

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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INTERNAL MARKET

Machinery Directive (MD)

Further to the publication of the [IMCO amendments](#) on the proposed Machinery Regulation in November 2021, the rapporteur, Ivan Štefanec (EPP, Slovakia), and shadow rapporteurs have resumed their technical discussions on streamlining the 438 amendments that were tabled to the Commission proposal. The resulting [ten draft compromise amendments](#) (27/04/2022 update) included the amendments tabled by the EMPL Committee on Employment and Social Affairs focused on human-machine interaction.

Further to a series of additional technical meetings between the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs in April, the votes on the draft report and on the decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations took place on the 2 and 3 May 2022. The 10 compromise amendments tabled by the Rapporteur were adopted. The [IMCO Report \(5/5/2022\)](#) will then be submitted for approval in plenary meeting of the European Parliament on 18 May.

Industry's request to reinstate the self-certification option for Annex I machinery (high-risk machinery) and to disconnect the Machinery Directive from the ongoing discussion on the draft Artificial Intelligence Act were not fully retained.

At Council's level, the French Presidency has led numerous meetings of the Council Working Party on Technical Harmonisation until mid-May to reach a partial compromise on the articles and annexes of the Regulation. The Presidency now intends to submit its latest draft compromise text to the COREPER, which gathers country's deputy permanent representatives, on 18 May, and to reach a 'general approach' of the Council. This would enable them to start the trilogue negotiations with the European Parliament and the European Commission by the end of May for an expected conclusion by the end of June 2022.



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Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

The [Proposal for a revised Construction Products Regulation \(CPR\)](#) was adopted on 30 March 2022 as part of the Circular Economy Package I.

The Package aims to improve the free movement of construction products in the EU internal market. To this end it "lays down harmonised conditions for the marketing of those products, provides a framework for a common technical language to assess their performance and sets out provisions on the use of CE marking".

The Commission's suggestions cover some of the issues identified in the 2019 assessment, including: the scope of the CPR and anticipating new business models such as 3-D printing; CE marking and Declaration of Performance (DoP); the standardisation process; environmental aspects of construction products and promoting circularity; empowering the Commission to act against partial system failures through delegated or implementing acts; enhancing market surveillance and enforcement; product safety requirements; the role of Notified Bodies, EOTA and Technical Assessment Bodies.



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Low Voltage Directive (LVD)

The European Commission has published in the EU Official Journal a new list of harmonised standards under the LVD, as an [Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/713](#) of 4 May 2022 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1956 as regards harmonised standards for appliances for heating liquids, battery chargers, instantaneous water heaters, thermalstorage room heaters, toilets, multifunctional shower cabinets, skin exposure to ultraviolet and infrared radiation, and other electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits.



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Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMCD)

On 13 April, the new list of harmonised standards under the EMCD was published in the EU Official Journal, as an [Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/622](#) amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1326 on harmonised standards for electromagnetic compatibility of electricity metering equipment and circuit breakers for household and similar uses.



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New Legislative Framework (NLF)

While we are still expecting the publication of an updated version of the Blue Guide on the application of all aspects of EU products rules, the European Commission has released a Supporting Study for the evaluation of certain aspects of the New Legislative Framework (NLF – Decision No 768/2008/EC and Regulation (EC) No 765/2008).

The study is both retrospective, with an assessment of the NLF's current performance over the evaluation period (2008-2021), and forward-looking with an analysis of the NLF's ongoing fitness for purpose to address current market and product trends.

The study concludes that the NLF legal framework is and remains relevant going forward: the NLF needs to retain its core principles but it could be adapted to the times to remain fit for purpose given changes to the EU legal framework and trends in product markets towards digitalisation and the circular economy. To this end, the study recommends continued engagement with stakeholders regarding the advantages but also the limitations of harmonisation through a common regulatory framework.

In particular, the study explores the possibility to expand the NLF regulatory framework in two directions:

- A wider spectrum of essential requirements that NLF-aligned product legislation could address, beyond health and safety and environment protection, such as sustainability, recycling, cybersecurity, privacy, and personal data protection;
- Greater harmonisation of the basic roles and obligations of economic operators throughout the life-cycle of a product, beyond the first making available of a new product on a market, throughout its use, maintenance, reconditioning, until its recycling and even disposal.

