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On Monday, the second high-level round of negotiations on the way to achieving a global treaty against plastic pollution starts in Paris. Commissioner Sinkevičius will represent the Commission at the high-level meeting organised by the United Nations. With plastic production forecasted to triple by 2060, the EU will call for legally binding provisions to address the production of primary plastics, with a view to making production and consumption sustainable. More than 1,000 delegates from governments, NGOs, industry, and civil society will discuss with the aim to conclude by the end of 2024 a new legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius said: "An international plastics treaty is our chance to stop plastic pollution by introducing global rules throughout the entire plastics life cycle. In the EU, we keep strengthening our legislation to reduce plastic pollution - from new EU-wide rules to reduce packaging to measures on microplastics. We are determined to keep working for ambitious action across the world, as the fight against the pollution, climate and biodiversity crises must involve all of us. The EU will also propose measures to eliminate and restrict plastic products that are avoidable, replaceable, produce waste or pose a significant risk to human health and the environment. Meanwhile, plastic products that are to remain in the economy should be designed in a more sustainable way, including through increased use of recycled plastics. The EU is taking a leading role in combatting plastic pollution globally by supporting the setting up of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, with a commitment to aim high in the negotiations to end plastic pollution by 2040. Today, the coalition has released its Ministerial Statement, calling for several legally binding core obligations in the new treaty. Background Plastics are important materials for our economy and daily lives. However, the exponential growth of production and consumption of plastics in recent decades is having serious negative effects on the environment and human health. Of the seven billion tonnes of plastic waste generated globally so far, less than 10 per cent has been recycled. Millions of tonnes of plastic waste are lost to the environment, or sometimes shipped thousands of kilometres to destinations where it is mostly burned or dumped. The adoption of a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution is a key priority of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan under the European Green Deal. The global community achieved a big milestone during the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2022, when countries agreed to start negotiations for the new instrument. The EU and its Member States believe that the new instrument should include the necessary obligations enabling countries to step up actions to prevent plastics from entering the environment. A circular approach looking at the entire plastics life cycle will be key for the change needed. The High Ambition Coalition, co-chaired by Norway and Rwanda, brings together like-minded countries, advocating ambitious goals for the new legally binding instrument to tackle the growing amount of plastic waste choking our planet. More information High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution High Ambition Coalition Joint Ministerial Statement INC-2

2 The EU's work on Plastic Pollution Plastic pollution UNEA resolution Landmark global agreement on plastic pollution (europa.eu) The Commission is participating in the final negotiations on the Global Plastics Treaty (INC-5) from today (25 November) until 1 December in Busan, South Korea, with the aim of reaching an agreement on a global instrument tackling plastic pollution. Together with G20 partners, the EU remains committed to concluding the negotiations and engaging with other parties to achieve the treaty's conclusion by the end of the year. Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Maroš Šefčovič said: "Plastics are choking our oceans, polluting the environment and harming people's health and livelihoods. If business as usual continues, plastic production will triple by 2060. We need coordinated global policies to change plastic production and consumption patterns in a way that delivers for people and the planet. "We now have a chance to demonstrate how we can take action jointly to promote a more circular and sustainable economy for plastics. The EU is ready to engage with other parties and build bridges for agreeing a global treaty by the end of the year. "EU priorities for a Global Plastics Treaty For the EU, the new treaty must address the adverse impacts of plastic pollution on the environment and human health. In its Global Plastics Outlook from 2022, the OECD suggests that plastic leakage to the environment is projected to double to 44 million tonnes (Mt) per year, exacerbating environmental and health impacts. Greenhouse gas emissions from plastics production and use are also projected to more than double to 4.3 Giga tonnes (Gt) CO₂e. This must be addressed by turning off the tap. The EU proposes requirements for countries to address the high and unsustainable levels of primary plastic polymer production, supported by obligations to improve the plastics industry's circularity. The EU strongly calls upon world leaders to converge around a structure in the new instrument that addresses plastic production comprehensively. It must include rules on the elimination of chemicals of concern in plastics, bans and phase-outs on problematic products, such as certain single-use plastic products. More than 127 countries had already introduced rules on single-use plastics before