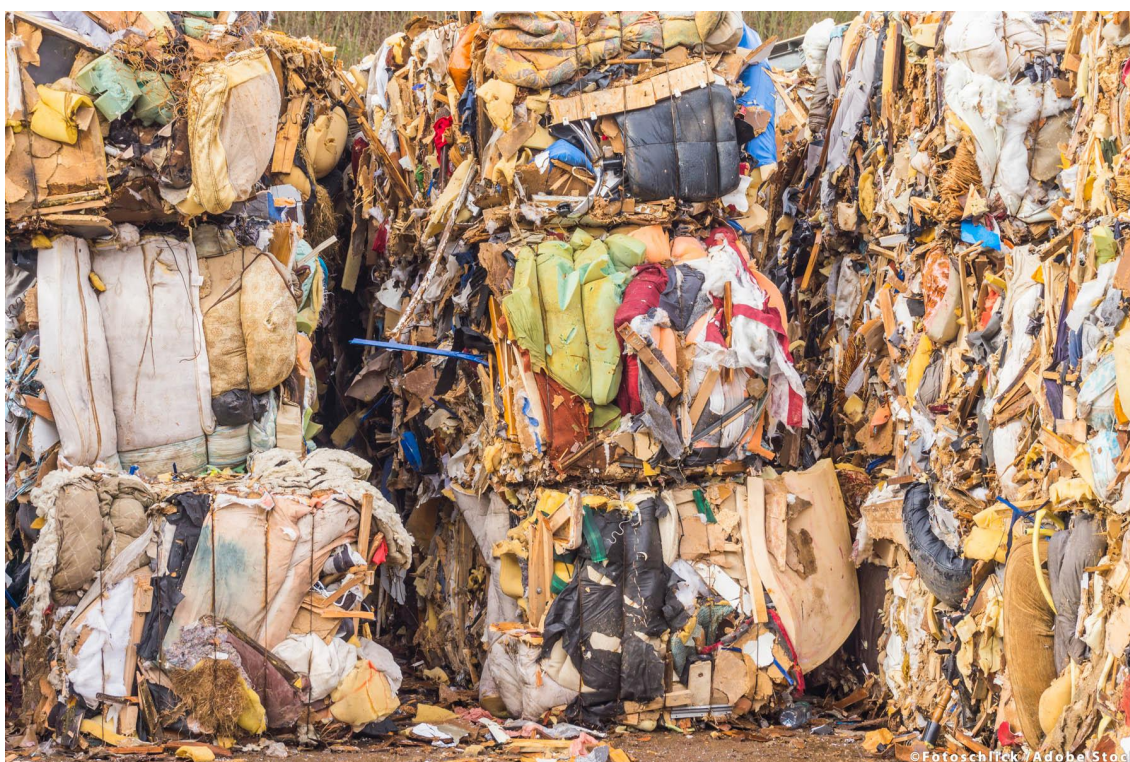


Circular economy: MEPs call for tighter EU consumption and recycling rules

- Binding 2030 targets needed for materials use and consumption footprint
- Ecodesign Directive must include non-energy-related products
- Green Deal objectives can only be achieved through circular economy model



MEPs call for binding 2030 targets for materials use and consumption footprint ©AdobeStock_Fotoschlick

Parliament adopted comprehensive policy recommendations to achieve a carbon-neutral, sustainable, toxic-free and fully circular economy by 2050 at the latest.

The report, adopted today with 574 votes in favour, 22 against and 95 abstentions, is a response to the Commission's [Circular Economy Action Plan](#).

Binding 2030 targets are needed for materials use and our consumption footprint, covering the whole lifecycle of each product category placed on the EU market, MEPs stress. They also call on the Commission to propose product-specific and/or sector-specific binding targets for recycled content.

Parliament urges the Commission to put forward new legislation in 2021, broadening the scope of the [Ecodesign Directive](#) to include non-energy-related products. This should set product-specific standards, so that products placed on the EU market perform well, are durable, reusable, can be easily repaired, are not toxic, can be upgraded and recycled, contain recycled content, and are resource- and energy-efficient. Other key recommendations are detailed [here](#).

In the plenary debate, MEPs also emphasised that achieving the Green Deal objectives will only be possible if the EU switches to a circular economy model, and that this change will create new jobs and business opportunities. Existing legislation on waste must be implemented more thoroughly, and further measures are needed for key sectors and products, such as textiles, plastics, packaging and electronics, MEPs added. Watch the full recording of the debate [here](#).

Context

In March 2020, the Commission adopted a new "[Circular Economy Action Plan](#) for a Cleaner and More Competitive Europe". A [debate](#) in the Environment Committee took place in October 2020, and the report was adopted on 27 January 2021.

Up to 80% of the environmental impact of products is determined at the design phase. The global consumption of materials is expected to double in the next forty years, while the amount of waste generated every year is projected to increase by 70% by 2050. Half of total greenhouse gas emissions, and more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress, come from extracting and processing resources.

Further information

[Adopted text will be available here](#)

[Recording of the debate in plenary \(8.02.2021\)](#)

[Press release following the committee vote \(27.01.2021\)](#)

[Video statement by rapporteur Jan Huitema \(Renew Europe, NL\) \(27.01.2021\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[EP News: How the EU wants to achieve a circular economy by 2050](#)

[EP Research Service: New circular economy action plan](#)

[Free photos, video and audio material related to circular economy](#)

[Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety](#)

Contacts

Dana POPP

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 28 46330 (BXL)

☎ (+33) 3 881 74903 (STR)

☎ (+32) 470 95 17 07

✉ dana.popp@europarl.europa.eu
