EU actions on plastics and against marine litter

OECD Workshop
Reducing Marine Plastic Litter
ZOOM, 11 June 2020
EU Plastic Strategy

- Published in **May 2018**
- Part of the first **Circular Economy Action Plan (2018)**

**Vision:** A smart, innovative and sustainable plastics industry, with reuse and recycling activities integrated into production chains to bring growth, jobs and added value in Europe

**Objectives by 2030** (selection):

- All plastics packaging reusable or recyclable
- >50% of plastic waste recycled
- Sorting & recycling capacity X 4 (vs. 2015)
Single-use plastic products Directive

- Adopted by the European Parliament and Council in June 2019
- Part of the Plastic Strategy (2018)
- **Scope**: Ten most-found single-use items on EU beaches and fishing gear – 70% of marine litter items
- **Selected measures**:
  - A ban on selected single-use products made of plastic for which alternatives exist
  - Extended Producer Responsibility schemes covering the cost to clean-up litter, applied to products such as tobacco filters and fishing gear
  - A 90% separate collection target for plastic bottles by 2029 (77% by 2025)
  - 25% of recycled plastic in PET bottles as from 2025
  - 30% of recycled plastics in all plastic bottles as from 2030
Microplastics (ongoing work)

- Restricting *intentionally* added microplastics and tackling pellets
- Developing *labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures* on *unintentional* release of microplastics, including measures to increase the capture of microplastics at all relevant stages of products’ lifecycle
- Further developing and harmonising *methods for measuring* *unintentionally* released microplastics, especially from tyres and textiles, and delivering harmonised data on microplastics concentrations in seawater
- Closing the gaps on *scientific knowledge* related to the risk and occurrence of microplastics in the environment, drinking water and foods
Towards a global agreement on plastics

Lead efforts at international level to reach a global agreement on plastics, and promote the uptake of the EU’s circular economy approach on plastics:

- No dedicated international instrument in place specifically designed to focus on the production and consumption elements relating to plastic
- To address both land and sea-based sources as well as intentionally added and un-intentionally released microplastics
- Building on and complementing Basel Convention and regional seas conventions (RSCs)
- Possibly launched at the next meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5, February 2021)
Thank you

Learn more here:
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/plastic_waste.htm

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