the negotiations started, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Restrictions should also be supplemented with criteria and rules that support countries towards more circular and sustainable product design. Intentionally added microplastics in products should be banned. This approach aims to prevent plastic pollution in the marine and other environments, which is key to addressing biodiversity loss. The EU emphasises the "Polluter Pays Principle", advocating for major producers to bear their share of the financial responsibility for plastic pollution. Existing financial arrangements and private sector contributions should be used for the implementation of the future agreement. Finally, extended producer responsibility schemes and the scaling-up of waste management structures are key measures to succeed. While strong legally binding measures are needed globally, the EU emphasises that upon entry into force, effective implementation should consider the different national circumstances and the need for a just transition. Background Leaders of the G20 who met in Rio de Janeiro on 18-19 November 2024 stated in their final declaration the ambition of working together to conclude the negotiations of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution by the end of 2024. The final text of the Treaty on global plastics pollution is expected to be concluded during the fifth session of the INC taking place in Busan, South Korea, from 25 November to 1 December 2024. To mobilise support, the EU is actively involved in the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, which includes 65 countries committed to aiming high in the negotiations to end plastic pollution by 2040. Plastics are important materials for our economy and daily lives. However, the exponential growth of production and consumption of plastics in recent decades is having serious negative effects on the environment and human health. According to UNEP data from 2021, global plastic production amounts to some 400 Mt per year. Yet only an estimated 12% of the plastics produced have been incinerated and only 9% recycled. The remainder has either been disposed of in landfills or released into the environment, including the ocean. Significant stocks of plastics have already accumulated in aquatic environments, with 109 Mt of plastics accumulated in rivers, and 30 Mt in the ocean. The adoption of a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution is a key priority of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan under the European Green Deal. More information High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution High Ambition Coalition Joint Ministerial Statement INC-5 The EU's work on Plastic pollution Single-use plastic products (SUPs) are used once, or for a short period of time, before being thrown away. The impacts of this plastic waste on the environment and our health are global and can be drastic. Single-use plastic products are more likely to end up in our seas than reusable options. The 10 most commonly found single-use plastic items on European beaches, alongside fishing gear, represent 70% of all marine litter in the EU. The EU aims to become a forerunner in the global fight against marine litter and plastic pollution. EU rules aim to reduce the volume and impact of certain plastic products on the environment. Through the EU's Directive on single-use plastics, different measures are being applied to different products. These measures are proportionate and tailored to get the most effective results, and also take into account if more sustainable alternatives are available. The 10 items being addressed by the Directive are Cotton bud sticks Cutlery, plates, straws and stirrers Balloons and sticks for balloons Food containers Cups for beverages Beverage containers Cigarette butts Plastic bags Packets and wrappers Wet wipes and sanitary items Where sustainable alternatives are easily available and affordable, single-use plastic products cannot be placed on the markets of EU Member States. This applies to cotton bud sticks, cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers, and sticks for balloons. It will also apply to cups, food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, and on all products made of oxo-degradable plastic. For other single-use plastic products, the EU is focusing on limiting their use through reducing consumption through awareness-raising measures introducing design requirements, such as requirements to connect caps to bottles introducing labelling requirements, to inform consumers about the plastic content of products, disposal options that are to be avoided, and harm done to nature if the products are littered in the environment introducing waste management and clean-up obligations for producers, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes Specific targets include a 77% separate collection target for plastic bottles by 2025 - increasing to 90% by 2029 incorporating 25% of recycled plastic in PET beverage bottles from 2025, and 30% in all plastic beverage bottles from 2030 EU rules on single-use plastic products aim to prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, in particular the marine environment, and on human health. They also aim to promote the transition to a circular economy with innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials, therefore also contributing to the efficient functioning of the internal market. Key dates related to the Directive on single-use plastics Commission adopts Implementing Decision 2023/2683 Commission Implementing Decision 2023/2683 laying down rules for calculation, verification and reporting of data on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles Commission