

IMEC

EU Quarterly Report

Q1 2024

logos

earn trust.
make change.

Content

1. Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)
2. REACH Regulation
3. CLP Regulation
4. Communication on 2040 climate target
5. Ecodesign Regulation
6. Net-Zero Industry Act
7. Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation
8. Ocean governance
9. European elections

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.

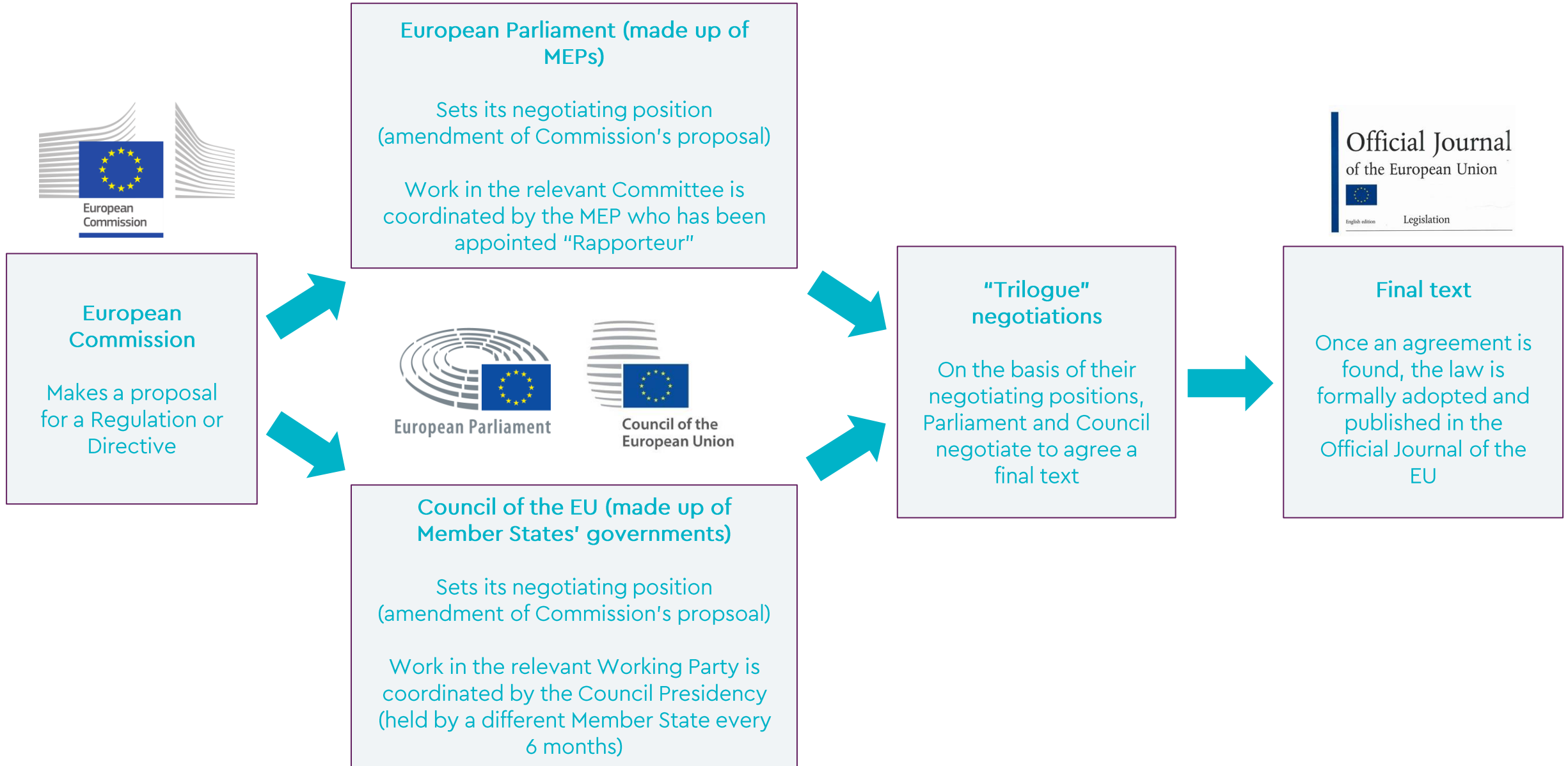
European Parliament Committees: Committees of MEPs, organised by policy area, which deal with specific proposals before they are adopted by the European Parliament plenary, e.g. ENVI Committee (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety), TRAN Committee (Transport and Tourism), IMCO Committee (Internal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

