



**The Packaging and  
Packaging Waste Directive  
as part of the  
Review of EU Waste Policy  
and Legislation**

*(February 2014)*

# CONTEXT

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Commission's work programme 2013:

1. **"fitness check"** (ex-post evaluation)
2. **targets review**
3. **plastic waste strategy**
4. **plastic carrier bags** – tackling marine pollution

Taking into account:

- roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe....
- Environmental Action Programme

# 1. FITNESS CHECK

Ex-post evaluation ("fitness check"):

focus on the five oldest EU waste stream directives:

- sewage sludge
- PCB/PCT
- **packaging waste**
- end-of-life-vehicles
- batteries

# Fitness check: working method and planning

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- Jan. 2013 – Apr. 2014: **external study**
  - building on previous studies and implementation reports
  - literature and empirical research
  - focussed stakeholder consultation ( $\neq$  public consultation)
- April/May 2014: **Commission Staff Working Paper**
  - = basis for further policy decisions on way forward

# Fitness check: key questions

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Standard evaluation questions regarding:

- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Coherence
- Relevance

# Fitness check: effectiveness

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- what **progress made towards achieving objectives** of Directives and targets in various Member States?  
In line with initial expectations?
- which **main factors** contributed/hindered achieving objectives?  
e.g. implementation by Member States, action by stakeholders, cooperation between producers and recyclers
- any **other significant results** achieved?  
e.g. safer EU access to raw materials, reduced GHG emissions and/or spurred innovation

# Fitness check: efficiency

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- **Costs and benefits** associated with implementation in various Member States?  
Significant cost differences? Cause?  
Any costs out of proportion with benefits achieved?
- **Good practices** of cost-effective implementation.  
e.g. use of economic instruments, cost-effective EPR schemes, product policies
- Specific provisions making make **cost-effective implementation more difficult?**
- Directives **kept fit for purpose** through regular adaptation to technical and scientific progress?

# Fitness check: coherence

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- Do directives **satisfactorily complement** other parts of EU waste law (esp. Waste Framework Directive) and **coherently reflect concepts** such as life-cycle thinking, resource efficiency and five-step waste hierarchy?
- **Inconsistencies and unjustified overlaps** (e.g. definitions/key concepts) across and between directives concerned and other parts of EU waste law (esp. Waste Framework Directive)?
- Scope for **aligning key aspects** across directives concerned?  
e.g. provisions related to exports
- **Obsolete provisions?**



# Fitness check: relevance

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- Issues addressed by the directives still **match current needs**?  
Still **action at EU level** required?
- Factors (e.g. eco-design) influencing **end-of-life impacts** sufficiently integrated into the directives?
- Consistent with Commission policies on **resource efficiency and raw materials**?
- Covering all relevant waste streams or **gaps** in present EU waste legislation?
- **Further EU waste legislation required** to achieve objectives set out in the Resource Efficiency Roadmap?

# 2. TARGETS REVIEW

Review of quantitative targets in three Directives:

- Waste Framework Directive,
- Landfill Directive,
- **Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive**

# Targets review: working method and planning

- online stakeholder consultation in 2013  
(3/06/2013 – 10/09/2013)
- Impact Assessment and proposal first half of 2014

# Targets review: questions on packaging waste

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- Should the targets be **increased**?
- Are the **relative levels** for different materials 'about right', or, should e.g. plastics increase by more?
- Should **environmental weightings** be applied to the materials?  
e.g. in line with greenhouse gas savings
- Should targets be **more specific** (e.g. for PET, LDPE)?
- Should the target in the Packaging Directive
  - apply to **all** packaging waste? OR
  - apply **only to commercial/industrial** packaging waste, with packaging waste from municipal sources included in the Waste Framework Directive target?

# 3. PLASTIC WASTE



# PLASTIC WASTE – need for action

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- most common material since the beginning of the 20th century
- massive pollution of world oceans with plastic debris
- ⇒ global challenge requiring a global response.  
EU showcase for how to build coherent strategy
- 50% of plastic waste in the EU is still landfilled
- ⇒ energy and processed raw material lost instead of being recycled into new products
- no comprehensive policy response to challenges.  
specific aspects addressed in various pieces of legislation, e.g:
  - Waste Framework Directive  
(2015 separate plastic waste collection target and  
50% household waste collection target by 2020)
  - Packaging and Packaging waste Directive



# PLASTIC WASTE

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## Green Paper on a European Strategy on Plastic Waste in the environment (7.03.2013)

- aims at assessing how problem of plastic waste can best be tackled in the context of the current policy framework
- wide-ranging public consultation (07.03.2013 - 07.06.2013)
  - 26 open questions (no specific format prescribed for answering)
  - contributions will be published on Internet
  - 30.09.2013: conference in Brussels
  - result will feed into further policy action in 2014 as part of the broader waste policy review

# 4. Plastic carrier bags

## 2010 data:

- > 8 billion plastic bags littered in the EU
- average use per EU citizen: 198 plastic bags  
(89% of which single-use)
- municipal or private waste collection systems in the EU send 49,7% or 710 000 tons a year of plastic bags collected to landfills





# Plastic carrier bags: timeline

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- Environment Council of 14.03.2011 and 19.12.2011:  
Commission invited to assess the scope for action at EU level.
- 17.05.2011 – 9.08.2011: public consultation
  - 15 538 responses
  - contributions and statistics on Internet
- Assessment of environmental, economic and social impact of available options
- Commission proposal adopted on 4.11.2013
- Co-decision procedure: directive to be adopted by European Parliament and Council (end 2014 ?)

# Plastic carrier bags: Commission proposal

- Main objective: tackle marine litter
- Focus on:
  - prevention = nr.1 waste hierarchy
  - Resource efficiency
- All types of plastic
- all plastic carrier bags below thickness of 50 microns
- Member States have to take measures that may include:
  - National reduction targets
  - Economic instruments
  - Marketing restrictions in derogation of Article 18 of the PPWD



# Reminder: Waste management hierarchy

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**For more information please visit:**



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/index.htm>

(entry point for review, including fitness check, targets review and plastic waste)

**Thank you for your attention!**

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