adopts Implementing Decision 2023/1060 Commission Implementing Decision 2023/1060 on a harmonised standard for test methods and requirements to demonstrate that plastic caps and lids remain attached to beverage containers Commission adopts Implementing Decision 2022/1162 Implementing Decision 2022/1162 lays down rules for the calculation, verification and reporting on the reduction in the consumption of single-use plastic food containers and beverage cups Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/2267 laying down the format for reporting data and information on the collected post-consumption waste of tobacco products with filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products Commission adopts Implementing Decision 2021/1752 Implementing Decision 2021/1752 lays down rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data on the separate collection of waste from single-use plastic beverage bottles Directive on single-use plastics enters into force Publication of the EU plastics strategy - outlining the need for a legislative proposal on single-use plastics Information and resources on the new EU rules on single-use plastics For questions about EU environmental policy, please contact Europe Direct. Risks to human health and the environment caused by the widespread use of plastics and resulting plastic pollution are a major concern to both citizens and scientists. However, scientists debate the risks of plastic. Many researchers have identified harmful effects of plastics to humans and the environment, while there is less scientific knowledge about the risks that plastics can entail. These debates raise the question: how evidence-based are plastic pollution policies? To find an answer, the researchers behind this new study assessed the knowledge base for six policies in Europe: The researchers looked for evidence in key policy literature, such as legal documents, strategy descriptions and action plan descriptions, for each initiative. They also examined the policies' web pages and databases. They looked specifically for evidence that complies with the EU's Better Regulation toolbox's principles. These say that evidence is reliable if it is based on: 'the appropriate method to collect, interpret, process and transform data and information'. The researchers concluded that the policies are backed by science. The evidence bases are constructed from scientific articles and reports prepared by experts. These include studies on plastic sources, ecological impacts and consumption patterns. Four of the six policies include marine-litter monitoring data in their evidence base. This form of data appears to be a major scientific driver of actions to combat plastic pollution. Scientific tools that shaped the policies include risk assessment, impact assessment and life-cycle assessment. The policy documents mostly recognise the large uncertainties around the effects of plastic pollution on health and the environment, say the researchers. In these cases, the policies justify precautionary actions that reflect the precautionary principle. Several of the policies mention this core principle of European environmental regulation, which aims to ensure a high level of environmental protection through preventative decisions in the face of risk. Owing to the uncertainties, the researchers say that policies must be flexible and adjust to new scientific knowledge. Equally, scientists must provide the right research for policy. While researchers commonly focus on end-of-life plastics, the study emphasises that to build the best foundations for policies, policymakers need evidence from all the stages of plastic's life cycle. Footnotes: Source: Nielsen, M.B., Clausen, L.P.W., Cronin, R., Hansen, S.F., Ouirine, N.G., and Syberg, K. (2023) Unfolding the science behind policy initiatives targeting plastic pollution. Microplastics and Nanoplastics, 3. 3. Available from: DOI: 10.1186/s43591-022-00046-y To cite this article/service: "Science for Environment Policy": European Commission DG Environment News Alert Service, edited by the Science Communication Unit. The University of the West of England, Bristol. Notes on content: The contents and views included in Science for Environment Policy are based on independent, peer-reviewed research and do not necessarily reflect the position of the European Commission. Please note that this article is a summary of only one study. Other studies may come to other conclusions. The EU is addressing the sourcing, labelling and use of bio-based plastics, and the use of biodegradable and compostable plastics. The EU is paving the way for a global agreement on plastics, to support the global shift towards a circular economy. The EU aims to address the growing volume of microplastics in the environment. EU rules on plastic bags to address the unsustainable consumption and use of lightweight plastic carrier bags. EU rules on packaging and packaging waste cover all materials, including plastics. EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste. EU rules on single-use plastics (SUPs) to fight against marine litter and plastic pollution. The EU regrets that the 5th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Global Plastics Treaty (INC-5) finished without a deal yesterday in Busan, South Korea. After two years of negotiations and a week of talks in Busan, UN member states could not find an agreement on what would have been the first-ever global legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. The session has now been suspended and negotiations will continue in 2025. Speaking on the result, Jessika Roswal, Commissioner for the Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy said: "I strongly regret that there is no agreement on a new