* It creates strong cross-national impulses to promote circular design, reduction of unneces­sary use and the improvement and scale up of sorting and recycling capacity across Europe.
* It identifies and puts on the common agenda barriers that hinder the transition towards a European circular plastics economy. Speeding up the introduction and scale-up of circular plastics innovations requires a supportive European and cross-national regulatory framework and a level playing field for companies;
* It works across national boundaries to establish consistent, transparent standards for recycled plastics. This facilitates the development of a strong market for recycled plastics by creating a common basis of trust.

Creating a circular economy in plastics requires coordinated action towards systemic change, not just stand-alone initiatives. The European Plastics Pact will enhance the work of other European initiatives by bringing together national governments with businesses along the whole value chain to create fundamental changes. It focusses on areas not currently addressed and supports the efforts to harmonise approaches across Europe. It tackles not only recycling, but also reduction and reuse through better design, infrastructure and business practices. It allows the exchange of information and best practices between nations across Europe and beyond. The European Plastics Pact builds on the European Strategy on Plastics and does not infringe upon the integrity of the internal market or environmental standards in Europe.



Public reporting is crucial to track the achievements and to ensure the credibility of the actions taken. It also helps to identify areas of further development. These issues will be discussed during regular exchanges in work streams after the launch. Good practices, lessons and solutions resulting from this Plastics Pact will be used to inform and influence the broader international agenda. The European Plastics Pact helps participants to contribute towards the UN’s Sustainable Develop­ment Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

**Participation and support**

Participants to the European Plastics Pact are frontrunners in their field, committed to pushing towards a fully circular approach and cooperation across the value chain in Europe. All Participants commit to the European Plastics Pact in its entirety, because they all contribute to the cycle. At the same time, each group of Participants has different roles and responsibilities. Each Participant commits to the actions of its own group, described in the below chapters.

* **Plastics-producing and recycling companies**Producers of virgin, bio based and/or recycled plastics in the chemical industry, in the fossil-based and bio based plastics industry.
* **Plastics-using companies**Companies that use plastics in consumer goods and/or for packaging, such as producers in the food and beverage industry and the packaging industry, or in their operations, such as retailers, the hospitality industry, logistics providers, caterers and event organisers.
* **Collection and sorting companies**Companies in the waste collection and sorting industry that provide waste plastics for reuse or recycling.
* **National Governments**National governments within the European Economic Area (EEA).

**Supporting organisations**Supporting organisations are those stakeholders which play no direct role in the plastics value chain, but which are able and willing to play a significant role in the implementation of the European Plastics Pact by offering specific support, e.g. business associations, environmental NGOs and innovative technology providers.

**Chapter 1: Scope**

The scope of this European Plastics Pact is all single-use plastic products and packaging placed on the European market, because of the major contribution of wastage and environmental pollution of those (fast moving) products and packaging. The waste originates mainly from households, but comparable plastic waste comes from offices, (‘on the go’) shops and supermarkets, festivals, sporting and cultural facilities. At the same time, post-consumer recycled plastics out of these waste streams can be used in other sectors, e.g. building and construction, automotive, clothing and textiles, and consumer electronics.

**Chapter 2: Definitions**

For the purpose of this European Plastics Pact, the following definitions apply:

1. **‘Plastics’** means a material consisting of a polymer as defined in point 5 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which can function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified;

*Source: Directive 2019/904/EC of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment*

1. ‘**Single-use plastic product**’ means a product that is made wholly or partly from plastic and that is not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to a producer for refill or re-used for the same purpose for which it was conceived;

*Source: Directive 2019/904/EC of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment*

1. **‘Packaging’** mean all products made of any materials of any nature to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or the consumer. 'Non-returnable` items used for the same purposes shall also be considered to constitute packaging. 'Packaging` consists only of:
2. sales packaging or primary packaging, i. e. packaging conceived so as to constitute a sales unit to the final user or consumer at the point of purchase;
3. grouped packaging or secondary packaging, i. e. packaging conceived so as to constitute at the point of purchase a grouping of a certain number of sales units whether the latter is sold as such to the final user or consumer or whether it serves only as a means to replenish the shelves at the point of sale; it can be removed from the product without affecting its characteristics;
4. transport packaging or tertiary packaging, i.e. packaging conceived in order to facilitate handling and transport of a number of sales units or grouped packaging in order to prevent physical handling and transport damage. Transport packaging does not include road, rail, ship and air containers;

