

ICOMIA / IMEC

# EU Quarterly Report

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# Glossary of EU terms

**Council of the European Union:** One of the two co-legislative bodies of the EU (together with the European Parliament), made of the 27 EU Member State governments (represented by Member State Ministers). It adopts laws by co-decision with the European Parliament.

**COREPER:** Preparatory body of the Council, made up of Member States' Permanent Representatives to the EU.

**EU Directive:** EU law which has to be transposed into national law for its implementation.

**EU Regulation:** EU law which applies directly upon its adoption, without the need for transposition into national law.

**European Commission:** Executive body of the EU, in charge of proposing laws.

**European Parliament:** One of the two co-legislative bodies of the EU (together with the Council of the EU), made of elected MEPs (Members of the European Parliament). It adopts laws by co-decision with the Council of the EU.

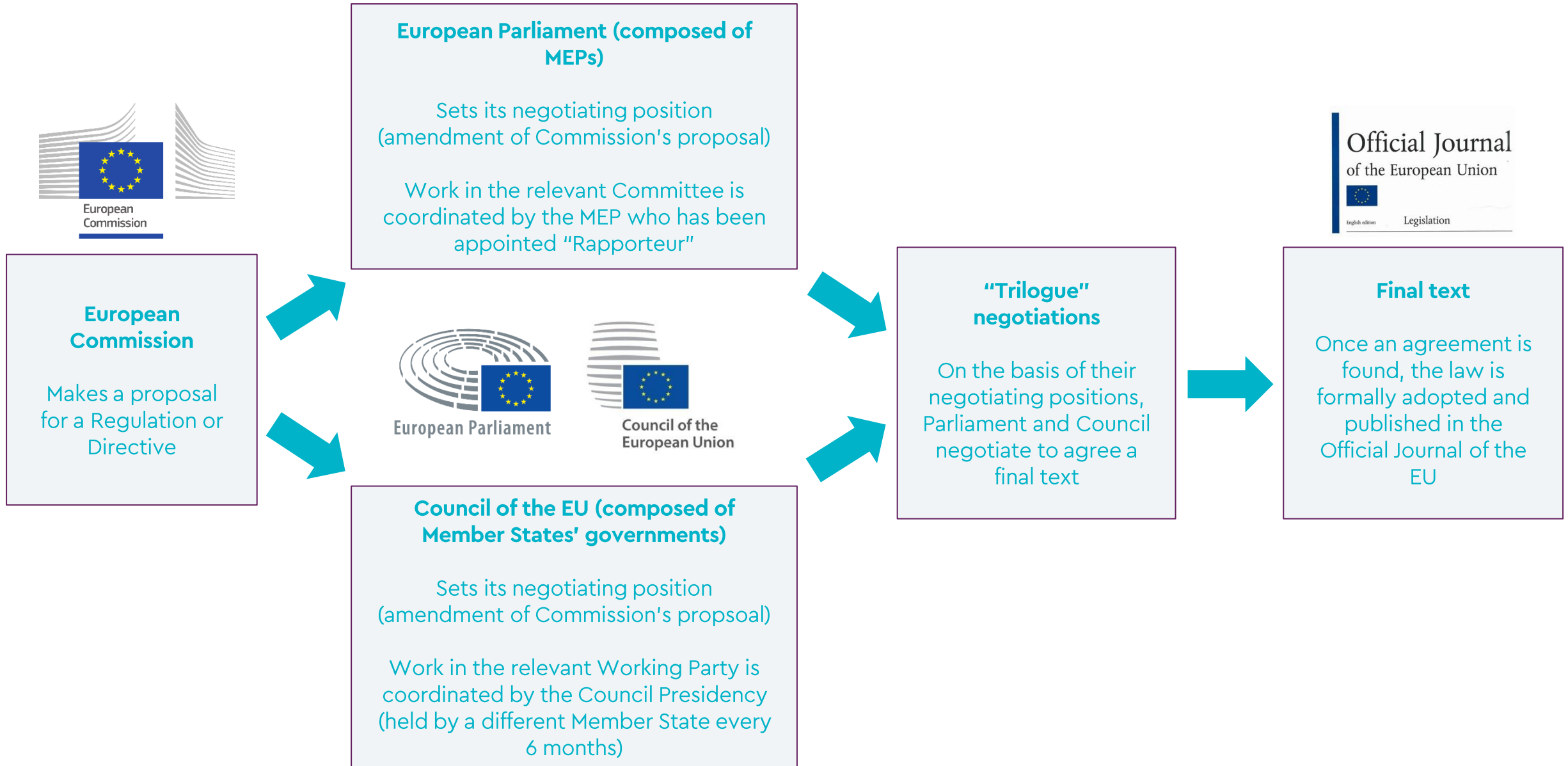
**European Parliament Committees:** Committees of MEPs, organised by policy area, which deal with specific proposals before they are adopted by the European Parliament plenary, e.g. ENVI Committee (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety), TRAN Committee (Transport and Tourism), IMCO Committee (Internal Market and Consumer Protection), ITRE Committee (Industry, Research and Energy).

**Rapporteur:** MEP in charge of coordinating the work for a specific proposal within a European Parliament Committee.

**Trilogue:** Negotiation between the European Parliament and the Council, also attended by the Commission, which aims at reaching an agreement on the final text of a proposal.

**Working Parties:** Preparatory bodies of the Council (below COREPER level) made up of Member State officials dealing with a specific policy area. There are over 100 Working Parties.

# EU policy-making process: A reminder





# 1. Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)

## Background:

- On 15 September 2022, the Commission released a [proposal](#) for a Regulation on horizontal cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements (Cyber Resilience Act). A final text was agreed between Parliament and the Council on 30 November 2023. The adoption process was delayed by the European elections, but the law was finally published in the EU Official Journal on 20 November 2024 as Regulation [2024/2847](#).
- The CRA sets rules for the making available on the market of products with digital elements, in order to ensure their cybersecurity. It sets essential requirements for their design, development and production, as well as essential requirements for the vulnerability-handling processes put in place by the manufacturer. In particular:
  - Manufacturers must comply with requirements set out in the Annex I (secure design, protection from unauthorised access, vulnerability handling, etc.).
  - Manufacturers must carry out cybersecurity risk assessments and draw up declarations of conformity. Stricter conformity assessment procedures apply to the products listed in Annexes III and IV.
  - A market surveillance framework is put in place to enforce the rules.
  - Manufacturers must report significant cybersecurity incidents within 24 hours of becoming aware of them, and must handle and remediate vulnerabilities throughout the product's lifecycle.
  - Manufacturers must provide clear cybersecurity instructions (default settings, updates, end-of-life support, etc.) as per Annex II.
  - Manufacturers must scrutinise the supply chain for potential cybersecurity risks.
  - Digital products must be supported with security updates for at least five years (unless justified).

# 1. Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)

## Latest developments:

- On 10 March 2025, CENELEC (the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation) held a webinar on "Standards supporting the Cyber Resilience Act". The [presentation](#) provides an overview of standardisation in the context of the CRA.
- On 13 March 2025, the Commission launched [public consultation](#) on a draft Implementing Regulation under the Cyber Resilience Act. This secondary act aims to specify the technical description of the categories of products with digital elements that are considered "important" (Annex III of the CRA) and "critical" (Annex IV of the CRA). These products are subject to stricter conformity assessment procedures. The draft secondary act gives more detailed explanations as well as examples of the categories listed in Annexes III and IV. The public consultation is open until 15 April 2025.