global plastics treaty. If business as usual continues, plastic production will triple by 2060. "The EU will remain firmly committed to finding a global solution. Our oceans, our environment and citizens around the globe need it." The EU remains strongly in favour of the global instrument and calls on the countries obstructing the deal to show more ambition when the preparations for a new negotiation process resume. With plastics leaked into the environment forecasted to triple by 2060, half of all plastic waste still being landfilled and less than a fifth recycled, a decisive response to the global pollution crisis is needed. Almost two-thirds of plastic waste in 2060 will be in the form of short-lived items such as packaging, low-cost products and textiles, according to the OECD. Lack of convergence around treaty objectives The negotiators sitting around the table could not unite around a text of a binding instrument with disagreements most notable on measures for the reduction of overall plastic production, the elimination of certain plastic products, chemicals of concern in products, improved design of plastics, extended producer responsibility and enhanced waste management. The main points of divergence were a possible target of reducing the production of primary plastic polymers, bans and restrictions of chemicals of concern in plastic products, as well as problematic and avoidable plastic products. It is on this that major oil-producing countries and the "High Ambition Coalition" countries which includes the EU, the UK, Canada, as well as many African, Latin American and Pacific countries could not find convergence. Even though no agreement was reached in Busan, the negotiating committee has made significant progress towards a deal by agreeing on a text that should serve as a basis for negotiations at the next meeting. An overwhelming majority of more than 100 countries shared the ambitions of the EU and the number of countries continues to grow. The EU will continue to lead by example, implementing key EU legislation, including on single-use plastics, eco-design for sustainable products, extended producer responsibility, waste management and others. Next steps Preparations for further negotiations will continue. Further meetings of the negotiating committee are foreseen over the next year. In parallel to this, countries will keep working on national action to fight plastic pollution and discussions will continue in view of finding common ground towards a global deal. Background The mandate for the negotiations for a global plastics treaty was adopted at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in 2022. Plastics are important materials for our economy and daily lives. However, the exponential growth of production and consumption of plastics in recent decades is having serious negative effects on the environment and human health. According to UNEP data from 2021, global plastic production amounts to some 400 million tonnes (Mt) per year. Yet only an estimated 12% of the plastics produced have been incinerated and only 9% recycled. The remainder has either been disposed of in landfills or released into the environment, including the ocean. Significant stocks of plastics have already accumulated in aquatic environments, with 109 Mt of plastics accumulated in rivers, and 30 Mt in the ocean. Different procedures apply depending on the type and destination (intra-EU, OECD, non-OECD) of plastic waste. Exports from the EU Exporting hazardous plastic waste (A3210) and plastic waste that is hard to recycle (Y48) from the EU to non-OECD countries is banned. Exporting clean, non-hazardous waste (which is destined for recycling) (B3011) from the EU to non-OECD countries is only authorised under specific conditions. The importing country must indicate which rules apply to such imports to the European Commission (cf. Commission Regulation 1418/2007). Exporting hazardous plastic waste (AC300) and plastic waste that is hard to recycle (Y48) from the EU to OECD countries is subject to the "prior notification and consent procedure". Under this procedure, both the importing and exporting country must authorise the shipment. Imports into the EU Importing hazardous plastic waste and plastic waste that is hard to recycle into the EU from third countries is subject to the "prior notification and consent procedure". Under this procedure, both the importing and exporting country must authorise the shipment. Intra-EU shipments The "prior notification and consent procedure" applies also to intra-EU shipments of hazardous plastic waste (AC300), and of non-hazardous plastic waste that is difficult to recycle (EU48). All intra-EU shipments of non-hazardous plastic waste for recovery (EU3011) are exempt from these new controls. For shipments of such waste, general information requirements apply. The new entries EU3011 and EU48 for non-hazardous plastic waste are largely modelled on the entries agreed in the Basel Convention but with some differences. Summary tables - procedures for import, export and intra-EU plastic waste Waste Shipment Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 provides new rules on exports of waste outside the EU. It also contains specific rules for exports of plastic waste, depending on the type and destination. Exports from the EU Exporting plastic waste, including clean, non-hazardous waste (which is destined for recycling) (B3011) will be subject to the "prior notification and consent procedure". This requirement will apply from 21 May 2026. Exports of plastic waste, similarly as in the case of other waste, have to demonstrate that the waste exported is properly managed in the recipient country to which it is shipped. Therefore, they must ensure that independent