*Source: Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste*

1. **‘Waste’** means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard;
*Source: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste*
2. **‘Re-use’** means any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived;

*Source: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste*

1. **‘Recycling’** means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations;

*Source: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste*

1. **‘Composting’** means the aerobic process designed to produce compost.[[1]](#footnote-1)

*Source: New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, based on ISO 472:2013, Plastics - Vocabulary.*

1. **‘Reusable**’ means that a product or packaging which has been conceived, designed and placed on the market to accomplish within its lifecycle multiple trips or rotations by being refilled or reused for the same purpose for which it was conceived;

*Source: Directive 2018/852 of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste*

1. **‘Recyclable’** meansthataproduct, packaging or a component proven to work in practice and at scale.

 *Source: New Plastics Economy Global Commitment*

1. **‘Compostable’** means that a product, packaging or a component thereof has a successful post-consumer collection, sorting, and composting system that is in compliance with relevant international compostability standards and that is proven to work in practice and at scale.

*Source: New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, based on ISO, EN, ASTM, AS standards.*

1. **‘Post-consumer recycled content’** means the proportion, by mass, of post-consumer recycled material in a product or packaging.[[2]](#footnote-2)

*Source: New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, based on ISO 14021:2016 modified, Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling), Usage of terms, modified (focus on post-consumer recycled material)*

**Chapter 3: Common vision**

To tackle plastics waste and pollution at its source, we need to fundamentally rethink the way we produce, use and reuse plastics. No single organisation or individual can do this on its own. It requires a systemic shift, involving collective action by businesses from across the plastics value chain, governments, and civil society. A common vision aligns all actors on a joint understanding of what good looks like. It guides the search for solutions and aligns actions taken in the European Plastics Pact on a common sense of direction.

For plastics specifically, the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy has set out a vision for a plastics circular economy in the EU. For plastic packaging, the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme, has united more than 400 organisations from across the global plastics packaging value chain behind a common vision of a circular economy for plastics - including plastic packaging producers, consumer goods companies, retailers, companies involved in the collection, sorting and recycling of plastics, as well as national, regional and city governments, NGOs, financial institutions, industry associations, universities and other international organisations such as the World Economic Forum and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). National Plastics Pacts, such as The French National Pact on Plastic Packaging, the Plastics Pact NL and The UK Plastics Pact have taken action towards the same common vision for a circular economy for plastics. The European Plastics Pact adopts this vision, as this provides a global framework for our actions.

For single use plastic products and packaging, specifically, Participants in the European Plastics Pact recognise a circular plastics economy is defined by the following characteristics:

Elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging through redesign, innovation, and new delivery models is a priority.

* Plastic brings many benefits. At the same time, there are some problematic items on the market that need to be eliminated to achieve a circular economy, and sometimes, plastic packaging can be avoided altogether while maintaining utility.

Reuse models are applied where relevant, reducing the need for single-use packaging.

* While improving recycling is crucial, we cannot recycle our way out of the plastics issues we currently face.
* Wherever relevant, reuse business models should be explored as a preferred ‘inner loop’, reducing the need for single-use plastic packaging.

All plastic packaging is 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

* This requires a combination of redesign and innovation in business models, materials, packaging design, and reprocessing technologies.
* Compostable plastic packaging is not a blanket solution, but rather one for specific, targeted applications.

All plastic packaging is reused, recycled, or composted in practice.

* No plastic should end up in the environment. Landfill, incineration, and waste-to-energy are not part of the circular economy target state.
* Businesses producing and/or selling packaging have a responsibility beyond the design and use of their packaging, which includes contributing towards it being collected and reused, recycled, or composted in practice.
* Governments are essential in setting up effective collection infrastructure, facilitating the establishment of related self-sustaining funding mechanisms, and providing an enabling regulatory and policy landscape.

The use of plastic is fully decoupled from the consumption of finite resources.

* This decoupling should happen first and foremost through reducing the use of virgin plastic (by way of dematerialisation, reuse, and recycling).
* Using recycled content is essential (where legally and technically possible) both to decouple from finite feedstocks and to stimulate demand for collection and recycling.
* Over time, remaining virgin inputs (if any) should switch to renewable feedstocks where proven to be environmentally beneficial and to come from responsibly managed sources.
* Over time, the production and recycling of plastic should be powered entirely by renewable energy.