Reminder on EU policy-making process



1. Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)

Background:

- The Commission released its [proposal](#) for a Regulation on horizontal cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements (Cyber Resilience Act) on 15 September 2022. The Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement (which was not available) on 30 November 2023.
- As per the Commission proposal, the text will introduce cybersecurity requirements for the design, development, production and making available on the market of hardware and software products, ensuring that connected products are secure and resilient. Other aspects include:
 - Manufacturers' responsibility for compliance, including obligations like providing cybersecurity risk assessments, issuing declarations of conformity, and cooperating with competent authorities.
 - Vulnerability-handling processes for manufacturers.
 - Measures to improve transparency and information on the security of hardware and software products.
 - A market surveillance framework, to enforce the rules.
- The provisional agreement also includes various aspects that are different to those in the Commission proposal:
 - Changes to the scope, making it easier to identify which products are covered, and expanding the list of covered devices (to also include products such as biometric readers, smart home assistants and private security cameras).
 - Support period for digital products of at least five years, except for products with a shorter expected lifetime.
 - Competent national authorities would be the first recipients of the reporting of vulnerabilities and incidents. The role of ENISA (EU agency for cybersecurity) would also be strengthened.
 - Additional support measures for small and micro enterprises (e.g. awareness-raising and support for testing).
 - The rules will apply 3 years after entry into force, compared to the 2 years from the original proposal.

1. Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)

Latest developments:

- On 20 December 2023, Council's COREPER endorsed the provisional agreement.
- On 23 January 2024, Parliament's ITRE Committee endorsed the provisional agreement.
- After some delays, the Parliament [adopted](#) in Plenary the final text on 12 March 2024.
- According to media sources, the Council has decided to prioritise work on other files "until after the Parliament's last plenary session" and so the final Council's adoption has been delayed. Its approval is not expected to take place until after the EU elections in June 2024.

1. Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)

Next steps:

- The final adoption of the law by the Council is expected to take place after the 2024 EU elections.
- The main requirements would kick in 3 years after entry into force. This would be by mid-end 2027.
- It would then apply 24 months after its entry into force, with the exception of the manufacturer reporting obligation, which is to become applicable from 12 months after the measure's entry into force.

2. REACH Regulation

Background:

- REACH Regulation ([1907/2006](#)):
 - Establishes provisions on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals produced, imported, sold and used in the EU.
 - 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 the 2023 Commission Work Programme, the REACH revision proposal was scheduled for release in Q4 2023. However, the release has been postponed and the date of its publication remains unclear.

2. REACH Regulation

Latest developments (I):

- On 30 January 2024, the ECHA published its [Strategy Statement](#) for the years 2024-2028, emphasising its commitment to protecting human health and the environment through robust chemical safety measures. The key elements of the Strategy are as follows:
 - Be a trusted chemicals agency: ECHA aims to strengthen its position as a reliable and trusted authority in the field of chemical safety, reinforcing confidence in its actions and decisions.
 - Respond to emerging challenges and changes in the legal landscape: The strategy underscores ECHA's commitment to addressing new challenges and adapting to changes in the legal landscape, ensuring a dynamic and effective response to evolving circumstances.
 - Communicate and engage: ECHA places a strong emphasis on transparent communication and active engagement with stakeholders, fostering a collaborative approach in its mission to protect health and the environment.
 - Lead on chemical knowledge and expertise: The agency aspires to take a leadership role in advancing chemical knowledge and expertise, contributing significantly to the scientific understanding of chemical safety.
 - Invest in people and organisational excellence: Recognising the critical role of its workforce, ECHA plans to invest in the development of its personnel to ensure they are well-prepared for the challenges and tasks ahead, promoting organisational excellence.

