

Meeting the European Commission's Strategy for Plastics

By Werner Bosmans, Policy Officer - Circular Economy, European Commission



The European Commission (EC) has put a great deal of focus and attention into reducing plastic pollution. Public and private stakeholders are actively working to find ways to increase the use of recycled plastic in products throughout Europe, as part of the [Circular Plastics Alliance](#). A circular plastic economy, however, is a complex concept and one that requires a lot of work and collaboration across industries.

Numerous workshops are currently ongoing to further our efforts of reaching a circular economy and the European Commission is due to publish guidelines on the eco-modulation of plastic recycling. This would mean that companies actively working to reduce plastic waste and pollution would directly benefit from their efforts. Conversely, such a program would disincentivise those that choose less environmentally friendly routes to market. Other areas of focus include a specific workstream on single use plastics, looking at recyclability and the uptake of recycled content included.

Frameworks such as the [Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive](#), which was last updated in 2015 to address the use of light plastic carrier bags; the adoption of the [circular economy action plan](#), and the inception of the Circular Plastics Alliance have taken us a long way forward – but we still have a way to go. We must continue to collaborate about next steps for industry and the outlook of future regulations.

At the forthcoming [Circularity for Polymers: The ICIS Recycling Conference](#) in Berlin on 5th November, Werner Bosmans, Policy Officer - Circular Economy, European Commission will be talking about the EC's targets and strategies for plastic recycling and the proposed plastic tax, including timelines and strategies to define recycling terminology.