All plastic packaging is free of hazardous chemicals, and the health, safety, and rights of all people involved are respected.

* The use of hazardous chemicals in packaging and its manufacturing and recycling processes should be eliminated (if not done yet).
* It is essential to respect the health, safety, and rights of all people involved in all parts of the plastics system, and particularly to improve worker conditions in informal (waste picker) sectors.

This vision is the target state we seek over time, acknowledging that realising it will require significant effort, collective creativity and investment; recognising the importance of taking a full life-cycle and systems perspective, aiming for better economic and environmental outcomes overall; and above all, recognising the time to act is now.

**Chapter 4: Reusability, recyclability and compostability in design**

The product or packaging should be designed to be reusable and fit into reuse systems where possible and without adding to the total lifecycle environmental impact. To minimize the environmental impact, design should aim for multiple reuse options. All products and packaging, including those that are reusable, should be designed for 100% recyclability to ensure that in the end-of-life phase all plastics as possible remain in the loop. This should not be hindered by the use of additives or labels or similar.

**Objective**

*By 2025 all plastic packaging placed on the EU market will be reusable where possible and appropriate and in any case be 100% recyclable, unless compostability has more co-benefits for the environment and/or is the only option to prevent (micro) plastic litter having a negative impact on the environment.*

**Commitments plastics-producing and recycling companies**

In order to meet the demand from the plastic-using companies the plastics-producing and recycling companies adjust their production line and develop recycling capacity for new materials, they commit to:

* develop materials from renewable resources that are compliant to an efficient plastic cycle with the function of reuse as the preferred option and in any case the function of 100% recyclability.
* phase-out the use of substances of very high concern and other harmful substances that impair reuse or recycling.
* ensure that products and packaging within the scope of this pact can be restricted to only three different head types of recyclable plastics (PP, PE and PET).
* ensure that compostable (biodegradable) plastics are marked in such a way that these easily will be separated from (not-biodegradable) plastics in the sorting process;
* only develop new types of plastic that can be recycled in existing (mono-stream) recycling streams (or a separate closed loop) and can contribute to the aim of this pact (increase potential for reuse, durability).
* produce only products that contain only one type of plastic or can be easily separated during normal handling of products by consumers.

**Commitments plastics-using companies**

Plastics-using companies can promote the reusability and recyclability of plastic products and packaging through their design choices, product requirements and business models as long as that leads to a positive total environmental impact. Plastic-using companies will commit to:

* design and demand design of new plastic packaging and products with the aim to enable reuse.
* design, develop and demand products that are 100% recyclable.
* design, develop and demand mono-materials and avoid difficult to recycle multi-layer packaging.
* ensure that additives, labels or similar do not hamper reuse or recycling.
* demand that substances of very high concern are phased out.
* engage with other stakeholders in developing and piloting new business models in support of reuse.
* ensure that compostable (biodegradable) plastics are kept in a closed loop and are used only in situations that there is a clear co-benefit for the environment and /or that plastic litter can be prevented from having a negative effect on the environment.
* ensure that all plastic packaging and products produced in the EEA for use in non-EEA markets meet the same requirements for the EEA market.

**Commitments collection, sorting and composting companies**

Collection and sorting companies commit to:

* develop alternative recycling technologies and improve technologies for mechanical/ chemical recycling and composting/digestion to help improve the recyclability.

**Commitments national governments**

National governments and other authorities can support the transition through an enabling framework. They commit to:

* promote partnerships between recyclers and plastic producing companies to prevent barriers for recycling by choices in design,
* restrict the export of plastic waste out of Europe,
* take awareness raising measures, in particular to influence circular design of products and packaging,
* engage with other stakeholders in developing and piloting new business models in support of reuse,
* harmonise implementation of eco-modulation schemes, that promote the reusability and recyclability of fast moving plastic products and packaging.

**Commitment all participants**

All participants commit to:

* coordinate action with their value chain partners in order to meet their individual commitments and
* work together to create relevant guidelines to harmonise the approach in the different countries on eliminating substances of very high concern, reducing the different types of plastics, and improving reusability and recyclability through design.