2. REACH Regulation

Latest developments (II):

- On 7 February 2024, the ECHA launched a [call for evidence](#) on aromatic brominated substances and published a [background document](#). The call for evidence is based on the Commission's request for ECHA to prepare an Investigation Report on brominated flame retardants, which would support to decide whether to request ECHA to prepare a restriction dossier.
- On 21 February 2024, the ECHA published a [screening report](#) to assess whether the placing on the market of 4-OPnEO and 4-NPnEO should be restricted. According to the screening report, the requirements to prepare a dossier for restriction on all or selected uses of 4-OPnEO and 4-NPnEO are met.
- On 13 March 2024, the ECHA released a [press release](#) outlining how its two scientific committees will progress in evaluating the [proposal](#) to restrict PFAS in Europe. The Agency's scientific committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) will evaluate the proposed restriction together with the comments from the consultation in batches, focusing on the different sectors that may be affected. In tandem, the five national authorities who prepared the proposal, are updating their initial report to address the consultation comments. This updated report will be assessed by the committees and will serve as the foundation for their opinions. The sectors and elements that will be discussed in the next three committee meetings are:
 - March 2024 meetings: Consumer mixtures, cosmetics and ski wax; Hazards of PFAS (only by RAC); General approach (only by SEAC).
 - June 2024 meetings: Metal plating and manufacture of metal products; Additional discussion on hazards (only by RAC).
 - September 2024 meetings: Textiles, upholstery, leather, apparel, carpets (TULAC); Food contact materials and packaging; and Petroleum and mining.

2. REACH Regulation

Next steps:

- The call for evidence on aromatic brominated substances will end on 5 April 2024. In addition, the ECHA is expected to launch a second call for evidence, with a focus on alternatives, during the second quarter of 2024. The Commission wishes to receive ECHA's Investigation Report by the end of 2024.
- ECHA is expected to come forward with a restriction dossier on 4-OPnEO and 4-NPnEO.
- As for the proposal to restrict PFAS, the ECHA is expected to make further information available about the Committees' plans to evaluate the remaining sectors and about the next procedural steps in the future. Before finalising its opinion, SEAC would submit a draft version of the opinion to a 2-month consultation. Due to the complexity of the file, RAC and SEAC will take longer than 12 months to adopt their opinion. Based on the ECHA opinion (the compilation of the opinions of RAC and SEAC), the Commission may decide to draft an amendment to restrict non-essential uses of PFASs under the REACH Regulation. This is expected at the end of 2024, at the earliest.
- Regarding the REACH Regulation revision, the Commission has yet to make a proposal for revision. It will likely go through the Ordinary Legislative Procedure under the next parliamentary term (most likely from 2025).

3. CLP Regulation

Background:

- Regulation on the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) of chemical substances ([1272/2008](#)):
 - Harmonises the criteria for classification of substances and mixtures, and the rules on labelling and packaging for hazardous substances and mixtures.
 - Sets out obligations for manufacturers, importers and downstream users to classify substances and mixtures placed on the market, and obligations for suppliers to label and package substances and mixtures placed on the market (among others).
- The Commission's 2020 Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability announced the revision of the Regulation. On 19 December 2022, the Commission released a revision [proposal](#). The Parliament and Council reached a [provisional agreement](#) on 5 December 2023, including the following measures:
 - Clear labelling of hazardous chemicals (e.g. minimum font size, labels that are clear for people with impaired eyesight).
 - The possibility for businesses to use fold-out labels and voluntary digital labelling. Important safety information must remain visible on the package. For some products, the supplier can provide digital-only data but the consumer can request a physical copy of the product information.
 - For online sales of hazardous chemicals, websites will have to display the hazardous properties of products.
 - Regarding advertising, statements inconsistent with a product's classification would be banned (e.g. non-toxic, non-harmful, non-polluting, ecological, or other green claims).
 - The Commission will also have the right to develop classification proposals on potentially hazardous substances, not only Member States and industry. This will speed up the identification of hazardous substances.
 - Rules on refillable chemical products bought at refill stations, to prevent risks like overfilling, contamination, etc. This will also help to reduce packaging waste.
 - Updated rules for classifying multi-constituent substances.

3. CLP Regulation

Latest developments:

- On 22 December 2023, Council's COREPER endorsed the provisional agreement.
- On 11 January 2024, Parliament's ENVI Committee endorsed the provisional agreement.