## Next steps:

- After the public consultation, the Implementing Regulation referred to above will be voted in the relevant Member State committee, adopted by the Commission, and published in the Official Journal.
- The CRA's main requirements will apply from 10 December 2027 (36 months after entry into force). The manufacturer reporting obligations will apply from 10 December 2025 (one year after entry into force).
- The Commission is expected to release an evaluation of the Regulation in 2030.

## 2. Clean Industrial Deal

### Background:

- In July 2024, Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen's [Political Guidelines](#) for 2024-2029 announced a Clean Industrial Deal. Given the need to decarbonise and industrialise the EU economy at the same time, this package of measures would aim to create the right conditions to allow companies to reach the EU's decarbonisation and industrialisation goals. This entails simplifying, investing and ensuring access to cheap, sustainable and secure energy supplies and raw materials.
- The Clean Industrial Deal reflects the shift in policy narrative under the current term (2024-2029). The flagship policy of the previous von der Leyen Commission (2019-2024) was the European Green Deal, proposing a wide array of measures to transition towards climate neutrality. However, this caused backlash due to the burden some of these measures would place on industry while at the same time there were not enough measures to support EU industry and make it more competitive. The Clean Industrial Deal therefore serves as a balancing set of measures to address industry's needs.

## 2. Clean Industrial Deal

### Latest developments (I):

- On 26 February 2025, the Commission presented the [Clean Industrial Deal](#) (in the form of a Commission Communication). The aims are to decarbonise EU industry, strengthen competitiveness, foster innovation and circularity, mobilise public and private investment, ensure a just transition when it comes to jobs, building global partnerships to secure critical materials and to create lead markets for It includes several sections, setting out a number of key actions.
- (1) Access to affordable energy
  - Given the need to lower energy prices, the Commission adopted on the same day an [Action Plan for Affordable Energy](#) with measures to lower energy bills, improve grid infrastructure and expand renewable energy.
  - Support for Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).
  - Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act in Q4 2025 to speed up permitting and electrification for industry.
  - European Grids Package for Q1 2026 to streamline interconnections, permitting and innovation in grid systems.
- (2) Lead markets for clean products
  - Voluntary carbon intensity labels for steel and cement.
  - Introduction of sustainability and EU content criteria in public procurement for strategic sectors.
  - Measures to promote the uptake of hydrogen.
- (3) Public and private investment
  - €100bn Industrial Decarbonisation Bank by 2026.
  - TechEU investment programme for scale-ups.

## 2. Clean Industrial Deal

### Latest developments (II):

*[Continuation]*

- New state aid framework for industrial decarbonisation and clean manufacturing.
- (4) Circular economy and material security
  - Circular Economy Act for Q4 2026 to boost recycling, reuse and waste management.
  - Implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Act (first list of Strategic Projects in Q1 2025).
  - EU Critical Raw Material Centre to jointly purchase raw materials on behalf of interested companies.
  - A green VAT initiative.
- (5) Global trade and partnerships
  - Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships with certain countries, in order to diversify the EU's supply chains and secure better access to raw materials.
  - Stronger trade defence instruments.
  - Simplification and extension of CBAM.
  - Guidelines on the Foreign Subsidies Regulation.
- (6) Skills and quality jobs
  - A Union of Skills strategy and a Quality of Jobs Roadmap.
  - A European Fair Transition Observatory in Q1 2026 to track social fairness in the transition.

## 2. Clean Industrial Deal

### Next steps:

- The Clean Industrial Deal sets out a wide array of measures that will be implemented over the next few years. In addition, it will be accompanied by a number of sectoral action plans with specific measures for those sectors (Action Plan for the automotive sector and one for steel and metals).

# 3. First Omnibus Package

## Background:

- The [Political Guidelines](#) for 2024-2029 from President von der Leyen, released in July 2024, stressed the need to make business easier and faster in Europe. In them, she stated: "I will make speed, coherence and simplification key political priorities in everything we do. Each Commissioner will be tasked with focusing on reducing administrative burdens and simplifying implementation: less red tape and reporting, more trust, better enforcement, faster permitting."

## Latest developments (I):

- The [Annexes](#) of the Commission's 2025 [Work Programme](#), released on 11 February 2025, announced three Omnibus packages to simplify legislation:
  - First Omnibus Package on sustainability (Q1 2025)
  - Second Omnibus Package on investment simplification (Q1 2025)
  - Third Omnibus Package, including on small mid-caps and removal of paper requirements (Q2 2025)
- On 26 February 2025, the Commission released the first and second Omnibus Packages. The first one focuses on simplifying sustainability legislation, and amends the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the EU Taxonomy, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Regulation (CBAM). All legal proposals can be found [here](#), while a Q&A page can be found [here](#).

# 3. First Omnibus Package

## Latest developments (II):

- Regarding sustainability reporting, the changes made to the CSRD and the EU Taxonomy include:
  - Removing around 80% of companies from the scope of the CSRD, leaving the largest companies, which are more likely to have the biggest impact.
  - Ensuring that sustainability reporting requirements on large companies do not burden smaller companies in their value chains.
  - Postponing by two years (until 2028) the reporting requirements for companies currently in the scope which are required to report from 2026 and 2027.
  - Reducing the burden of the EU Taxonomy reporting obligations and limiting it to the largest companies (corresponding to the scope of the CSDDD).
  - Other changes to the EU Taxonomy, including: introducing the option of reporting on activities that are partially aligned with the EU Taxonomy; introducing a financial materiality threshold for the EU Taxonomy reporting and reducing the reporting templates by 70%; simplifying the most complex "do no significant harm" criteria for pollution prevention and control related to chemicals; adjusting the Green Asset Ratio.



# 3. First Omnibus Package

## Latest developments (III):

- Regarding due diligence, the changes made to the CSDDD include the following:
  - Simplifying sustainability due diligence requirements so that companies in the scope avoid unnecessary complexities and costs, by focusing requirements on direct business partners and reducing the frequency of periodic assessments of partners.
  - Reduce burden for SMEs by limiting the amount of information that may be requested by large companies.
  - Increasing harmonisation of due diligence requirements across the EU.
  - Removing EU civil liability conditions.
  - Giving companies more time to prepare to comply with the new requirements, by postponing application for largest companies by one year (to 26 July 2028) and by advancing the adoption of guidelines by one year (to July 2026).
- Regarding changes made to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, see the section on CBAM in this report.

## Next steps:

- The measures in the Package will now be discussed in the Parliament and in the Council, with a view to adopting the amendments and implementing them.

