



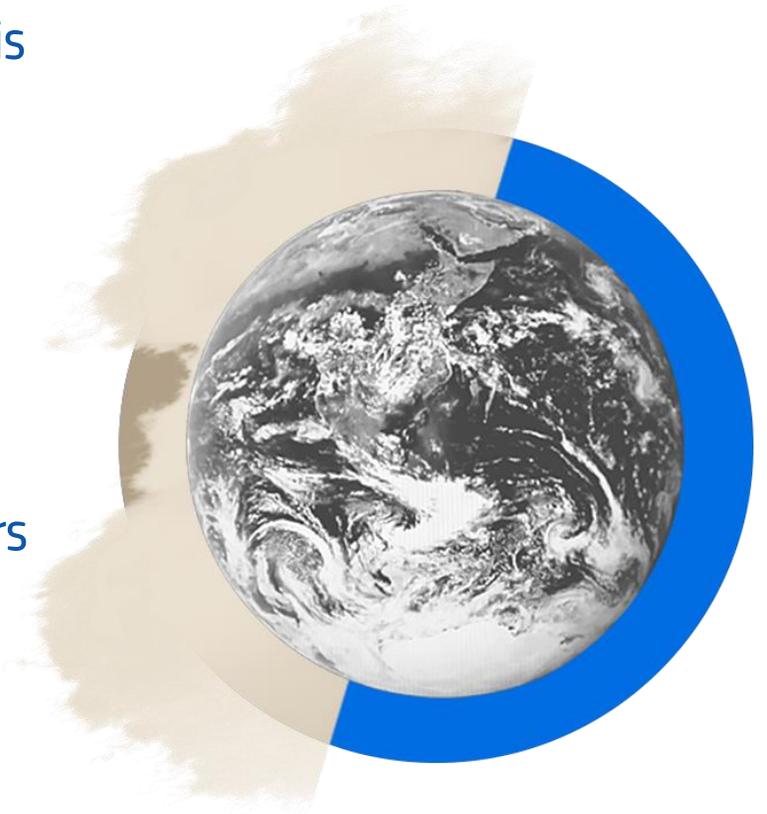
Transition to a circular economy – EU policy framework and role of regional cooperation

6th July 2023

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What is at stake?

- Multiple **crises**: climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution – all driven by unsustainable use of resources; energy crisis, cost-of-living crisis
- Global **population** set to increase to **10 billion** by 2050
- Only one planet Earth, yet by 2050, we will be consuming as if there were three
- Global **consumption of materials** such as biomass, fossil fuels, metals and minerals is expected to **double** in the next forty years
- Annual **waste** generation is projected to **increase by 70%** by 2050



3 major interrelated ecological crises

We are encountering three major interrelated ecological crises...



Climate change

Biodiversity loss

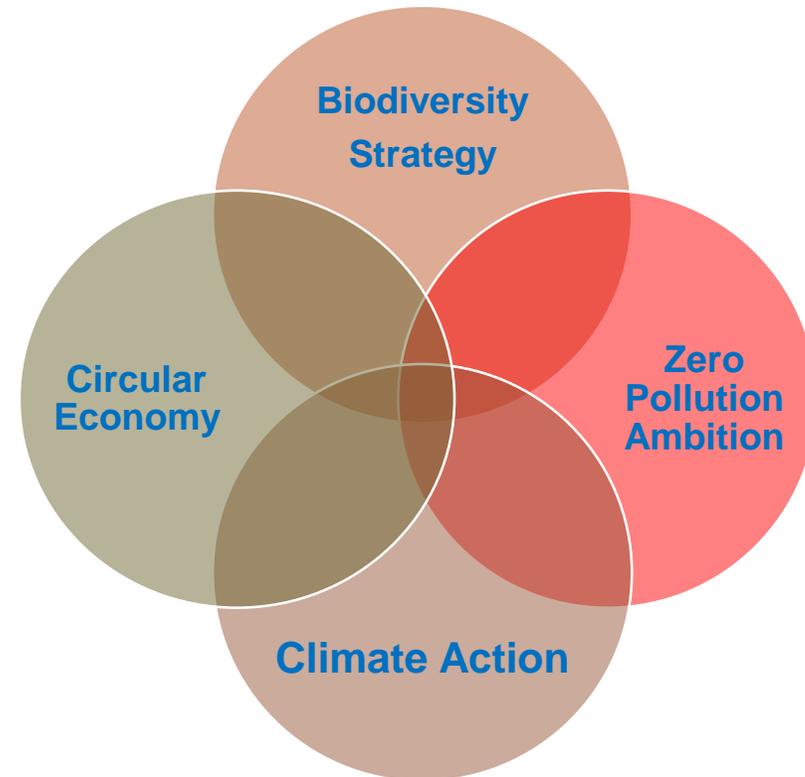


Pollution



... and our **unsustainable use of resources** is a key driver for all of them.