3. CLP Regulation

Next steps:

- The Parliament is scheduled to adopt the provisional agreement in Plenary on 23 April 2024.
- If adopted by the Parliament, the Council would then adopt the final law, after which it is published in the EU Official Journal. The measure would enter into force 20 days thereafter.
- Some of the new provisions will apply 18 months after entry into force, while others will apply after 24 months (as agreed in trilogues).

4. Climate Target 2024

Background:

- In 2021, the Commission published the European Climate Law ([2021/1119](#)) which establishes binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The law sets the EU's target to reduce emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and to reach climate neutrality by 2050. Other relevant provisions included in the law are the following:
 - Transition to cleaner technologies: the law emphasizes investing in green technologies to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.
 - Innovation and circular economy: the law promotes a circular economy, emphasizing resource efficiency and waste reduction.
 - Carbon footprint of maritime transport: encourages the industry to explore carbon offset measures, such as reforestation projects or emissions trading, to balance out their impact.

4. Climate Target 2024

Latest developments:

- On 6 February 2024, the Commission released a [Communication](#): "Securing our future, Europe's 2040 climate target and path to climate neutrality by 2050 building a sustainable, just and prosperous society".
- The Communication aims to complement the European Climate Law by establishing a 90% net greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by 2040.
- Some of the key aspects of the Communication are the following:
 - The announcement of a legislative proposal by the next Commission after the European elections (most likely to amend the European Climate Law).
 - A list of enabling policy conditions necessary to achieve the 90% target including a full implementation of the agreed 2030 framework and a strategic dialogue on the post-2030 framework. As for the maritime sector:
 - Deployment of renewable and low carbon fuels and zero-emission vessels.
 - Investments in infrastructure for refuelling and recharging.
 - The Commission will organise calls for proposals with dedicated topics for the maritime sector under the Innovation Fund.
 - As agreed in 2023, in 2026, the Commission will assess an extension of the carbon pricing for the aviation and maritime sectors (e.g. to cover excluded vessels below 5000 GT).
 - The use of renewable fuels should be prioritised for the maritime and aviation sector, where there is no possibility of electrification.

4. Climate Target 2040

Next steps:

- Even though this Communication is non-binding, it has strong political meaning and lays the way for the next Commission to propose an amendment to the European Climate Law after the elections, calling to include the proposed 90% net greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by 2040 in the law.
- The Commission's legislative proposal to amend the European Climate Law is expected for early 2025.

5. Ecodesign Regulation

Background (I):

- Ecodesign Directive ([2009/125](#)): establishes a framework for minimum ecodesign requirements that goods which consume energy must meet before they can be used or sold (does not apply to transport).
- Proposal for an Ecodesign Regulation ([2022](#)) to replace the Directive:
 - Extension of scope: the Regulation will apply to all physical goods placed on the market. Nonetheless, ecodesign requirements will be set out through future Delegated Acts for specific products.
 - General ecodesign requirements:
 - Product durability, reliability, reusability and reparability.
 - Energy use or energy efficiency.
 - Resource use or resource efficiency.
 - Information and labelling requirements: Digital Product Passport.
- Based on the [report](#) from the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Commission published on 31 January 2023 the proposed [draft](#) list of priority products to be regulated through future Delegated Acts:
 - 12 end-use products: textiles and footwear, furniture, ceramic products, tyres, detergents, bed mattresses, lubricants, paints and varnishes, cosmetic products, toys, fishing nets and gears and absorbent hygiene products.
 - 7 intermediary products: iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, aluminium, chemicals, plastic and polymers, paper, pulp paper and boards, glass.
 - 3 horizontal measures: durability, recyclability and post-consumer recycled content.