audits are carried out in such facilities, demonstrating that these facilities manage waste in an environmentally sound manner. This requirement will apply from 21 May 2027. Specific rules for non-OECD countries Starting on 21 November 2026, there will be a complete ban on such exports until 21 May 2029. After this period, non-OECD countries interested in importing plastic waste are invited to notify the European Commission and demonstrate their capacity to manage such waste in an environmentally sound manner. In order to be included in the list of non-OECD countries to which plastic waste may be exported from the EU, the request to import EU plastic waste can only cover non-hazardous plastic waste (B3011). Specific rules for OECD countries The Commission will monitor exports of waste to such countries, paying particular attention to plastic waste. If there are concerns that exports are increasing and likely to cause environmental damage in a given country of destination, the Commission will engage in a dialogue with this country. Ultimately, such exports will be suspended if the waste is not managed in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Commission is also tasked with preparing a specific report assessing whether countries importing significant volumes of plastic waste manage this waste in an environmentally sound manner. If such exports do not lead to significant environmental or human health damage in such countries and if EU plastic waste imported to OECD country is not further shipped to third countries. The report should be published by May 2026. Imports into the EU The new Regulation maintains the current rules on plastic waste imports to the EU. These rules should end the export of plastic waste to third countries that often do not have the capacity and standards to manage it in a sustainable manner, while ensuring strong controls where the transboundary shipment of such waste is still allowed. Key dates related to EU rules on shipments of plastic waste Non-OECD countries wishing to import EU plastic waste may file a request to be excluded from the export ban. Exports of all plastic waste to non-OECD countries will be banned. Exports of all plastic waste are subject to "prior notification and consent procedure". Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2174 on plastic waste shipments enters into force The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention took place For questions about EU environmental policy, please contact Europe Direct. Most plastics are made from fossil fuels and if not properly managed at their end of life, can accumulate in the environment. This contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. Alternative plastics, such as biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics may be a more sustainable alternative to fossil-based, non-biodegradable plastics. However, they also present their own sustainability challenges and trade-offs that must be carefully assessed and considered. The European Commission adopted a policy framework on the sourcing, labelling and use of biobased plastics, and the use of biodegradable and compostable plastics. This was announced in the European Green Deal, circular economy action plan, and plastics strategy. This EU policy framework for biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics aims to contribute to a sustainable plastics economy by improving the understanding around these materials and clarify where these plastics can bring genuine environmental benefits, under which conditions and applications guiding citizens, public authorities and businesses in their policy, purchasing or investing decisions preventing differences at national level and fragmentation of the market by promoting a shared understanding across the EU on the production and use of these plastics. There is widespread confusion among consumers about these different types of plastics. The umbrella term "bioplastics" is often used to describe very different materials, and the terms "biobased", "biodegradable" and "compostable" may be misleading. Biobased plastics are fully or partially made from biological resources, rather than fossil raw materials. They are not necessarily biodegradable or compostable. It is important to examine the full life cycle of biobased plastics, to ensure that they are beneficial to the environment beyond the reduction in use of fossil resources. This includes changes in land use. Biodegradable plastics biodegrade in certain conditions at their end of life. Compostable plastics - a subset of biodegradable ones - typically decompose in industrial composting facilities, and first need to be collected. Biodegradable and compostable plastics may be made from biological resources or fossil raw materials. These plastics should be used when it is not possible to reduce, reuse or recycle, in line with the circular economy and waste hierarchy principles. 'Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment' - Scientific Opinion of the Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors CEN has published several standards on biobased products, but there is no clarity around the part of a plastic product that is entirely or partly derived from biomass. Currently there are no EU sustainability criteria that apply to biobased plastics. There is a harmonized EN standard for industrially compostable packaging, and for one biodegradable in soil mulch firms, used in agriculture. There is no general standard for marine biodegradation. Key dates related to the policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics Commission publishes Roadmap for the policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics View the Roadmap on the Have Your Say page. Publication