**Chapter 5. Responsible use of plastics**

An important part of using plastics responsibly is critically reviewing the (easy) way we utilize plastics today and asking the question whether these are really needed in a given situation. Could the product or packaging do with less or no plastics? Could these be redesigned into an effective reuse model? Could these be replaced by more sustainable alternatives without unexpected negative (environmental) effects? Taking action towards reducing unnecessary use of plastics, reduces unwanted negative impact of plastics, helps create a more positive image of plastics and offers new business opportunities, such as promoting brand loyalty.

**Objective**

*By 2025, plastics-using companies will significantly reduce [by 20% compared to 2017 or 2018 and relative to the total amount of single-use plastic products and packaging placed on the market by the participant?] single-use plastics brought to the market through reduction of unnecessary plastics use, through the use of refill, deposit & return or other reuse models, and through replacing them with alternative materials only in the case these are more sustainable.*

**Commitments plastics-using companies**

Plastics-using companies commit to:

* review their range of single-use plastic products and packaging, and identify viable options for reuse and the reduction of unnecessary use.
* design and implement more sustainable or multi-use packaging concepts.
* pioneer business models and pilots with sustainable refill or reuse options (e.g. single-use portions, secondary packaging, take-away).
* initiate a dialogue with the supply chain (incl. distribution/transportation) aimed at reducing the use of plastics packaging where possible.
* create an inventory of best-practices in reuse and reduction models.
* Identify barriers in the legislation to establish reuse systems and report these to the [relevant governmental bodies].
* commit to a measurable reduction in the use of virgin plastics by 2025 with an individual company pledge. This involves using recycled content, shifting to reuse models, replacing single-use plastic products and packaging with more sustainable alternatives and avoiding unnecessary use of single-use plastics.
* commit to monitor and report the results.

**Commitments national governments**

National governments commit to:

* Examine and work towards eliminating barriers in legislation to establish reuse systems.
* support the development of an inventory of best practises in reuse and reduction models and share these with the participants of this Plastics Pact.
* initiate and support refill and reuse pilot projects to show feasibility and scalability, e.g. by using their public procurement instrument and in relevant services, such as catering.
* collect and disseminate information on refill options for drinking water (e.g. water fountains) and other refill systems.
* awareness raising measures aimed at reuse and the reduction of littering, targeted both at the broader public as well as at SMEs.

**Chapter 6: Collection, sorting and recycling**

**Overall objective**

*Participants demonstrate by their own actions how to create sufficient collection, sorting and recycling capacity in Europe to recycle at least 70%[[3]](#footnote-3) of all single-use plastics and packaging to a higher standard that matches the demand of recycled plastics in 2025.*

### **Disposal**

*Objective: By 2025, citizens are supported to correctly dispose of their waste. 100% of plastics from European households and on-the-go are collected in a way suited for sorting and recycling.*

The main challenges here are: (a) confusion and uncertainty at the citizen of how to correctly dispose and (b) collection of plastics in streams that cannot be efficiently processed. Solutions have to be found at the local level, but within Europe, best practises concerning effective and efficient collection and DRS[[4]](#footnote-4)-systems can be shared.

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### **Separation / Sorting**

*Objective: By 2025, separation and sorting installations meet the quantitative and qualitative demand and specifications of plastic recyclers in line with the overall objective of the European Plastics Pact, with the provision that input requirements are met.*

The main challenge is that the current market for waste is volume driven. This leads to a lack of incentives to improve the quality of the sorted material, leading to problems and inefficiencies downstream. The solution is to move towards a quality driven system, supported by the appropriate incentives from EPR organizations (i.e. pricing, eco-modulation). This requires the development of Europe wide quality standards, sharing best practises and creating better investment conditions.

### **Recycling**

*Objective: By 2025 70% of plastic packaging materials[[5]](#footnote-5) are recycled at the lowest possible footprint and highest recovery for re-use in materials.*

The main challenge here is that given the strongly varying quality of input materials, mechanically recycled materials can also strongly vary in quality. At the same time, chemical recycling technologies are not yet performed at scale and are still under development. As a result, PCR plastics quality is variable limiting their application. The solution is to set clear input criteria (quality standards for the sorted material; previous paragraph) as well as clear output criteria as well as to create the right conditions for investments in new innovative recycling technologies. These will help steer the development of optimal combinations of mechanical and chemical recycling technologies per mono stream with respect to quality, yield and footprint and to scale up proven technologies solving the quantitative and qualitative challenges.