5. Ecodesign Regulation

Background (II):

- On 4 December 2023, the co-legislators reached a [provisional agreement](#) during the third trilogue. The agreed text includes the following provisions
 - Regarding the scope, the text adds practices leading to the malfunctioning of products due to product design features or unavailability of updates. Contrary, it excludes motor vehicles.
 - Extension of ecodesign requirements to include the presence of chemical substances that inhibit reuse and recycling of materials.
 - Agreement with the possibility for the Commission to adopt Delegated Acts establishing ecodesign requirements for specific products. These will apply 18 months after the entry into force (earlier date of application under some circumstances).
 - Establishment of a public web portal accompanying the Digital Product Passport. It would allow consumers to search and compare information included in the passports.
 - Regarding the first working plan to set out priority criteria for products to be regulated by Delegated Acts:
 - It must be adopted within 9 months of the entry into force of the Regulation.
 - Inclusion of a list of priority products: textiles (notably garments and footwear), furniture, tyres, detergents, paints, lubricants, chemicals, iron, steel and aluminium, as well as energy-related products, ICT products and other electronics - plastics are not mentioned.
 - Harmonisation criteria for penalties. However, Member States will be responsible for determining which penalties should be imposed.

5. Ecodesign Regulation

Latest developments:

- On 22 December 2023, Council's COREPER endorsed the provisional agreement.
- On 11 January 2024, Parliament's ENVI Committee endorsed the provisional agreement.

5. Ecodesign Regulation

Next steps:

- The Parliament is expected to vote on the provisional agreement in Plenary on 25 April 2024. The Council would then adopt the final law, after which it is published in the EU Official Journal. Once adopted, it will enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal.
- After this happens, the first working plan that will set out the prioritised products and their ecodesign requirements will be adopted.
- 18 Delegated Acts are expected to be published between 2024 and 2027, and 12 Delegated Acts between 2028 and 2030.
- By 2026, Member States will have to implement the law.

6. Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)

Background:

- On 16 March 2023, the Commission released its [proposal](#) for a Net-Zero Industry Act.
- The proposal aims to:
 - Ensure that by 2030, manufacturing capacity in the EU of certain strategic net-zero technologies approaches or reaches at least 40% of the EU's annual deployment needs for those technologies.
 - Ensure the free movement of net-zero technologies placed on the EU Single Market.
- The proposal includes 9 strategic net-zero technologies: solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technologies, onshore wind and offshore renewable technologies, battery/storage technologies, heat pumps and geothermal energy, electrolyzers and fuel cells, sustainable biogas/biomethane, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and grid technologies.
- The proposal includes the following measures:
 - Setting up a streamlined permit-granting process for net-zero technology manufacturing projects. Each Member State would have a single competent authority in charge of permitting processes.
 - Increasing CO2 injection capacity, by establishing an EU single market for CO2 storage services.
 - Incentivising demand for net-zero technologies, for instance through public procurement and auctions to deploy renewable energy sources.
 - Specialised European skills academies for net-zero technologies will be established in collaboration with Member States, industries, and education providers to train and enhance workers' skills.
 - Fostering innovation by establishing net-zero regulatory sandboxes to test technologies in a controlled environment.
- On 21 November 2023, the Parliament adopted its negotiating [position](#), while the Council adopted its [position](#) on 7 December 2023. A first trilogue was held on 13 December 2023, although little progress was made.

6. Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)

Latest developments:

- The [provisional agreement](#) was reached on 6 February 2024. The key aspects of the agreement are:
 - The inclusion of the target to reach a minimum domestic production capacity of 40% of the EU's annual deployment needs for all net-zero technologies and their supply chains.
 - An extended list of 19 net-zero technologies, adding sustainable biogas and biomethane technologies; nuclear fission energy technologies, including nuclear fuel cycle technologies; sustainable alternative fuels technologies; hydropower technologies; renewable energy technologies, not covered under the previous categories; energy system-related energy efficiency technologies, including heat grid technologies; renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies; biotech climate and energy solutions; transformative industrial technologies for decarbonisation not covered under the previous categories; CO2 transport and utilisation technologies; wind propulsion and electric propulsion technologies for transportation; and nuclear technologies not covered under previous categories.
 - The manufacturing of these net-zero technologies will benefit from the "strategic project" status, which will allow for faster permitting procedures based on the project size and GW capacity.
 - The permit-granting process should take at most 18 months for regular projects and 12 months for strategic projects.
 - Those projects will benefit from faster financing through the Strategic Technologies Europe Platform ([STEP](#)) despite its absence in the Council General Approach.
 - The initial proposal included references to several Union funding programmes, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility, to fund strategic projects but the provisional agreement focuses on STEP, which will leverage and steer resources across 11 EU funding programmes to 3 target investments (digital technologies and deep-tech innovation, clean and resource efficient technologies and biotechnologies). The first calls are expected to be published in Q2 2024.

6. Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)

Next steps:

- The Parliament is now scheduled to vote on whether to adopt the provisional agreement as its first reading position during the plenary session to be held on 23 April 2024.
- Once both the Parliament and the Council adopt the agreement on their side, the text will be officially published in the EU Official Journal.

7. 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 proposal will also amend:
 - The Regulation on market surveillance and compliance of products (2019/1020).
 - The Directive on the impact of plastic products (2019/904)
- This 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.
- Some of the main measures are the following:
 - Sustainability requirements for producers: provisions which limit the use of environmentally damaging materials for packaging, both in the conception and design of the packaging product but also criteria for what may be considered "recycled packaging" with minimum percentages of recycled material that must be contained.
 - Labelling, marking, and information requirements for producers: introduction of label detailing the composition of the packaging and its reusability.
 - Management of packaging waste requirements and also penalties.
- The Parliament adopted its negotiating [position](#) on 22 November 2023.
- The Council adopted its negotiating [position](#) on 18 December 2023.

7. Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

Latest developments:

- The [provisional agreement](#) was reached on 4 March 2024. Main measures can be summarised as follows:
 - Recycled content targets: The agreement maintains 5% by 2030, 10% by 2035 and 15% by 2040 headline targets for minimum recycled content in plastic packaging. However, it exempts compostable plastic packaging and packaging where the plastic component represents less than 5% of the total weight from these targets. The Commission will review the implementation of these targets.
 - Sustainability requirements for producers:
 - All packaging must be recyclable, with specific criteria outlined in the Regulation and further defined through secondary legislation.
 - The presence of harmful substances must be minimized, with strict limits on lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium concentrations not exceeding 100 mg/kg. Future regulations may further reduce these limits. By 2026, the Commission will issue a report on the presence of harmful substances in packaging and consider additional measures.
 - Packaging must contain minimum levels of recycled content, varying by type and format, ranging from 10% to 35% sourced from post-consumer plastic waste.
 - To reduce packaging waste, binding reuse targets are established, certain single-use packaging types are restricted, and economic operators are required to minimise packaging usage.
 - Labelling, marking and information requirements for producers: Packaging shall be marked with a label containing information on its material composition. QR code detailing the reusability of the packaging must be made available. The agreement introduces harmonisation requirements for packaging labels.

7. Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

Next steps:

- The agreement is expected to be endorsed by the Parliament's ENVI Committee on 19 March 2024. The Plenary is expected to adopt the provisional agreement on 22-25 April 2024.
- If adopted in plenary, it will be sent to the Council for approval, and the final law will be adopted.

8. Ocean governance

Background:

- In January 2018, the Parliament adopted a [Resolution](#) titled "International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals". Through the [Oceans Roadmap 2.0](#), released in June 2018, the UN and the Commission agreed to deepen their cooperation and to continue to support the conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
- In June 2020, the Commission published the [EU Blue Economy Report 2020](#), on the performance of economic sectors linked to oceans and coastal environments.
- In July 2020, the Commission released the [Atlantic Action Plan 2.0](#), formally called "An updated action plan for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the EU Atlantic area". In response, in September 2021, the Parliament adopted a [Resolution](#) titled "A new approach to the Atlantic maritime strategy".
- In June 2022, the Commission published a [Joint Communication](#) titled "Setting the course for a sustainable blue planet – Joint Communication on the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda".
- On 6 October 2022, the Parliament adopted a [Resolution](#) titled "Momentum for the Ocean: Strengthening Ocean Governance and Biodiversity".
- On 13 December 2022, at the General Affairs Council (meeting of European Affairs Ministers), Ministers adopted [Council Conclusions](#) on International Ocean Governance for safe, secure, clean, healthy and sustainably managed oceans and seas. This is the Council's response to the Commission's Joint Communication from 24 June 2022 on "Setting the course for a sustainable blue planet – Joint Communication on the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda".

8. Ocean governance

Latest developments:

- The 6th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) was held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi.
- UNEA-6 adopted the following items:
 - [Ministerial Declaration](#): The Ministerial Declaration of UNEA-6 advances the collective resolve to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, committing the world's ministers to cooperate for effective, inclusive and sustainable solutions for the planet under a reinvigorated environmental multilateral system.
 - Two decisions.
 - [Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly](#)
 - [Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions](#)
 - 15 resolutions, among others:
 - [Strengthening ocean and seas governance](#): This resolution urges Member States to adopt, ratify and implement relevant regional seas conventions, protocols and action plans and act decisively to improve the health, productivity and resilience of the ocean as well as undertake legal reforms tackling ship-source marine pollution crimes and marine waste disposal legislation, and end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

9. Ocean governance

Next steps:

- The 7th session of the UNNEA-6 is scheduled for 8-12 December 2025.

9. European elections

The European elections will take place between 6-9 June 2024. These elections will reshape the composition of key EU institutions and dictate the priorities and political agenda for the upcoming term (2024 – 2029). After the EU elections, the process of appointing the President of the European Commission, the Commissioners, and other high-level positions, will begin.

European Commission

Current President of the European Commission Ursula Von der Leyen (EPP, Germany) is likely going to be re-elected. She has been elected as the EPP lead candidate and counts with support from Members of the European Parliament and Member States. Von der Leyen's next term aims to strengthen European defense and industry, though climate policies may lessen their importance.

As for the Commissioners, their appointment will depend on their national governments. In addition, although some of them might run again, their portfolio could change. Some research entities ([EUMatrix](#)) have provided the following predictions:

- Former VP for the EU Green Deal and Climate Commissioner Timmermans (Greens, The Netherlands). In August 2023, Timmermans resigned as Commissioner after driving key climate policies during the current term to return to national politics.
- Climate Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra (EPP, The Netherlands). It is unclear whether the successor of Timmermans will run again. In case of rerunning, it is unlikely that he will have an ambitious position towards climate policies.
- VP for the EU Green Deal Maroš Šefčovič (S&D, Slovakia). His future is unclear. His profile is moderated.
- Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton (Renew, France). He is expected to be reappointed. His position will normally be favourable to industry, in particular European industry.
- Transport Commissioner Adina Vălean (EPP, Romania). She will not run again.
- Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager (Renew, Denmark). She will not run again.

9. European elections

European Parliament

During Q1 2024, different polls ([European Council on Foreign Relations](#), [Contexte](#)) on the EU elections have revealed a rightward shift in European Parliament, with EPP (centre-right) and S&D (centre-left) potentially losing seats while Renew (Liberals) and the Greens are highly expected to suffer losses. The Left group could see an increase. ID (far right) could emerge as the third-largest group, and the ECR (conservatives) is anticipated to gain seats.

As a result, although a centrist coalition (EPP + S&D + Renew) would be the biggest one, a right-wing coalition could be possible for certain policies. These changes may lessen the relevance of climate policies in the EU's agenda.

In recent months, several political groups have worked on their manifestos outlining their priorities for the 2024-2029 mandate:

- EPP's [draft manifesto](#) defends an industrial approach, and states they are in favour of technological neutrality (including low-carbon fuels).
- S&D's draft [manifesto](#) proposes to set a strong EU climate target for 2040. In general, the manifesto focuses on social conditions, together with a competitive European economy and the green transition.
- ALDE's (Renew) [manifesto](#) advocates for comprehensive decarbonization plans for all transport modes, focusing on infrastructure development, electrification, and active mobility. Moreover, the manifesto calls to strengthen the single market and for streamlining bureaucratic processes.
- The Greens' [manifesto](#) stresses that the European industrial policy must go in line with ambitious sustainability measures, aiming for complete climate neutrality by 2040. They propose exceeding the 55% reduction target in GHG emissions by 2030 and transitioning the EU energy system entirely to renewables, eliminating fossil fuels by 2040.

contact.

logos

secretariat@logos-pa.com

www.logos-pa.com

logos public affairs

Avenue des Arts, 47

1000 Brussels

+32 02 588 24 31

logos

earn trust.
make change.