... and the EU is responding with interrelated solutions!



The von der Leyen Commission

Priorities of the Commission 2019 - 2024



*“I will propose a **European Green Deal** in my first 100 days in office”*

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European
Commission

- 1 A European Green Deal**
- 2 An economy that works for people**
- 3 A Europe fit for the digital age**
- 4 Protecting our European way of life**
- 5 A stronger Europe in the world**
- 6 A new push for European democracy**

**CLIMATE
PACT AND CLIMATE
LAW**

**PROMOTING
CLEAN
ENERGY**

**INVESTING IN MORE
SUSTAINABLE,
SMARTER MOBILITY**

PROTECTING NATURE

**STRIVING
FOR GREENER
INDUSTRY**

The European Green Deal

**FROM FARM
TO FORK**

**ELIMINATING
POLLUTION**

**LEADING THE
GREEN CHANGE
GLOBALLY**

**ENSURING
A JUST TRANSITION
FOR ALL**

**MAKING
HOMES ENERGY
EFFICIENT**

**FINANCING
GREEN
PROJECTS**

European Green Deal: environmental pillars

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- **Plastics**
- **Textiles**
- **Constructions**
- **Chemicals**
- **Waste**
- **Batteries**
- ...

BIODIVERSITY

- **Agriculture**
- **Forests**
- **Soil**
- **Nitrates**
- **Protected areas**
- **Pollinators**
- ...

ZERO POLLUTION

- **Water (marine & fresh)**
- **Air**
- **Mercury**
- **Industrial emissions**
- **Noise**
- ...



Circular Economy: need for action



➤ From 1970 to 2017, the annual global extraction of materials **tripled** and it continues to grow.

Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook](#), 2019



➤ More than **90%** of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing.

Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook](#), 2019



➤ Annual waste generation will increase by **70%** by 2050

Source: [World Bank](#) What a waste 2.0, 2018



➤ Only **12%** of the materials used by EU industry come from recycling.