**Commitments plastics-producing, sorting and recycling companies**

Plastics-producing and recycling companies commit to:

1. take the necessary measures to ensure that sorting and recycling systems are set up for optimal recycling of all sorted (single use) plastics products and packaging by 2025.
2. the development of Europe wide quality standards for the sorted materials as well as clear output criteria for recycling.
3. (recycling companies commit to) set up demonstration projects with sorting companies that work out the optimal combinations of sorting and recycling technologies for delivering the mono streams defined. These demonstration projects will be supported by the countries/regions and sufficiently ‘datafied’ to allow robust evaluation of the economics, sustainability, safety and quality of the materials recovered. In turn this will yield well founded input and output criteria. These projects will be completed by 2025 resulting in a restricted number of best practices that can be rolled out across Europe.

**Commitments plastics-using companies**

Plastics-using companies commit to:

1. mark 100% of their products or their packaging to inform the consumer not later than 2025 about (a) the plastic content of the product, (b) The way how to best dispose of it, and (c) the negative impact on the environment because of inappropriate disposal.
2. participate in information and awareness raising campaigns as coordinated by the Circular Plastics Alliance.

**Commitments collection and sorting companies**

Collection and sorting companies commit to:

1. work together with the relevant working group from the Circular Plastics Alliance to map specific investments required in collection and sorting infrastructures in each Member States by mid-2021.
2. define a minimum amount (max 5?) of mono streams.
3. take the necessary measures to ensure that collection systems are set up for the return and/or collection of used packaging and/or packaging waste from the consumer or other end-user
4. develop and test standards to set the quality of sorted plastic waste to allow their seamless recycling.
5. (sorting companies commit to) set up demonstration projects with recycling companies at work out the optimal combinations of sorting and recycling technologies for the mono streams defined. These demonstration projects will be supported by the countries/regions and sufficiently ‘datafied’ to allow robust evaluation of the economics, sustainability, safety and quality of the materials recovered. In turn this will yield well founded input and output criteria. These projects will be completed by 2025 resulting in a restricted number of best practices that can be rolled out across Europe.

**Commitments national governments**

National governments commit to:

1. take the necessary measures to ensure that systems are set up for a) the return and/or collection of used packaging and/or packaging waste from the consumer or other end-user by 2025.
2. working with all actors on building an effective framework for separate collection of all plastic waste for example by exchanging best practices. This activity will be aligned with the Circular Plastics Alliance.
3. promote the harmonisation of sorting and collection schemes.
4. stimulate EPR schemes including eco-modulation, which incentivizes private investment in innovative sorting and recycling technology, that improves the quality of post-consumer recycled material.
5. raise awareness with consumers on how to best manage and dispose of packaging.

**Commitment all participants**

All participants commit to:

1. coordinate action with their value chain partners in order to meet their individual commitments.
2. Design new quality standards on the output of sorting facilities together.

**Chapter 7: Use of recycled plastics**

**Objective**

*Participants demonstrate by their own and collective actions that they will achieve the highest possible percentage of use of recycled plastics (in kg), reaching at least 30% average recycled content across all single-use plastics products and packaging by 2025.*

The main challenges here relate to the quantity of Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) plastics available on the market. This challenge is tackled by the Circular Plastics Alliance. At the same time, the quality of PCR plastics available is highly variable, limiting its successful use. Finally, legislation related to the safe use of PCR plastics for food contact materials is lagging. The solution is provided by the steps provided in the previous paragraphs. These will help both increase the volume and the quality of recycled plastics. Also, in documenting this thoroughly, enough data for the necessary approval dossiers can be acquired. Nevertheless, this will require a concrete effort of all parties involved, including legislators.

**Commitments plastics-producing and recycling companies**

Plastics-producing and recycling companies commit to:

* increase the capacity and quality of their installations to ensure the availability of enough high-quality PCR plastics (in line with the 10 Million tons commitment of the Circular Plastics Alliance) to meet the inclusion targets.

**Commitments plastics-using companies**

Plastic-using companies commit to:

1. include on average at least 30% of PCR plastics in their packaging by 2025
2. share best practises in internal approaches to align each department of the company to accelerate the uptake of recycled plastics.
3. develop demand driven European standards for the (trustworthy claims of) supply and demand of PCR.

