

Press Release

Brussels, 27-03-2019

Press Contact

PlasticsEurope AISBL

Camelia Vasile

Media Relations Manager

Phone: +32 (2) 792 3021

camelia.vasile@plasticseurope.org

The Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive was adopted today

PlasticsEurope calls for coherent cross implementation by Member States

PlasticsEurope fully endorses the objective of stopping waste of any kind, including plastic waste, from being littered and leaking into the environment. This is why we welcome the formal adoption of the SUP Directive by the European Parliament today.

In particular, we welcome the advancements of the SUP Directive in terms of acknowledging that the fight against litter is a shared responsibility between competent authorities, producers and consumers. It is only with the help of other stakeholders, including private or public waste operators and local authorities, that plastics manufacturers can take action in order to find workable solutions.

We now call for the next step contemplated by the Directive. Setting guidelines on definitions and categories should follow promptly to avoid the risk that different interpretations will prevail among Member States. This could lead to adoption of provisions that could go beyond the requirements of the Directive and hamper the correct functioning of the EU Single Market.

This is why we call for the EU Commission to:

- i) ensure a highly rigorous monitoring and assessment of the upcoming national transposing measures and;
- ii) promptly act to prevent undue market distortions which can cause economic losses without achieving the desired waste prevention objectives.

Karl-H. Foerster, Executive Director of PlasticsEurope, stated:

“We will continue working with the value chain and engaging with the relevant policy makers in order to identify and implement the most efficient solutions to prevent littering and develop new ways to boost reuse and recycling.”

We look forward to continuing collaborating with the relevant stakeholders at both EU and national level in order to make sure that plastics will contribute to achieving a circular and resource efficient Europe.

Editors' note

PlasticsEurope is one of the leading European trade associations with centres in Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Milan and Paris. We are networking with European and national plastics associations and have more than 100 member companies, producing over 90% of all polymers across the EU28 member states plus Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.45 million people are working in 62,000 companies (mainly small and medium sized companies in the converting sector) to create a turnover above 350 bn EUR per year. The plastics industry includes polymer producers - represented by PlasticsEurope, converters - represented by EuPC - and machine manufacturers - represented by EUROMAP.

For further info see the web links: www.plasticseurope.org, www.plasticsconverters.eu, www.euromap.org.