# 4. Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive

## Background (I):

- The Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive ([2003/87/EC](#)) sets up a greenhouse gas emissions trading system for several sectors (before the 2023 amendment, these were the energy sector, energy-intensive installations, and aviation).
- In July 2021, the Commission issued a [proposal](#) to revise the Directive. The amendment was published in the Official Journal on 16 May 2023 as [Directive 2023/959](#). It includes:
  - Application of ETS to maritime transport activities covered by Article 2(1) of the MRV Regulation Art. 2(1) (ships of 5000 GT and above on voyages for transporting cargo or passengers for commercial purposes) – applies to CO<sub>2</sub> and, from 1 January 2026, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) – applies to 100% of emissions from voyages between EU ports and 50% of emissions from voyages between EU and non-EU ports – accompanied by [Regulation](#) amending MRV Regulation (scope extended to cover not only CO<sub>2</sub> but also CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O + monitoring obligations covering the GHG emissions covered by ETS).
  - Application to road transport and buildings (under a separate so-called ETS 2 system) – affects the “regulated entities” referred to in Annex III (fuel suppliers in the case of road transport), which must hold greenhouse gas emissions permits issued by competent authorities – this means fuel suppliers supplying fuel to be used in road transport would have to monitor and report the quantity of fuel they place on the market and surrender emission allowances each calendar year depending on the carbon intensity of their fuels.
  - Other measures: decrease in the total quantity of allowances; stricter ETS requirements for aviation.

# 4. Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive

## Background (II):

- Several Member States have expanded the application of the ETS 2 scheme (intended for road transport and buildings to) to other sectors, including waterborne navigation:
  - Delegated Decision [2024/2985](#) of 24 September 2024 regarding the Netherlands – covers emissions from fuels used to propel water-borne vessels on inland waters, including hovercraft and hydrofoils, but excluding fishing vessels.
  - Delegated Decision [2024/2986](#) of 24 September 2024 regarding Austria – covers emissions from fuels used to propel waterborne vessels, including hovercraft and hydrofoils, but excluding commercial activities on the Danube River and on the international lakes (Constance and Neusiedl).

## Latest developments:

- Further Member States continue to expand the scope of the ETS 2 scheme (initially covering road transport and buildings) to other sectors, including waterborne navigation.
  - A draft Delegated Decision regarding Sweden was adopted by the Commission on 27 November 2024, covering emissions from fuels used in leisure boats, excluding commercial waterborne navigation (act [here](#), bottom of page).
  - A draft Delegated Decision regarding Finland will soon be adopted. Covering emissions from fuels used to propel water-borne vessels, including hovercraft and hydrofoils, but excluding commercial navigation (draft act [here](#), bottom of page, as the act at the top relates to the Netherlands).

## 4. Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive

### Next steps:

- The Delegated Decision on the extension of ETS 2 to other sectors in Sweden should be published in the Official Journal soon. The one on Finland should be adopted soon and published in the Official Journal in several months.
- The Commission is expected to release its first evaluation of the Modernisation Fund established under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) in Q4 2025.
- The inclusion of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in the ETS for maritime transport will apply from 2026. The ETS 2 scheme, covering road transport and buildings (as well as other sectors as decided by specific Member States), will apply from 2027.

# 5. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

## Background:

- On 14 July 2021, the Commission published a [proposal](#) for a Regulation establishing a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) as part of its Fit for 55 package. Following the end of the legislative process, the final law was published in the EU Official Journal on 16 May 2023 as Regulation [2023/956](#).
- The CBAM Regulation aims to prevent carbon leakage of goods imported into the EU by ensuring that those goods bear a carbon price equivalent to that borne by EU producers under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).
  - The scope includes cement, electricity, fertilisers, iron and steel, aluminium and hydrogen, as well as selected products made from these.
  - Importers must purchase CBAM certificates to cover the emissions embedded in their goods. The price of CBAM certificates mirrors the average weekly price of auctioned ETS allowances. Importers must surrender certificates annually. Not doing so may result in financial penalties.
  - Only authorised declarants (authorised by national competent authorities) can import CBAM goods. They must comply with certain reporting obligations.
  - Embedded emissions must be calculated using approved methodologies and must be verified by accredited verifiers. Importers can deduct carbon pricing applied in the country of origin, if it is applied and if it is verifiable.
  - Importers must begin purchasing CBAM certificates from 1 January 2026.
  - Countries that participate in or are fully linked to the EU ETS are excluded.
  - The Commission must review the CBAM by the end of 2027.

# 5. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

## Latest developments:

- On 26 February 2025, the Commission published its [Omnibus I Package](#), with proposals for amendments of several laws to reduce the burden on companies. This included a [proposed amendment of CBAM](#):
  - Over 90% of affected importers (mostly SMEs) would be removed from the scope of the CBAM Regulation, while leaving within the scope importers that represent over 99% of emissions embedded in CBAM imports. This is done by setting a new threshold of 50 tonnes per year for an importer to be in the scope.
  - For importers that remain within the scope, certain processes would be simplified in order to facilitate their compliance with reporting requirements (in particular, simplifying the authorisation procedure for national competent authorities, the data collection processes third country producers to authorised CBAM declarants, the calculation of embedded emissions for certain goods, the emission verification rules, the calculation of the authorised CBAM declarants' financial liability during the year of imports into the EU, and the claim by authorised CBAM declarants for carbon prices paid in third countries where goods are produced).
  - The start of sales of CBAM certificates by national authorities would be postponed from 1 January 2026 to 1 February 2027.
- On 26 February 2025, the Commission released the "[Clean Industrial Deal](#)" Communication, with measures aiming to strengthen the EU's industrial competitiveness while achieving the green transition. With regard to CBAM, the Communication announced that in the second half of 2025, the Commission will present a review report on CBAM, assessing the possibility of extending the scope of CBAM to additional EU ETS sectors and downstream products, as well as the inclusion of indirect emissions for all CBAM sectors. The report will also set out a strategy to tackle circumvention risks. The review will be followed by a legislative proposal in the first half of 2026.

# 5. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

## Next steps:

- The proposed amendments to simplify CBAM are currently going through the legislative process and are expected to be agreed and published in the EU Official Journal in the coming months.
- The Commission will publish a review of CBAM in the second half of 2025 on the potential extension of the scope to other products. This will be followed by a legislative proposal in the first half of 2026.
- A number of secondary acts (on CBAM declarations, carbon price paid in third countries, calculation of embedded emissions, etc.) are being developed and will be released in due course.

# 6. Hydrogen Bank

## Background (I):

- The 2020 EU Hydrogen Strategy ([COM/2020/301](#)) aims to increase the production of renewable hydrogen in the EU. As part of this Strategy, on 16 March 2023, the Commission released the Communication on a European Hydrogen Bank ([COM/2023/156](#)). It aims to unlock private investment in the development of renewable hydrogen market and to cover cost gap between fossil fuels and renewables:
  - 1 – Creating an EU hydrogen domestic market through new financing mechanisms:
    - Fixed premium auctions under the Innovation Fund, starting in autumn 2023.
    - EU Auction Platform to also allow participation of Member States.
  - 2 – Supporting international hydrogen production and imports to the EU. The Commission would assess possible sources of funding to cover cost gap for third country producers, and possible auction scheme.
  - 3 – Coordination and transparency on hydrogen flows, transactions and prices, coordinated by the Commission.
  - 4 – Coordination with existing project financing instruments (InvestEU, cohesion policy, Horizon Europe, etc.).
- On 23 November 2023 the Commission launched the first auction under the European Hydrogen Bank:
  - Producers of renewable hydrogen can bid for support in the form of a fixed premium per kilogram of hydrogen produced. The bids should be based on a proposed price premium per kilogram of renewable hydrogen produced (up to €4.5/kg).
  - The premium is intended to bridge the gap between the price of production and the price consumers are currently willing to pay, in a market where non-renewable hydrogen is still cheaper to produce.
  - The selected projects will receive the awarded subsidy on top of the market revenues that they generate from hydrogen sales, for up to 10 years. Once projects have signed their grant agreements, they will have to start producing renewable hydrogen within five years.