**Commitments national governments**

National governments commit to:

1. review European and national legislation related to the safe use of PCR plastics for food contact materials
2. use the public procurement instrument to stimulate early uptake of recycled materials in new products.
3. work towards common European legislation for the use of chemical recycling in relation to food contact materials.
4. work towards an improved authorisation process for recycled plastic to be used in food contact materials.

**Commitment all participants**

All participants commit to:

1. commit to work together on a robust system demonstrating the use of PCR plastics and enabling eco-modulation to further stimulate the re-use of plastics.
2. design new quality standards on recycled materials.

**Chapter 8: Governance**

The European Plastics Pact is about taking collective pan-European action to achieve the objectives set out above. In order to achieve the objectives of the European Plastics Pact an effective delivery and governance structure will be required.

1. The participants and supporters will inform their own networks about the European Plastics Pact, the inspiring measures, actions and results achieved.
2. Annually, a meeting of all participants and supporters will be organised to ensure the sharing of knowledge and experiences within the network and to provide the opportunity of showing accountability of the actions and decisions taken.
3. A [Steering Board] [Advisory Board] will be set up, consisting of an annually rotating membership of businesses, governments and NGO representatives, to reflect the interests of the different stakeholder groups and ensuring broad support of decisions, which have to be made in the operations of the European Plastics Pact.
4. Supporting Organisations do not have a voting right at the annual meeting and are not represented in the [Steering Board][Advisory Board], with the exception of a representative of environmental NGOs.
5. A [coordinator] [secretariat] will be tasked with the following activities:
	1. monitoring the European Plastics Pact,
	2. convening working groups to lead common technical projects, which support the European Plastics Pact targets,
	3. […].

This structure provides a stable and centralised management and delivery function and strategic direction from an independent group of relevant stakeholders. It provides for delivery of collaborative technical actions, which further the ambitions of the Pact. It also allows for expansion of the remit of the Pact into policy support or citizen behaviour change, for example.

National Plastics Pacts will continue to operate independently. These pacts have a vital role to play as most delivery has to happen at a local level. They also engage national brands and retailers in a way that the European Plastics Pact cannot. National Plastics Pacts will be able to get support from the European Plastics Pact through access to best practices and knowledge exchange. Members of national Pacts who would otherwise not have the capacity to engage with the latest thinking on design and (re)use of single use plastic products and packaging will benefit by getting access to the results of technical projects and knowledge exchanges. In addition, the European Plastics Pact can unlock cross-border issues, which are barriers to the ambition of national Pacts.

**Governance structure and roles:**



**Budget and Resourcing**

1. The [coordinator] [secretariat] will have a small team to manage the European Plastics Pact [and support the national Pacts] through sharing of knowledge and best practice. It will draw on technical and operational experience, which supports the effective delivery of the Pact’s aims.
2. In addition, it is the ambition to have [at least one] [two] physical meetings of European Pact members per year and face-to-face meetings of the Working Groups. Finally, there should be budget to bring in specific technical advice and support for the working groups once priority actions are agreed upon.
3. Budget: PM

**Chapter 9: Monitoring**

1. The participants will publicly report on an annual basis on the progress they made against the ambitions set in this European Plastics Pact and will be focused on the actions taken and achievements reached on a cross-border, European level.
2. This progress report will be sent to the [coordinator] [secretariat] on the 31st of March at the latest after the year on which is reported.
3. The progress report has to show what actions have been taken individually and collectively with other participants and supporters, which achievements have resulted out of those and what contributions these could have in the context of the ambitions set by this European Plastics Pact.
4. To prevent unnecessary administrative burdens, the progress report could be a paragraph in a national or global progress report.

There will be two methods of collecting progress data.

**Individual Actions Plans for participants**

Businesses and governments who sign up to the European Plastics Pact will agree on a set of actions to be taken in support of the Pact’s aims. These will be aligned to the priority areas and targets agreed as above. Action plans will include, where appropriate, public pledges by members. Pledges will be made in line with the target areas of reduction, reuse, recycling and recycled content to show how members, whether business or government, will take actions to support the achievement of the Pact’s aims. Public pledges are published and progress against them is also published on an annual basis for public information.

