



# EU agenda on Circular Economy and Circular Electronics Initiative

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*DG Environment*

*European Commission*

***WEEE Plastics Recycling***  
International Bromine Council  
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# A new vision for Europe



## *35 actions along the entire life cycle of products, to:*

- Make **sustainable products** the norm in the EU
- **Empower** consumers and public buyers
- **Focus also on key product value chains:** **electronics and ICT**; batteries and vehicles; packaging; plastics; textiles; construction and buildings; food; water and nutrients
- Ensure **less waste**
- Make circularity work for **people, regions** and **cities**
- **Lead global efforts** on circular economy

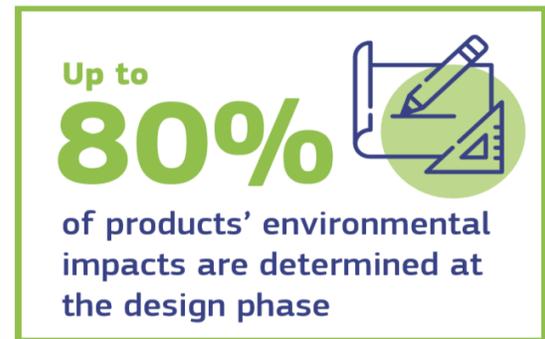
# Sustainable Products Initiative

Sustainable Products Initiative aimed at:

- **Extending product lifetime** (*durability, reparability, upgradability, counter premature obsolescence, addressing the presence of hazardous chemicals in products*)
- **Improving overall 'circularity'** (*remanufacturing, recyclability, recycled content, restrict single use*)
- **Reducing emissions, pollution and waste** (*chemicals, carbon/env footprint, efficiency, etc*)
- **More circular 'handling'** (*destruction unsold goods, product-as-a-service, reward sust. performance*)

**Digitalisation** as a key enabler: *digital product passport, supported by European Dataspace*

« **Sustainable products should be the norm, not the exception** »



The roadmap for the Sustainable Product Initiative is published::

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12567-Sustainable-Products-Initiative>

The feedback period for the inception impact assessment was until **16 November 2020**

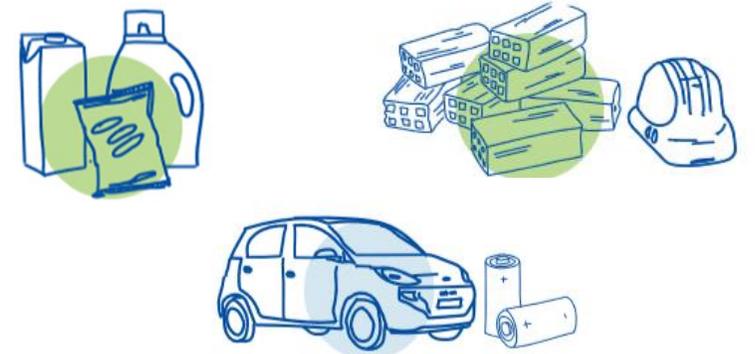
# Europe's strategy for plastics in the circular economy

## *Aim Plastics Strategy: Recycled content*

**10 million tons of recycled plastics** in new products on the EU market by 2025



**Mandatory requirements** for key products such as packaging, construction materials and vehicles



# The Circular Plastics Alliance



# Less waste, more value

✓ **Preventing waste, but if created, transform into high-quality resources**

✓ **A toxic-free environment**

- high-quality sorting and removing contaminants from waste
- minimise the presence of substances that pose problems to health or the environment in recycled materials and articles made thereof;
- harmonised systems to track and manage information on substances identified as being of very high concern and other relevant substances
- propose amending the annexes to the Regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- improve the classification and management of hazardous waste

✓ **A well-functioning EU market for secondary raw materials**

- Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
- Review rules on waste shipments