Besides, the importance of Harmonised Standards as a tool within the NLF system that support the implementation of individual pieces of Union harmonisation legislation is stressed throughout the study. An explanation is provided of the concept of “presumption of conformity” and why it has become a source of conflicting views. Eventually, the study concludes with a key lesson regarding the future opportunities for administrative simplification and burden reduction to safeguard the role of harmonised standards in the NLF.

More: <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2873/625443>



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Issues of General Interest

Digital Policy

2030 Digital Compass

On 23 March, the European Commission launched a call for tender for a study, the main aim of which is to estimate investment gaps to reach the 2030 Digital Decade targets and provide recommendations on alternative forms of funding. More specifically, the study will focus on the analysis of private investment expected in each area of the 2030 Digital Compass and that are in the scope of the Digital Europe programme. This study will complement an already ongoing one, which focuses on more broad public investment expectations. The deadline for submission was 29 April.



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Revision of the Directive on security of networks and information systems (NIS Directive)

Trilogue interinstitutional negotiations for NIS 2 started in Q1 2022, with the first discussions held on 13 January and 17 February.

On 3 March, the rapporteur presented to the members of the ITRE Committee (the Committee responsible) the state of play of the trilogue negotiations. Key points that are at the core of the discussions in the Parliament are:

- clearer and precise rules for companies
- the opposition to the exclusion of certain governmental or public bodies from the scope
- funding for cybersecurity centres
- deadlines for transposing the directive into national law

The last trilogue meeting was scheduled for 25 April. However, it was postponed to 12 May, as the progress at technical level was not sufficient.



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Artificial Intelligence

Discussions are progressing within the EU Council and the European Parliament on the analysis of the Commission proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Act.

In the EU Council:

On 7 March, the French Presidency published the latest batch of their compromise amendments concerning Art.53-55a and Annex IV (available from the Orgalim Partnership). These mainly concern law enforcement aspects.

The main points addressed in the latest compromise amendments are:

- The definition of biometric identification systems was modified, and the list of legitimate biometric recognition uses was significantly broadened
- The possibility of the Commission or another Member State to challenge the authorisation of the placement of a high-risk AI system on the market within two weeks was removed
- A new article was added to create a possibility to ask ex-post for authorisation for law enforcement authorities, in order to provide more flexibility for these authorities in case of specific urgencies
- Transparency obligations: users of AI systems with emotion recognition technology would generally have to inform those who are being targeted

- The information contained in the EU database containing information on deployed high-risk AI systems would not be publicly accessible for the high-risk systems in the field of testing

So far, amendment proposals on Articles going from Art. 30 to Art. 39, and from Art. 56 to Art. 85 have not been published.

In the European Parliament:

In the European Parliament, four committees (ITRE ([part 1](#), [part 2](#)), JURI ([part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#)), [ENVI](#) and [CULT](#)) published parts of their amendment proposals on the AI Act.

A delay in the joint text by the responsible committees was announced. The two responsible committees (IMCO-LIBE) were supposed to issue a joint draft report by 11 April. However, its publication was delayed. On 20 April, a [preliminary IMCO-LIBE report](#) was made public. The deadline for amendments was postponed to 1 June, and debates with consideration of amendments will take place on 30 June and 26-29 September.

The vote in the committees is still planned for 26-27 November. The plenary vote is still to be confirmed, but it will most likely occur in the following month.



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Chips Act

The Parliament and Council have started their preparatory work on the [Chips Act](#). A proposal for a Regulation was published by the European Commission on 8 February. Its main aim is to achieve at least 20% of the world cutting-edge and sustainable semiconductors to be produced in the EU by the year 2030.

In the **Parliament**, the ITRE Committee (Committee on Industry, Research and Energy) was designated as Responsible Committee, while the IMCO (Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection), BUDG (Committee on Budgets), ECON (Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs) and JURI (Committee on Legal Affairs) were appointed as committees for opinion.

The Rapporteur will be Dan Nica (S&D, Romania).

In the **Council**, work on the file started at working party level, and a competitiveness council meeting is planned for 9 June.



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Cybersecurity

The Cyber Resilience Act was listed in the Commission Work Programme for 2022 as one of the legislative proposals to be published in Q3 2022. The Act will aim at setting common cybersecurity standards for connected devices.

On 16 March, the Commission opened a public consultation (in the form of both a questionnaire and a call for evidence for an impact assessment) with a deadline set for 25 May.

The European Commission also organised two workshops on the CRA, which took place on 28 April and 10 May. The workshops were organised in the context of a future study that will feed into the Cyber Resilience Act Impact Assessment.