Action plans also include a commitment to participate in collaborative action through working groups or adopting the results of technical projects where these improve the opportunity to achieve the Pact’s aims. For example, a national government may commit to investing in separated plastics collections from households, investing in recycling infrastructure or to adopting an agreed approach on consistency of collections or standards to facilitate cross border trade in recycled polymer. A business may commit to procuring a level of recycled content from within Europe in order to provide economic incentives to collection and reprocessing, or to working collaboratively to identify technical changes to packaging which enable a whole product category to move from a problematic to non problematic polymer type in packaging.

To avoid unnecessary administrative burdens, Actions Plans can be national Action Plans with a European paragraph.

The coordinator will collate the Action Plans and progress made and evaluate the potential impact against the European Plastics Pact’s aims.

**Annual reporting of members data**

Data gathered by coordinator from a range of members, such as national level recycling volumes, business reporting on packaging volumes and types, national Plastics Pact data will be collated and analysed to give a European perspective on progress and challenges. This macro data supports the decision making on priority actions and areas of focus. It also holds members to account and prevents the European Plastics Pact from being just another platform with no delivery or impact,

**Chapter 10: Final considerations**

**10.1 Costs**

All participants participate at their own cost.

**10.2 Legal status**

This Pact does not create any rights or obligations under international, EU or national law. This Pact does not create any private or public body.

**10.3 Implementation in accordance with the law**

The commitments set out in the Plastics Pact and their further elaboration will be implemented in accordance with national and European Union law, in particular legislation on procurement, competition, state aid and technical standards and regulations.

**10.4 Amendments**

1. Any Participant can request the other Participants in writing to amend this Pact.
2. Any amendment requires the agreement of 75% of all the other Participants present at the annual meeting.
3. The amended Pact must be notified with the European Commission.

**10.5 Accession of new Participants**

1. New Participants may join the Pact by applying to the Advisory Board. The Board will approve the accession of the new Participant or Supporting Organisation within one month of receipt of the request, based on the following criteria: a. the new Participant endorses the objectives and commitments of the European Plastics Pact. b. the new Participant can demonstrably contribute to the objectives of the Pact. c. there are no grounds for doubting the Participant's integrity.
2. When accepted, new Participants and Supporting Organisation will be made public by the [coordinator][secretariat].

**10.6 Termination**

1. Any Participant or Supporting Organisation can terminate its participation in this Pact at any time subject to a four-week notice period. The [coordinator][secretariat] will publish the notice of termination on the website.
2. A party's participation in the Pact will be terminated if and when the Advisory Board has reasonable grounds to attribute to the party's a lack of integrity or effort which could negative affect the implementation of the Pact.

**10.7 Compliance and resolution of disputes**

1. Participants and Supporting Organisations agree that compliance with the agreements in this Plastics Pact is not legally enforceable.
2. Participants and Supporting Organisations will seek to resolve any disputes relating to this Pact in mutual consultation. Failing this, they can present their dispute to the Advisory Board. In seeking to resolve the dispute, the Advisory Board will give the parties involved an opportunity to present their views. If after six month the dispute has not been resolved, the Advisory Board will issue an advisory opinion to the Participants involved. In so far as the dispute relates to a party’s failure to comply with its obligations under the Pact, the Advisory Board may demand that the party comply with its obligations within three months or terminate its participation in the Pact.

**10.8 Dissolution**

1. The Pact can be dissolved at the request of a two-thirds majority of the Participants.
2. A signed request for dissolution, giving reasons, must submitted to the Advisory Board and put on the agenda of the next meeting between all the Participants subject to a four-week notice period.

**10.9 Duration, notification to the European Commission and entry into effect**

1. This Pact applies from the date on which it enters into effect until five years later. The duration of this Pact may be extended if Participants agree.
2. The Pact will be deemed not to have been adopted and will not enter into effect until three months after the date of receipt by the European Commission of the communication as referred to in article 5, paragraph 1 of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (OJEU, L 241), provided the Commission or another member state does not deliver a detailed opinion during that period.
3. The Participants will begin implementation of all the commitments in this Plastics Pact as soon as possible after its entry into effect.

**10.10 Publication**

The European Plastics Pact will be published in […].

1. Compost is a soil conditioner obtained by biodegradation of a mixture consisting principally of vegetable residues, occasionally with other organic material and having a limited mineral content. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ISO14021 use of term clarifies post-consumer material as material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end users of the product which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. According to the new measuring point of the European Waste Framework Directive [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. DRS = deposit and return system [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. According to the new measuring point of the European Waste Framework Directive [↑](#footnote-ref-5)