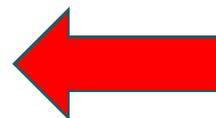
# Key product value chains



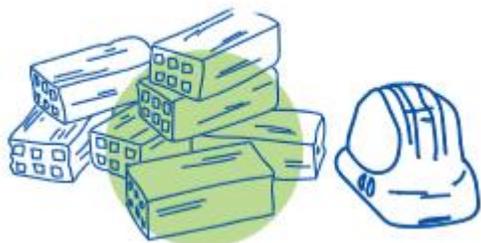
**Food, water & nutrients**



**Electronics and ICT**



**Batteries & vehicles**



**Construction & buildings**



**Textiles**



**Plastics**



**Packaging**

# WHY electronics and ICT?

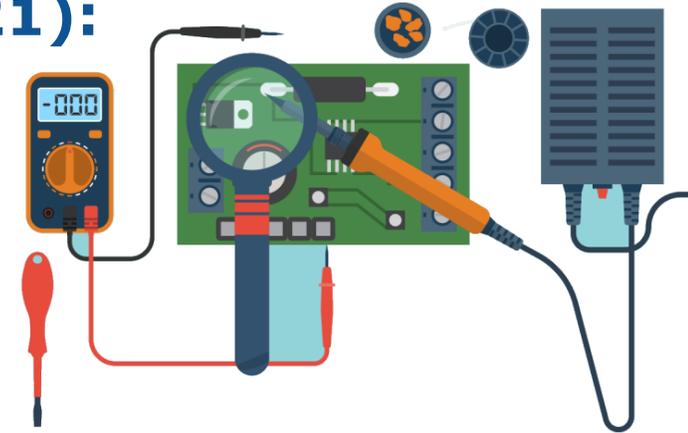
- **Increasing production and sale of smartphones:**
  - Expected to grow by **28%** from 2020 to 2025
  - Accounts for up to **80%** of the devices lifecycle GHG emissions, not their actual use
  - Increasing the lifespan of all smartphones in the EU by 1 year would reduce emissions equivalent to taking 1 million cars of the roads
- **Growing electronic waste (e-waste):**
  - One of the **fastest growing** waste streams (Europe is 1<sup>st</sup> worldwide per capita)
  - Less than **42%** of electronics are currently being **recycled** in the EU
  - Around **€55 billion** in materials are **lost** globally every year (€12Bn in the EU)
- **Europeans want it (Eurobarometer March 2020):**
  - **64%** of Europeans would like to use their phone for at least **5 years**
  - **79%** thinks that manufacturers should be **required** to make it **easier to repair** digital devices or replace their individual parts
- **Limited legislation** is currently in place to address these challenges and improve the circularity of ICT products.



# The Circular Electronics Initiative

- **The Circular Electronics Initiative aims to (by 2021):**

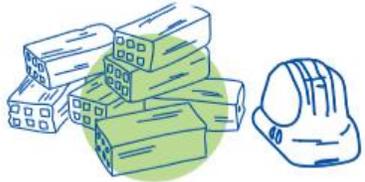
- **Extend the lifespan** of electronic devices
- Prevent **premature obsolescence**
- Promote **repair, recycling** and efficient use of **resources**



- **This could be achieved through:**

- **Design requirements** (e.g. durability, modularity, repairability, recyclability)
- **Information requirements** (e.g. repair manuals, source code, components/materials, availability of spare parts, tools, environmental footprint)
- Requirements on **spare parts** (e.g. production/supply, licensing)
- **A Right to Repair** (for consumers/users and 3<sup>rd</sup> party repairers)
- **Take-back schemes** and **common charger** standards

# Key product value chains: Electronics and ICT



## Circular Electronics Initiative

- Regulatory measures including mobile phones, tablets and laptops under the Ecodesign Directive
- Implementing the new “right to repair” and update obsolete software
- Introducing a common charger
- Explore EU-wide take back schemes to return or sell old mobile phones, tablets, laptops & chargers
- Restrictions of hazardous substances in electrical & electronic equipment

# HOW

- **Preparatory studies**

- Several studies pending to assess **new eco-design measures** for phones, tablets, laptops + IoT/edge and other electronic devices (incl. software)
- Ongoing studies on extending **consumer protection** legislation on horizontal rights to information/transparency and repair



- **Legislative actions (through existing or new instruments)**

- New minimum **design requirements** for ICT devices (e.g. phones, tablets and laptops): Implementing measures (current Ecodesign Directive)
- Enable measures beyond design requirements (e.g. **right to repair**): TBD – possibly via consumer protection legislation
- **Common Charger** (decoupling, collection): delegated act



- **Non-legislative actions**

- **Take-back scheme** (TBD)
- Capacity building (e.g. after-markets, repair/recycling)
- Improved consumer information (e.g. product passports, ecolabels)

# Thank you!

Learn more here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)

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