# 6. Hydrogen Bank

## Background (II):

- The first round of auctions closed on 8 February 2024 and received 132 bids from 17 European countries. The total support requested far exceeds the currently available budget of €800 million, provided by the Innovation Fund.
- The second round of auctions opened on 3 December 2024 and closed on 20 February 2025, with a budget of €1.2 billion.
- Furthermore, the "auctions-as-a-service" mechanism under the Hydrogen Bank enables Member States to finance projects which have bid in the auction but have not been selected for Innovation Fund support due to budget limitations. This allows Member States to award national funding to additional projects on their territory, without the need to run a separate auction at national level.

# 6. Hydrogen Bank

## Latest developments:

- According to the [Clean Industrial Deal](#), released by the Commission on 26 February 2025, the Commission will launch a third call under the Hydrogen Bank in Q3 2025, with a budget of up to €1 billion, and will encourage Member States to use the auctions-as-a-service platform provided by the Commission (see previous slide), for example by facilitating the use of unspent EU funds.
- In addition, the Clean Industrial Deal also announced the launch of the Hydrogen Mechanism in Q2 2025 under the Hydrogen Bank, to connect off-takers with suppliers, linking participants with financing and facilitating the aggregation of off-takers' demand for hydrogen in sectors like maritime transport and aviation.

## Next steps:

- The Hydrogen Mechanism will be launched in Q2 2025. The third Hydrogen Bank call will be opened in Q3 2025.

# 7. REACH Regulation

## Background:

- The REACH Regulation ([1907/2006](#)) establishes provisions on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals produced, imported, sold and used in the EU, and sets up the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).
- The Commission's 2020 Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability announced the revision of the Regulation. The Commission is currently working on the revision proposal. Key aspects of the revision include:
  - Increased information/registration requirements (e.g. info on hazardous substances, registration of polymers of concern, possible info on environmental footprint).
  - Better information along the supply chain (e.g. better eSDS).
  - Reform of authorisation and restriction processes (e.g. generic risk management approach for most harmful substances (ED, PBT, vPvB), "essential use" derogations).
  - Essential use concept for derogations from restriction:
    - Industries themselves would have to prove that the use of a substance is essential (i.e. necessary for health, safety or functioning of society, and no viable alternative). A Committee of Member States could evaluate the proof submitted by a company that a substance is essential – but final decision with the Commission. The concept will be developed in a specific non-legislative document.
  - Mixture assessment factor (MAF) to account for so-called "cocktail" effect of mixing substances.
- According to Ursula von der Leyen's [Political Guidelines](#) of July 2024, setting out the Commission's actions for the new 5-year term (2024-2029), the Commission will put forward a new chemicals industry package aiming to simplify REACH and provide clarity on PFAS.

# 7. REACH Regulation

## Latest developments:

- On 11 February 2025, the Commission released its [Work Programme](#) for 2025. Regarding REACH, the Work Programme reads: "A chemicals industry package will boost the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry and provide a simpler regime for the registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals and clarity on 'forever chemicals'. The targeted revision of the EU's rules on chemicals (REACH) will contribute to simplifying rules for the chemicals industry without compromising on safety and environmental protection." The Work Programme's Annexes list the targeted revision of REACH for Q4 2025.

## Next steps:

- The revision of the REACH Regulation is expected for Q4 2025.

# 8. Ecodesign Regulation

## Background:

- In March 2022, the Commission [proposed](#) an Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation to replace the Ecodesign Directive. After going through the legislative process, the law was adopted and published in the EU Official Journal on 28 June 2024 as Regulation [2024/1781](#).
- The law establishes a framework for setting ecodesign requirements that products will have to comply with, in order to improve the sustainability of products on the EU market:
  - The Commission will published product-specific delegated acts setting requirements for aspects such as durability, reliability, reusability, repairability, upgradability, energy and resource efficiency, recycled content, recyclability, environmental footprint, and presence of substances of concern.
  - Digital Product Passports will be required (as determined through future delegated acts), providing consumers accessible and standardised information on product composition, environmental performance, repair and dismantling instructions and end-of-life handling.
  - The destruction of unsold goods is banned unless justified (applying to textiles and footwear, but with other products potentially added later through delegated acts).
- On 27 September 2024, the Commission published an [FAQ document](#) providing clarifications on the Regulation.

# 8. Ecodesign Regulation

## Latest developments (I):

- On 19 and 20 February 2025, a meeting of the Ecodesign Forum (bringing together the Commission, Member States and stakeholders) was held. Among the [meeting documents](#), the Commission made available a [discussion paper](#) in which it sets out the likely products to be included in the first ecodesign working plan, for which delegated acts could be adopted:

Product/Measure	JRC ranking	Stakeholders' opinion	Market size (EU)	Estimated timeline for adoption
<b>Final products</b>				
Textiles/Apparel	1 <sup>st</sup>	+++	175 billion EUR (with footwear, 2021)	End 2026 or early 2027
Furniture	2 <sup>nd</sup>	++	140 billion EUR (2021)	2028
Tyres	3 <sup>rd</sup>	+++	45 billion EUR (2021)	2027
<b>Intermediate products</b>				
Steel	1 <sup>st</sup>	+++	152 billion EUR (2023)	Q4 2026
Aluminium	4 <sup>th</sup>	++	40 billion EUR (2019)	2027
<b>Horizontal requirements</b>				
Repairability (including scoring)	N/A	+++	N/A	2026
Recyclability and recycled content of Electric and Electronic Equipment	N/A	++	N/A	2028

# 8. Ecodesign Regulation

## Latest developments (II):

- This is in addition to the products carried over from the last ecodesign and energy labelling working plan under the old Ecodesign Directive:

Energy-related products	Ecodesign requirements	Energy label	Indicative timeline
Low temperature emitters	No	Yes	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2026
Displays	Yes	Yes	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2027
EV chargers	To be determined	To be determined	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2028
Household dishwashers	Yes	Yes	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2026
Household washing machines and household washer-dryers	Yes	Yes	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2026
Professional laundry appliances	Yes	To be determined	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2026
Professional dishwashers	Yes	To be determined	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2026
Electric motors and variable speed drives	Yes	No	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2028

Refrigerating appliances (including Household fridges and freezers)	Yes	Yes	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2028
Refrigerating appliances with a sales function	Yes	Yes	Study: underway <b>Adoption:</b> 2028
Light sources and (only for ecodesign) separate control gears	Yes	Yes	Study: 2025 or 2026 <b>Adoption:</b> 2029
Welding equipment	Yes	No	Study: tbd <b>Adoption:</b> end 2030
Mobile phones and tablets	Yes	Yes	Study: tbd <b>Adoption:</b> end 2030
Local space heaters	Yes	Yes	<b>Energy label:</b> adoption in 2026 <b>Ecodesign requirements:</b> Study: tbd <b>Adoption:</b> mid 2030
Tumble dryers	Yes	Yes	Study: tbd <b>Adoption:</b> end 2030
Standby and off mode consumption	Yes	No	Study: tbd <b>Adoption:</b> end 2030