of the new circular economy action plan Including a policy framework for bio-based plastics and biodegradable or compostable plastics Publication of the European Green Deal Announcing that a policy framework for bio-based plastics and biodegradable or compostable plastics would be introduced under the circular economy action plan Plastic pollution is an urgent and global problem. Current responses to this problem are fragmented, and can only provide a limited long-term effect on the discharge of plastics into the environment. Now, momentum is increasing to scale up global efforts. The EU is paving the way for a new global agreement on plastics, to support the global shift to a circular economy as outlined in the circular economy action plan and as mandated by the United Nations Environment Assembly, that in March 2022 launched negotiations for a new international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. The new instrument should address plastic pollution throughout the entire plastics lifecycle, in order to minimise the mismanagement of plastics and prevent plastic from entering the environment. There is currently no dedicated international instrument in place designed specifically to prevent plastic pollution throughout the entire plastics lifecycle. Some countries are taking action to reduce plastic consumption or increase recycling - through campaigns and awareness-raising measures for example. Other countries have specific laws in place, such as obliging producers and manufacturers to minimise waste, adopting recycling targets, or phasing out the most problematic plastic products, including single use plastics. However, recent studies show that with the current measures, we are only able to reduce marine plastic pollution, a central element of the plastic challenge, by 7 per cent. Plastic production is forecasted to continue growing and there is more single-use plastics waste generated than ever before. Several United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions since 2014 have stressed the need to take urgent, concrete action on plastic pollution. An ad-hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter (the "AHEG") was set up in 2017 by UNEA3 to identify potential solutions. The group had concluded its work and its recommendations were considered at the second session of UNEA5 in early 2022, leading to the launch of negotiations on a legally binding global agreement to combat plastic pollution. An intergovernmental negotiating committee within which negotiations for the plastics agreement was established at UNEA5. The EU will continue to work with its allies and other partners aiming at a rapid conclusion of the negotiations. The agreement should aim to close the gaps that existing instruments do not address. It should also help to streamline and coordinate efforts by all stakeholders involved by providing an overarching framework for action. The mandate agreed at UNEA5.2 includes the setup of an intergovernmental negotiating committee that will develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics. The negotiating committee should, according to its mandate, consider provisions to specify the objectives of the instrument, to promote sustainable production and consumption, implementation and update of national action plans, as well as reporting and effectiveness assessments of the new instrument. Key dates related to the EU's global action on plastics Negotiations on the legally binding global agreement expected to conclude through a diplomatic conference 5 meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to take place Ad hoc open-ended working group (pre-meeting) To discuss the organization of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, expected during first half of 2022. 28 February to 4 March 2022 Negotiations for a legally binding global agreement on plastics launched. Find out more. Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution Including Ministerial Statement where countries call for the launch of negotiations for a global agreement on plastics. No substantial negotiations on global agreement on plastics at UNEA5.1 Council of the EU adopted circular economy conclusion, including support for global agreement AHEG finalised its work and submitted its report to UNEA5. More than 100 countries express support for a global agreement The Commission adopted the plastics strategy, highlighting the need to harness global action on plastics UNEA3 established the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (AHEG) First resolution on marine litter by UNEA, emphasising urgency to take concrete action For questions about EU environmental policy, please contact Europe Direct. Certain single-use plastic products must be marked with a view to reducing the impact of these products on the environment. From 3 July 2021, according to Directive (EU) 2019/904, EU Member States shall, through their national legislation, ensure that certain single-use plastic products which are placed on their market bear a marking on the packaging or product itself. The marking concerns single-use plastic products listed in part D of the Annex to Directive (EU) 2019/904. These products are Sanitary towels (pads), tampons and tampon applicators; Wet wipes, i.e. pre-wetted personal care and domestic wipes; Tobacco products with filters and filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products; Cups for beverages. The marking will have to follow rules laid down by the Commission Implementing Regulation, of 17 December 2020, on harmonised marking specifications on single-use plastic products listed in Part D of the Annex to Directive (EU) 2019/904, as corrected by the corrigenda. Please find here a preview of the markings: