

## Spunti dal documento “A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy”

Riportiamo di seguito alcune parti del documento sulla strategia sulle plastiche (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy.pdf>) emesso in gennaio dalla Commissione Europea. Dal documento completo sono state estratte le parti che dovrebbero essere di maggior interesse per la nostra filiera. In allegato trovate una breve lista delle misure che la Commissione Europea prevede di prendere nei prossimi mesi/anni e le misure consigliate alle autorità nazionali e all'industria riportate in uno degli allegati al documento di riferimento.

- One of the reasons for the low use of recycled plastics is the misgivings of many product brands and manufacturers, who fear that recycled plastics will not meet their needs for a reliable, high-volume supply of materials with constant quality specifications. Plastics are often recycled by small and predominately regional facilities, and more scale and standardisation would support smoother market operation. With this in mind, the Commission is committed to working with the European Committee for Standardisation and the industry to develop quality standards for sorted plastic waste and recycled plastics.
- The chemical composition of recycled plastics and their suitability for the intended uses can also act as a barrier in some instances. Incidental contamination or lack of information about the possible presence of chemicals of concern is a problem for various streams of plastics waste. These uncertainties can also discourage demand for recycled plastics in a number of new products with specific safety requirements. The Commission's work on the interface between chemicals, waste and product policy is set to address some of these issues and will therefore contribute directly to increased uptake of recycled plastics. The EU will also finance research and innovation projects on better identification of contaminants and on decontamination of plastic waste through Horizon 2020.
- the Commission will work on integrating recycled content in Green Public Procurement criteria.
- National governments can also achieve a great deal through economic incentives and public procurement. The French system 'ORPLAST' or Italy's new rules on public procurement are two good examples of what could be done at national level. Similarly, local authorities can support the objective of this strategy when purchasing work, goods or services.
- National, regional and local authorities, in cooperation with waste management operators, have a key role to play in raising public awareness and ensure high-quality separate collection. Financial resources collected through the Extended Producer Responsibility schemes can do much to boost such efforts.
- Public authorities need to invest in extended and improved separate collection. Well-designed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes can play a key role to provide the necessary funding. In some countries with very high recycling rates, for example, most separate collection and treatment costs for packaging waste are financed through contributions paid by the producers.

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- being a source of financing, EPR can provide economic incentives for businesses to develop more sustainable plastic products. If well designed and implemented across Europe, EPR systems could help improve the efficiency of the recycling process, encourage design for recycling, reduce waste and littering and promote greater dialogue between producers, local authorities and recyclers. In its proposed review of waste legislation, the Commission aims to promote this model and make it more effective through minimum common requirements, based on existing best practice.

- Measures that increase the trust of operators and public authorities are needed to better integrate plastics recycling globally, and thus create a circular value chain across borders. For instance, the Commission will promote the development of international standards to boost industry confidence in the quality of recyclable or recycled plastics. It will also be important to ensure that any plastics sent abroad for recycling are handled and processed under conditions similar to those applicable in the EU under rules on waste shipments.

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