# 8. Ecodesign Regulation

## Latest developments (III):

- The following products will be excluded from the first ecodesign working plan:

Product/Measure	JRC ranking	Stakeholders' opinion	OVERALL REASONING
Footwear	N/A (part of Textiles)	N/A (part of Textiles)	Lower impacts and improvement potential than selected products
Detergents	5 <sup>th</sup>	+	Lower impacts and improvement potential than selected products; some sustainability aspects may be covered by the proposed revision of the detergents regulation
Paints	6 <sup>th</sup>	+	Lower impacts and improvement potential than selected products
Lubricants	8 <sup>th</sup>	+/-	Lower impacts and improvement potential than selected products
Chemicals	2nd	++	Highly complex product group, for which a study will be commissioned during the implementation of this Working Plan to define more precisely the potential scope of one or several measures for consideration in a following working plan.
Mattresses	6 <sup>th</sup>	+	Lower impacts and improvement potential than selected products; however, the preparatory study on furniture will consider whether mattresses may be covered by some ecodesign requirements on upholstered furniture, in the same or another ecodesign measure.



# 8. Ecodesign Regulation

## Next steps:

- By 19 April, the Commission is expected to release a Communication establishing the working plan identifying the list of product groups which are to be prioritised for setting ecodesign requirements.
- An array of Delegated Acts is expected to be published over the coming years setting specific ecodesign requirements for various product groups. Textiles and steel should be the subjects of the first delegated acts.

# 9. Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

## Background:

- On 30 November 2022, the Commission published a [proposal](#) for a Regulation on packaging and packaging waste, repealing the Directive on packaging and packaging waste (94/62/EC), the Regulation on market surveillance and compliance of products (2019/1020) and the Directive on the impact of plastic products (2019/904).
- An agreement between the Parliament and the Council was reached on 4 March 2024. The formal process of adoption was delayed by the European elections and the start of the new EU term. The co-legislators formally adopted the deal in November-December 2024. The key measures are the following:
  - The Regulation applies to all packaging, regardless of the material used, and to all packaging waste, whether such waste is used in or originates from industry, other manufacturing, retail or distribution, offices, services or households.
  - Ambitious targets to significantly reduce packaging waste by 2030 are set.
  - By 2030, all packaging placed on the EU market must be recyclable.
  - Mandatory recycled content targets are set, depending on packaging type. The Commission will review the implementation of these targets.
  - The use of PFAS in food packaging will be prohibited.
  - Harmonised recycling labels to indicate recyclability or proper disposal methods are mandated. This includes showing material composition and QR codes for reusability details.
  - Producers must cover the costs of collection, sorting and recycling of packaging waste (extended producer responsibility).
  - The requirements of the Regulation will apply from 11 August 2026.

# 9. Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

## Latest developments:

- The PPWR was published in the Official Journal on 22 January 2025 as Regulation [2025/40](#). It entered into force on 11 February.

## Next steps:

- The provisions of the Regulation will apply from 11 August 2026.

# 10. Green Claims Directive

## Background:

- On 22 March 2023, the Commission issued a [proposal](#) for a Directive on substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims. It would set common criteria against greenwashing and misleading environmental claims, addressing explicit claims and the proliferation of new public and private environmental labels. Claims already covered by other EU laws are excluded from the scope.
  - Green claims must be scientifically substantiated and verifiable, must rely on widely recognised scientific evidence, and must consider the lifecycle of the product or service. The claim must disclose if offsetting (through carbon credits) is used.
  - Claims must include a clear definition of the environmental impact or benefit, relevant data, and a timeframe and conditions for achieving the claimed benefit, and must avoid misleading wording.
  - Environmental claims must be independently verified by a third-party, who will issue a certificate of conformity.
  - Only certified and approved ecolabels may be used.
  - Lighter obligations and support tools for microenterprises.
  - Member States must carry out checks and enforce penalties for non-compliance.
- The Parliament adopted its [position](#) on the proposal on 12 March 2024, while the Council adopted its [position](#) on 17 June 2024.

# 10. Green Claims Directive

## Latest developments:

- Interinstitutional negotiations between the Parliament and the Council began with a first trilogue meeting on 28 January 2025. On 17 February, MEP Anna Cavazzini (Greens, Germany) gave an update to Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee on the first trilogue meeting:
  - The first trilogue focused on the presentation by the Parliament and the Council of their respective positions and key points. The Parliament emphasised the need for detailed lists of exemptions; a prohibition on climate neutrality claims that rely on offsetting emissions; and labelling requirements. The Council supported having uniform, strong and transparent regulations to prevent unnecessary administrative burdens.
  - The Council disagreed with some specific proposals from Parliament:
    - The Parliament would exempt microenterprises (less than 10 employees), while the Council would simply implement support measures and offer more flexible deadlines.
    - The Parliament would restrict climate-related claims, while the Council would refrain from imposing restrictions on climate-related claims.
    - The Parliament wants ex-ante verification for both substantiating and communicating claims, while the Council wants ex-ante verification of claims only for substantiation purposes, not communication.

## Next steps:

- The next trilogue meeting will take place on 24 April 2025. It is yet too early to say how the final text will look like.
- According to the proposal, once the Directive is published, Member States are expected to have an 18-month transposition period. Measures included in the Directive are expected to apply from 24 months after the entry into force of the Directive.

# 11. Ship Recycling Regulation

## Background:

- The Ship Recycling Regulation ([1257/2013](#)):
  - Aims to prevent, reduce, minimise and, to the extent possible, eliminate accidents, injuries and other adverse effects on human health and the environment caused by ship recycling.
  - Applies to ship of 500 gross tonnes or more flying the flag of an EU Member State or calling at an EU port.
  - Ensures that hazardous waste from ship recycling is subject to environmentally sound management., laying down rules to ensure the proper management of hazardous materials on ships.
  - Every new ship must have on board an inventory of the hazardous materials it contains. Before recycling the ship, the owner must prepare a ship recycling plan.
  - To prevent the dismantling of EU under conditions that are harmful to workers and to the environment (especially in South Asia), all large-scale sea-going vessels sailing under the flag of a Member State must use an approved ship recycling facility included in the European List of ship recycling facilities. These facilities recycle the vessel in a safe manner and in an environmentally friendly way.
- Implementing Decision [2016/2323](#) sets out, in its Annex, the European List of ship recycling facilities, pursuant to Article 16 of the Ship Recycling Regulation. This Implementing Decision gets amended regularly in order to update the list of facilities.

# 11. Ship Recycling Regulation

## Latest developments:

- On 19 February 2025, the Commission presented a [Report](#) assessing the application of the Ship Recycling Regulation, noting the following points:
  - The Regulation was found to be effective and has met its objectives compared to a scenario of no EU intervention.
  - The Regulation's effectiveness is undermined by (1) shipowners change a ship's flag to a non-EU flag before the ship is recycled, and (2) weak enforcement of the measures related to the inventory of hazardous materials, as less than 50% of ships complied with this requirement.
  - Some possible improvements to the regulatory framework and to ship recycling in general could involve:
    - Upgrading the Hong Kong Convention's provisions.
    - Clarifying some of the Regulation's provisions.
    - Increasing capacity to meet the growing demand for ship recycling.
    - Reconsidering responsibility throughout the whole value chain to deliver more reliable inventories of hazardous materials.
    - Ensuring Member States adopt clear rules on penalties.

## Next steps:

- It is currently not clear if or when the Commission will propose a revision of the Regulation.

# 12. Ocean governance

## Background:

- Some of the key EU documents adopted in the last years in the area of ocean governance and the blue economy include:
  - January 2018 – Parliament's [Resolution](#) on international ocean governance.
  - June 2020 – Commission's [EU Blue Economy Report 2020](#) on the performance of economic sectors linked to oceans and coastal environments.
  - July 2020 – Commission's [Atlantic Action Plan 2.0](#).
  - June 2022 – Commission's [Joint Communication](#) on the EU's international ocean governance agenda.
  - October 2022 – Parliament's [Resolution](#) on strengthening ocean governance and biodiversity.
  - December 2022 – [Council Conclusions](#) on International Ocean Governance for safe, secure, clean, healthy and sustainably managed oceans and seas.
  - June 2024 – [Council Decision](#) green-lighting the EU's adoption of the [UN agreement](#) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (the BBNJ agreement). The agreement will provide for shared governance over 95% of the ocean's volume, allowing for the establishment of marine protected areas on the high seas (currently, only about 1% of the high seas is protected).
  - July 2024 – Commission's announcement of €12.9 million in funding for 26 new projects under the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters".
- July 2024 – Von der Leyen's [Political Guidelines](#) for 2024-2029 announced a European Oceans Pact. According to von der Leye's [mission letter](#) addressed at the new Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadiš, the Pact should focus on supporting resilient and healthy oceans and coastal areas, promoting the blue economy, managing the use of the seas coherently, and developing a comprehensive agenda for marine knowledge, innovation and investment.



# 12. Ocean governance

## Latest developments (I):

- A [public consultation](#) on the European Oceans Pact was opened from 20 January to 17 February 2025.
- On 6 February, the Parliament's Environment (ENVI) Committee debated the upcoming Oceans Pact. The debate started with Commission for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadis, giving an overview of the Pact, which will provide a policy framework focusing on ocean health, sustainable blue economy, governance, international cooperation, and coastal resilience. It will aim to tackle biodiversity loss and pollution while upholding the EU's geostrategic goals and supporting small-scale fishers and coastal communities. The reactions from MEPs included the following (by political group):
  - The EPP (centre-right) emphasised the importance of fisheries for food security and called for their full inclusion in the Pact.
  - The S&D (centre-left) called for stronger pollution control, the inclusion of island communities, and action against land-based pollution.
  - Renew Europe (centre) stressed the need to balance sustainability with competitiveness, requested clarity on the updates of legislation.
  - Patriots for Europe (far-right) opposed restrictions on fisheries and accused the Commission of undermining national sovereignty.
  - The Left (far-left) criticised the influence of multinationals, and called for bans on seabed exploration and for stronger protection for small-scale fishers.
  - The Greens called for a ban on deep-sea mining and for concrete steps towards ratifying the High Seas Treaty.

# 12. Ocean governance

## Latest developments (II):

- On 11 February 2025, the Commission released its [Work Programme](#) for 2025, stating that "Action to preserve our oceans is vital, both today and for future generations. The Ocean Pact will create a single reference framework for all ocean-related policies and set a comprehensive approach to the ocean in all its dimensions". The Work Programme's Annexes plan the Ocean Pact for Q2 2025 as a non-legislative document.

## Next steps:

- During the April plenary of the European Parliament, a debate on the planned European Oceans Pact will be held.
- The Oceans Pact is scheduled for release in Q2 2025.

# 13. Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

## Background:

- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive ([2008/56/EC](#)) establishes a framework for Member States to take measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020. It provides for the development and implementation of national marine strategies with the aim of protecting and preserving the marine environment and preventing and reducing inputs in the marine environment. Such marine strategies must apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities.
- In June 2020, the Commission adopted a [report](#) on the first implementation cycle of the Directive (as required by Article 20). The report shows that, while the framework for marine environmental protection is one of the most comprehensive and ambitious worldwide, it needs to be improved to be able to tackle pressures such as overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices, plastic litter, excess nutrients, underwater noise and other types of pollution.

# 13. Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

## Latest developments:

- On 6 March 2025, the Commission published its [evaluation](#) of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, published in two parts together with an executive summary. In it, the Commission reaches the following conclusions:
  - The Directive has succeeded in establishing a comprehensive and integrated framework for protecting EU marine waters, but the aim of attaining good environmental status for all descriptors by 2020 has not been achieved, and progress on the ground has been limited. This is due to both external factors and weaknesses in the Directive's framework.
  - The Directive has delivered in terms of cost-effectiveness, as its benefits outweigh the costs of implementation. In addition, there is potential for achieving a reduction in administrative burden through addressing inefficiencies in the system.
  - The Directive has paved the way for broad-scale marine data collection and knowledge-building, but the data collected is not fully harmonised and lacks quality, leading to major knowledge gaps. The potential of digitalisation, data-sharing and earth observation remains largely untapped.
  - Regional differences persist when it comes to implementation.
  - The Directive is generally coherent with EU environmental policy but inconsistencies exist with the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive and the Nature Restoration Regulation.
  - The Directive shows clear EU added value, as it has led Member States to put in place marine strategies and monitor the state of marine waters.

## Next steps:

- The Commission might release a proposal for revision of the MFSD later this year.

# 14. Bathing Water Directive

## Background:

- The Bathing Water Directive ([2006/7/EC](#)) lays down provisions for the monitoring, classification and management of bathing water quality, as well as for the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. It complements the Water Framework Directive, aiming to protect and improve the quality of the environment and human health.
- In 2021, the Commission started the process of evaluation of the Directive, with a public consultation running from 28 October 2021 to 20 January 2022. to gather feedback on the Directive. A summary of the consultation was published on 6 February 2023:
  - The consultation showed that most respondents value bathing water quality, with two-thirds checking it before holidays and half using national sources.
  - While many find national updates timely, few are aware of EU tools like reports or maps. The Bathing Water Profile is seen as useful, though only 15% participated in national site consultations.
  - 70% recognise the Bathing Water Directive's value, with 60% believing it protects human health
  - Concerns exist about faecal bacteria monitoring.
  - Key pressures include untreated wastewater and agricultural runoff, and respondents see emerging risks and the need for better alignment with other EU policies. They also suggest increasing water sampling parameters and frequency.

# 14. Bathing Water Directive

## Latest developments:

- On 6 March 2025, the Commission published its [evaluation](#) of the Bathing Water Directive (see bottom of website), assessing the effectiveness of the Directive since its onset in 2006 until 2023. The evaluation found that:
  - The Directive has contributed positively to public health by ensuring an equivalent level of protection for the bathers across the whole EU.
  - The Directive has protected bathers through the identification of bathing sites by the national authorities, as well as through the identification of certain bacteriological parameters (in particular intestinal enterococci and E. coli), although it is acknowledged that there is no consideration for the long-term health impacts from exposure to other pollutants.
  - By 2023, only 1.5% of EU bathing areas were still of poor quality. However, the decrease in sites not suitable for bathing can partly be attributed to improvements in wastewater treatment infrastructure.
  - The objective of ensuring that all sites meet at least "sufficient" quality by 2015 was not reached.
  - There is room for improvement and modernisation in the accessibility of bathing water information to the EU public, as well as public participation in bathing site identification.
  - It is estimated that the annual costs associated with the Directive (implementation, monitoring, assessment, reporting) amount to €75m, while the direct benefits €1652m.
  - The legislation can be made more efficient, and compliance and enforcement costs can be reduced, through better use of digital technologies, automated monitoring, satellite imaging and predictive modelling.
  - Other possible improvements could involve: clarity of definitions, consideration of climate change impact, role of digital technologies, alignment with scientific, technical and policy developments and objectives, alignment with WHO recommendations.

# 14. Bathing Water Directive

## Next steps:

- It is yet unclear whether the Commission will present a proposal revising the Bathing Water Directive.

# 15. Surface and groundwater pollutants

## Background (I):

- On 26 October 2022, the Commission released a [proposal](#) for a Directive amending the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (2008/105/EC).
- The proposal aims to update the pollutant lists, enhance the monitoring of chemical mixtures, harmonise pollutant management for surface water and groundwater, facilitate the legal framework's rapid adaptation to new scientific findings, and improve data transparency and reuse
- The new Directive will revise the list of pollutants affecting surface water and groundwater, identifying new priority substances (including new priority hazardous substances), and will set corresponding Environmental Quality Standards.
  - Annex X of the Water Framework Directive, which lists 45 substances that must be progressively reduced or phased out from the aquatic environment, would become the revised Annex I of the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, which would deal only with surface water pollutants. Amending the list would be possible through Delegated Acts instead of Ordinary Legislative Procedure (therefore not needing co-decision between Council and Parliament, which is a lengthy process). In addition to new individual substances, new groups are added: pesticides and PFAS.
  - Annexes I and II of the Groundwater Directive would be revised. Annex I establishes groundwater quality standards for the purpose of assessing chemical status. Annex II sets the threshold values for groundwater pollutants as indicators of pollution. New substances would be added to both Annexes.



# 15. Surface and groundwater pollutants

## Background (II):

- On 24 April 2024, the European Parliament adopted its first-reading [position](#) on the Commission's proposal, while the Council adopted its [position](#) on 19 June 2024. The following are some of the key differences:
  - Enforcement: Parliament wants quicker compliant deadlines (within 6 months), with no delays beyond 2033 for existing pollutants and immediate monitoring of newly identified pollutants. The Council proposes to push compliance to 2033 for existing pollutants in surface water and to 2039 for newly added pollutants.
  - Stricter standards: Parliament supports stricter thresholds for pollutants like PFAS, glyphosate and pharmaceuticals. The Council wants weaker provisions to address the risk from chemical mixtures, and proposes to remove certain thresholds.
  - Exemptions: The Council proposes introducing two new exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive, allowing temporary or localised water quality deterioration. Parliament rejects this.
  - Polluter responsibility: Parliament calls for an extended producer responsibility scheme.
  - Monitoring delays: The Council proposes for the monitoring of substances on the Watch List to start 9 months after adoption rather than 6 months.

# 15. Surface and groundwater pollutants

## Latest developments:

- Following the adoption of the Parliament's position in April 2024 and of the Council's position in June 2024, the interinstitutional negotiations between the co-legislators began with a trilogue meeting on 28 January 2025. The second trilogue is expected to take place on 20 May.

## Next steps:

- Interinstitutional negotiations will continue throughout the coming months. A final text would likely be adopted in the second half of 2025.

# 16. Waste Framework Directive

## Background:

- The Waste Framework Directive ([2008/98/EC](#)) lays down measures to protect the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the generation of waste and the impacts of waste generation and management. It also aims to reduce the overall impacts of resource use and improve the efficiency of such use.
  - It applies the following waste hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: (a) prevention, (b) preparing for reuse, (c) recycling, (d) other recovery (e.g. energy recovery), and (e) disposal.
  - The Directive sets out some measures concerning hazardous waste and waste oils.
  - Under the 2018 revision of the Directive, Member States must take a number of measures to prevent waste generation, including identifying the products that are the main source of marine litter in natural and marine environments and aiming to halt the generation of marine litter.
- On 5 July 2023, the Commission presented a [proposal](#) for revising the Waste Framework Directive when it comes to food and textile waste. The revision does not affect the provisions related to hazardous waste and waste oils, which could be the most relevant to the boating industry.

# 16. Waste Framework Directive

## Latest developments:

- On 18 February 2025, the Council and the Parliament agreed to a [final text](#) for the revision of the Directive. The amendment will contain the following measures:
  - Amendment of the scope to state that gaseous effluents emitted into the atmosphere and CO<sub>2</sub> captured and transported for the purpose of geological storage are excluded from the scope.
  - Some new definitions are added.
  - On food waste, new measures on waste prevention to be taken by Member States are specified, and new food waste reduction targets to be met by December 2030 are set.
  - On textiles, extended producer responsibility for textile and footwear products is introduced, whereby producers will have to cover certain costs.
  - The Commission must review the Directive by 31 December 2029.
- The revision was endorsed by the Parliament's Environment Committee on 18 March and by the Council's COREPER preparatory body on 19 March.

## Next steps:

- The revision will soon be formally adopted by the Parliament and the Council and be published in the Official Journal.

# 17. Deforestation Regulation

## Background:

- The Deforestation Regulation ([2023/1115](#)) aims to minimise the consumption of products coming from supply chains associated with deforestation or forest degradation and simultaneously increase EU demand for and trade in legal and deforestation-free commodities and products. It was published in the Official Journal on 9 June 2023.
  - Operators and traders must exercise due diligence, including risk assessments and mitigation. Small and medium-sized traders must maintain specific business information, while simplified due diligence applies to low-risk regions.
  - Member States must designate competent authorities (CAs) to ensure compliance through checks, with penalties for non-compliance. High-risk countries will face enhanced scrutiny, with at least 15% of operators being checked annually.
  - Customs procedures require verification of due diligence before releasing relevant commodities and products.
  - Countries are classified as low, standard, or high risk based on deforestation and agriculture trends. The Commission will update risk classifications and engage with producer countries to address deforestation.
  - Public engagement allows individuals to submit concerns about non-compliance, with access to judicial review for those with sufficient interest.
  - The Commission will maintain a system to track due diligence statements, customs interconnections and risk profiles.
  - The Timber Regulation (995/2010) is repealed.
- An [amendment](#) to change the date of application of the Deforestation Regulation was proposed by the Commission on 2 October 2024 and published in the Official Journal on 23 December 2024. It moved the application date of the general requirements from 30 December 2024 to 30 December 2025. Furthermore, the application date of the provisions affecting micro-undertakings and small undertakings was moved from 30 June 2025 to 30 June 2026.

# 17. Deforestation Regulation

## Latest developments:

- The Commission has not included the Deforestation Regulation among the laws to be simplified through its Omnibus Packages (which do include other laws such as CSDR and CSDDD). However, some voices have been calling for the Regulation to be simplified:
  - In the Competitiveness Council meeting of 12 March, bringing together EU industry ministers, the Czech Republic and Slovenia mentioned the act as one that should be subjected to simplification measures.
  - Industry has given mixed views on the matter. According to media, some industry players have stated that including the Deforestation Regulation in a simplification package would go against providing legal clarity and predictability to business. Others called for including the Regulation in the Omnibus Package that was eventually released on 26 February.
  - In the European Parliament, voices among policy-makers from the EPP and other right-wing political groups have called for simplifying the provisions of the Regulation.

## Next steps:

- The main requirements of the Deforestation Regulation apply from 30 December 2025.

# 18. Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD)

## Background (I):

- Directive [2004/37/EC](#) on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work sets EU rules on the minimum requirements for protecting workers against risks to their health and safety arising from exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work, and rules on the prevention of such risks.
  - It was amended in 2022 to also include reprotoxic substances (therefore becoming the Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic substances Directive, CMRD).
  - It covers the substances, mixtures or processes referred to in Annex I.
  - It lays down Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs) for substances. These are listed in Annex III.
  - Employers must reduce the use of carcinogens, mutagens and reprotoxic substances at work, and must limit the number of workers exposed.
  - Employers must carry out risk assessments to determine the nature, degree and duration of workers' exposure on a regular basis (the information used for making the risk assessment, as well as other information, must be supplied to authorities if requested).
  - When unforeseeable incidents may lead to abnormal exposure, employers must inform workers accordingly.
  - Employers must take certain measures on hygiene, personal protection, and information and training of workers.
- The CMD is subject to a process of continuous revision to set new or revised Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs) for priority substances.

# 18. Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD)

## Background (II):

- The sixth amendment of the occupational exposure limits (OELs) in the CMD will include five substances: welding fumes, PAHs, isoprene, cobalt, and 1,4-Dioxane. On 22 September 2023, the Commission's Advisory Committee on Health and Safety at Work (ACSH) adopted its [Opinions](#) on the five substances, proposing potential Binding Occupational Exposure Limits (BOELs), Biological Limit Values (BLVs) and Short-Term Exposure Limits (STELs). Based on these Opinions, the Commission will decide whether and how to integrate these substances in a proposal for a Regulation amending the CMD for the sixth time.
- The seventh amendment of the OELs in the CMD could cover any of the substances listed in the Staff Working Document [SWD\(2022\) 438](#) (either adding new substances to the scope of the CMD or revising OELs for already listed substances). Several substances are being assessed by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for potential inclusion in the CMD.
- On 6 March, a group of Member States submitted a [statement](#) calling on the Commission for an acceleration of the process of revising or setting new limit values, including by increasing the capacity of preparing scientific opinions for chemicals. The referred countries are Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.



# 18. Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD)

## Latest developments:

- On 16 January 2025, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) adopted its [Scientific Report](#) N-(hydroxymethyl)acrylamide (NMA), not recommending any occupational exposure limit (OEL), short-term exposure limit (STEL), biological limit value (BLV) or biological guidance value (BGV). However, it recommends a 'skin' notation because of the detrimental effects of dermal exposure, and it derives an exposure-cancer risk relationship.

## Next steps:

- The sixth amendment of the CMD (covering welding fumes, PAHs, isoprene, cobalt, and 1,4-Dioxane) was expected to be proposed by the Commission by the end of 2024 and should therefore be presented in the upcoming months .
- The seventh amendment of the CMD is expected to be proposed in the coming years, once all potential substances are assessed by the ECHA and by the Commission's Advisory Committee on Health and Safety at Work (ACSH). The substances that are currently in the pipeline are: respirable crystalline silica, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,2-dichloropropane, 2,3-epoxypropyl methacrylate (glycidyl methacrylate), 2-chloro-1,3-butadiene (chloroprene), nitrosamines, 4,4-isopropylidenediphenol (bisphenol A), 1,3-butadiene, 1,2-dihydroxybenzene (pyrocatechol), boron and its compounds, and silicon carbide fibres.

# 19. Trade

## ***EU-US:***

- On 10 February 2025, the US administration announced plans to impose a 25% tariff on steel and aluminium imports from the EU, effective on 12 March, to address trade imbalances and protect domestic industry. This was followed by the announcement of US automobile tariffs on 26 March, to be implemented on 3 April. Furthermore, the US might be considering further reciprocal tariffs, with different tariff rates on different countries. An announcement on this is expected on 2 April.
- On 12 March, the EU announced that it would reinstate tariffs on various US products in two phases:
  - Phase 1: Reinstatement of tariffs set in 2018 that had been later suspended, affecting €4.5 billion worth of US goods. This includes a 25% additional tariff for recreational boats. It also affects other goods such as motorcycles, bourbon whiskey, peanut butter, orange juice and steel products.
  - Phase 2: Additional tariffs targeting roughly €18 billion worth of US industrial and agricultural goods (steel, aluminium, home appliances, wood products, poultry, beef, other food imports).
  - These two phases were originally planned for 1 and 13 April, although this has been delayed to allow for negotiations with the US, and will all be likely applied around mid-April.
- The EU has expressed willingness to negotiate with the US, with Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic meeting with US officials on 25 March to discuss and avert the implementation of tariffs. However, talks have yet to yield progress. In addition, there have been slight disagreements among EU Member States on the appropriate response to the tariffs.

# 19. Trade

## ***EU-Australia:***

- In January 2025, Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Judy Collins, visited Brussels and Berlin to discuss a range of trade issues, with media sources reporting that Australia hopes to restart EU-Australia trade talks.
- On 20 March 2025, Peter Dutton, leader of the Liberal Party, announced during an interview that if his coalition were to win the upcoming federal election (3 May), he would intend to start negotiations with the EU, which have been suspended since 29 October 2023. On the same day, EU Ambassador to Australia, Gabriele Visentin, also stated that it would make sense for the EU and Australia to restart trade negotiations, as an FTA would help both sides to weather the impact of US tariffs.

## ***EU-Vietnam:***

- Negotiations for an EU-Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement concluded in October 2018, aiming to increase investment and investment protection between the EU and Vietnam. Since then, EU Member States have been ratifying the agreement. As of March 2025, 16 EU Member States have officially notified that they have ratified it. The agreement will fully enter into force once all Member States have ratified it.

# 19. Trade

## ***EU-Mercosur:***

- On 6 December 2024, after over 25 years of negotiations, the EU-Mercosur [trade agreement](#) was finalised during a summit in Montevideo, Uruguay. The agreement will gradually reduce tariffs on most goods, benefiting European exports like machinery, vehicles, and chemicals, and Mercosur exports such as minerals and agricultural products. However, certain agricultural products will be subject to quotas, and environmental standards aligned with the Paris Agreement have been included.
- On 13 February 2025, EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic had an exchange on the trade agreement with the European Parliament. MEPs voiced their concerns on the impact that Mercosur products would have on the EU agri-food sector. The Commissioner replied that the agreement does not harm EU industry. Some MEPs spoke out in favour of the agreement, saying that not signing the agreement would amount to ceding that market to China, and noting the agreement's role in securing the EU's supply chains.
- On 22 February 2025, French President Emmanuel Macron voiced his opposition to the agreement. In the future EU Council vote on the agreement, France will likely be joined by Poland, Austria, Ireland and the Netherlands in voting against. Belgium will likely abstain. Italy might vote against unless there are guarantees that there will be safeguards to protect EU industry and adequate compensation for sectors potentially damaged by the agreement. All these countries voting against in the Council could derail the agreement.

# contact.

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