Source: [Eurostat](#), 2016 figures

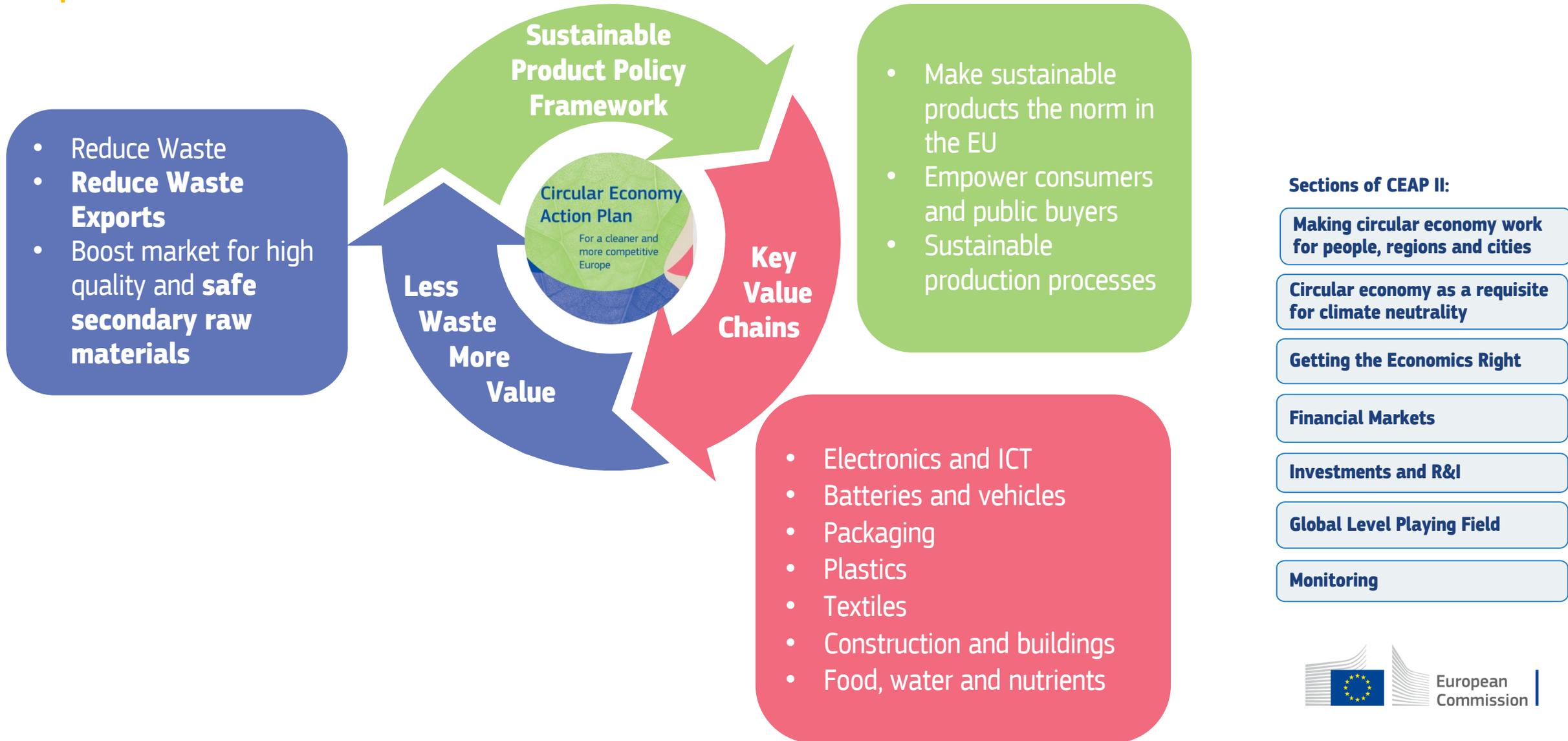


➤ About **50%** of total greenhouse gas emissions come from resource extraction and processing

Source: The International Resource Panel, [Global Resources Outlook](#), 2019

There is only one planet Earth, yet by 2050, the world will be consuming as if there were three

Changing the way Europe consumes and produces



Towards a global circular economy



Leading efforts at global level to:

Keep resource use within planetary boundaries

Decouple global economic growth from resource use

Promote jobs creation within and outside the EU

An agenda to promote CE at bilateral, regional and multilateral level, including through development & international cooperation programmes

Kick-start negotiations for a Global agreement on plastics

At UNEA 5.2, March 2022, resolution adopted to fight pollution by forging an internationally binding agreement by 2024

Global Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency Alliance

*Launched 02/2021
UNEA 5.1*



CE in free trade agreements

Outreach activities – i.a. Circular Economy Missions

Ongoing

Initiate discussions for a global agreement on natural resource management + 'Safe operating space' for natural resource use



['Leading the way to a global circular economy: state of play and outlook'](#)

Making sustainable products the norm in the EU

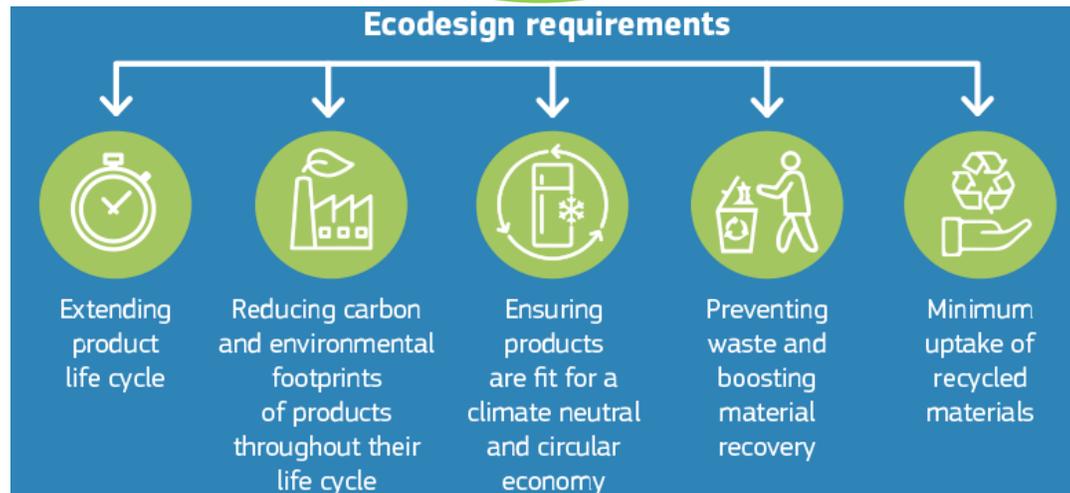
Impact of current
ecodesign
and energy labelling
legislation

€ 120 billion
saved in energy
expenditure
for consumers
in 2021 alone



Wider range of requirements and products covered:

- product durability, reusability, upgradability and reparability
- presence of substances that inhibit circularity
- energy and resource efficiency
- recycled content
- remanufacturing and recycling
- carbon and environmental footprints
- information requirements, including a Digital Product Passport



EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles



European consumption of textiles has the **fourth highest impact** on the environment and climate change, after food, housing and mobility.



1% of material used to produce clothing is recycled into new clothing (globally)



About 5.8 million tonnes of textiles are discarded every year, equivalent to 11.3 kg per person (EU)



Almost 9/10 Europeans (88%) think that clothing should be made to last longer



Textiles production doubled between 2000 and 2015 (globally)

Key actions:

1. New design requirements for textiles under the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation**
2. Stopping the destruction of unsold or returned textiles
3. Action to address the unintentional release of **microplastics** from synthetic textiles
4. Clearer information on textiles and a **Digital Product Passport**
5. Tackle **greenwashing**
6. Propose mandatory **Extended Producer Responsibility** for textiles with eco-modulation of fees

Directive on single-use plastics and fishing gear



Different measures for **each item** taking into account:

- **consumer behaviour/needs**
- **opportunities for businesses**

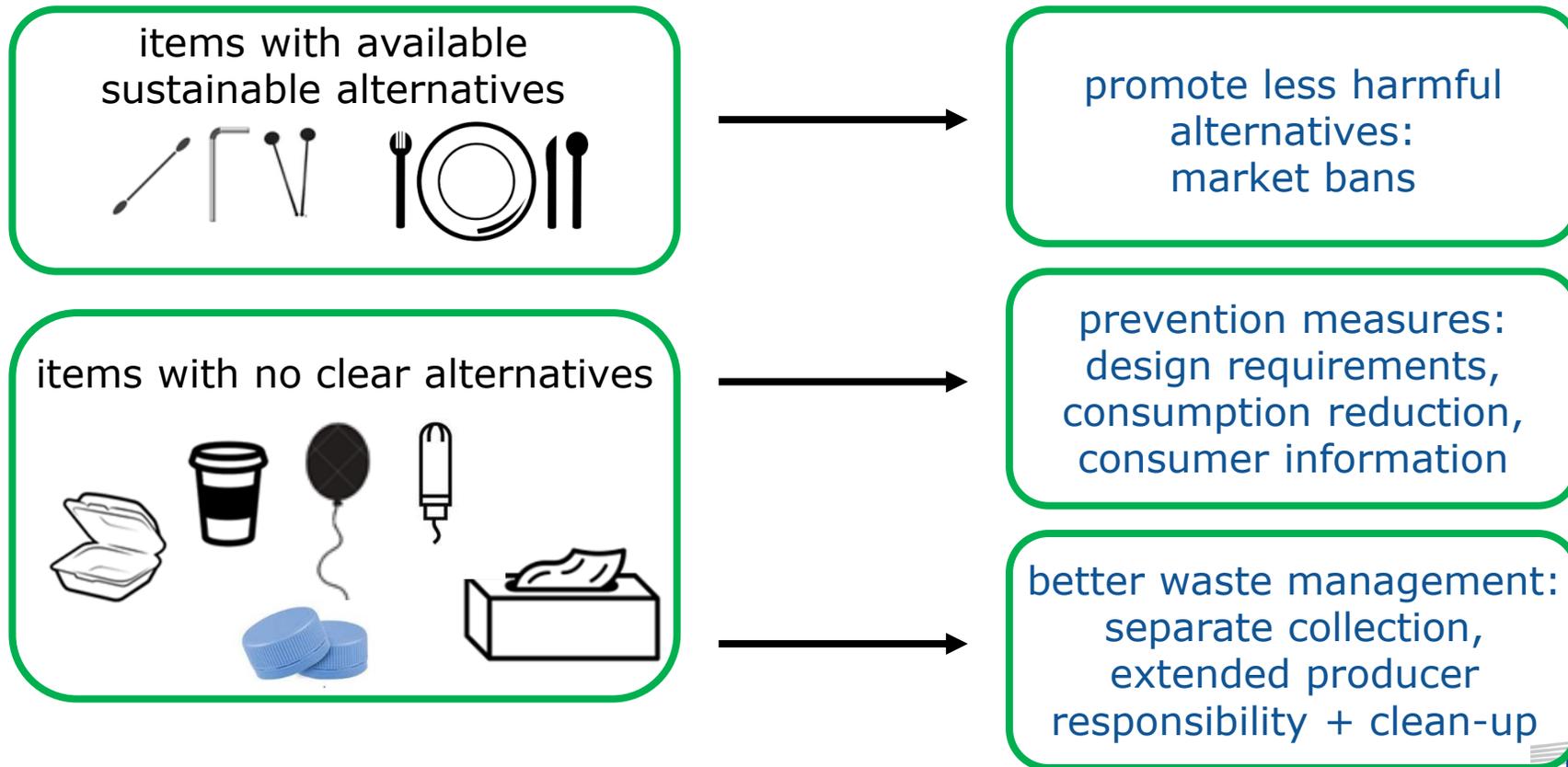


Adopted by EP: March 2019
Council's vote: April 2019

10 most common plastic objects found on European beaches



Aim - reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment





In conclusion:

- **Crucial to integrate environment and climate issues into all policy areas – whole-of-government approach**
- **EU recognises need for ambitious but achievable targets to stimulate action at regional and global level**
- **The issues are transboundary and impact on broader issues, such as trade and access to markets, therefore require cooperation between countries to achieve the objectives**