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Digital Services Act

In January, after the Parliament's approval of the [report](#) drafted by the Committee Responsible IMCO (Internal Market and Consumer Protection), trilogue negotiations to reach a compromise text on the Digital Services Act started.

On 22 April, Parliament and Council reached a provisional political agreement. The compromise text includes:

- Measures to counter illegal goods, services or content online, such as a mechanism made available to users to flag illegal content and new obligations on traceability of business users in online marketplaces
- Measures for users and civil society to challenge platforms' content moderation decisions and transparency measures on the algorithms used for recommending content or products to users
- Measures to assess and mitigate risks, together with enhanced supervision and enforcement by the Commission on very large online platforms.

The text will need to be finalised at technical level and verified by lawyer-linguists, before both Parliament and Council give their formal approval. Once this process is completed, it will come into force 20 days after its publication in the EU Official Journal and the rules will start to apply 15 months later.

For more information on the Digital Services Act you can read the press releases published by the [Parliament](#) and [Commission](#) after the provisional political agreement was reached.



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Digital Markets Act

Negotiations between the Parliament and Council on the [Digital Markets Act \(DMA\)](#) Commission's proposal took place from January to the end of March. On 25 March, the Parliament and Council reached a compromise. The provisional text targets large companies providing so-called "core platform services" most prone to unfair business practices, such as social networks or search engines, referred to as "gatekeepers".

The main points addressed in the general agreement are:

- The largest messaging services will have to open up and interoperate with smaller messaging platforms, if they so request
- Combining personal data for targeted advertising will only be allowed with explicit consent to the gatekeeper
- A new requirement was included to allow users to freely choose their browser, virtual assistants or search engines
- In the case a gatekeeper does not comply with the rules, the Commission can impose fines of up to 10% of its total worldwide turnover in the preceding financial year, and 20% in case of infringements that are repeated. If the infringements are systematic, the Commission can ban them from acquiring other companies for a delineated time.

The text must now be approved by the Council and the Parliament before entering into force.



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Data policies

Upcoming “Data Act”

The Parliament and Council have started their preparatory work on the [Data Act](#), which was published by the European Commission on 23 February. The proposal aims at ensuring fairness in the digital environment, stimulating a competitive data market, opening opportunities for data-driven innovation and making data more accessible for all

In the **Parliament**, the ITRE Committee (Committee on Industry, Research and Energy) was designated as responsible Committee, while the IMCO (Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection), JURI (Committee on Legal Affairs) and LIBE (Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs) were appointed as committees for opinion. Some reports have spread information on the three committees for opinion being fighting for the co-responsibility on the file. Therefore, there might be some changes in the future. The Rapporteur will be Pilar del Castillo Vera (EPP, Spain).

In the **Council**, work on the file started at working party level, and a Competitiveness Council meeting is planned for 3 June.



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Data governance

The political agreement on the [Data Governance Act](#) proposal reached by the European Parliament, Council and Commission was adopted by the Parliament on 6 April. Its adoption by the Council is still pending. The new rules will apply 15 months after the entry into force of the regulation.

The main elements of the compromise include:

- Clarifications on the maximum length of the period of exclusivity for the re-use of public sector data (2 and a half years for existing exclusive arrangements and 12 months for new exclusive arrangements)
- The provision for public sector bodies to not be under hard obligation to support re-users in seeking consent or permission for the re-use of certain protected public sector data

- The provision for the use of implementing acts with examination procedure for adequacy decisions and model contractual clauses

The extended date of application of the Act – from 12 to 15 months from entry into force.



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General Product Safety Regulation

GPSR Agenda

On 30 March, the Council of the European Union distributed its compromise text on Chapters I to III and Chapters V to XI of the General Product Safety Regulation. This text was discussed at the Council Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information meeting on 6 April. Amongst others, the text focuses on the definition of "product" and some of its criteria, a simplification of the procedure in case of substantial modification, a reduction of the information required in the technical documentation, and the reinforcement of the application of the precautionary principle in certain cases. It also foresees very slight modifications regarding the obligation of manufacturers and the stipulation that economic operators must submit additional evidence and documents when collaborating with Market Surveillance authorities.

On the latest developments for the General Product Safety Regulation at the European Parliament level, consideration of [tabled amendments](#) on the GPSR proposal took place in IMCO on 21 April. The rapporteur, Dita Charanzová (RE, Czechia), acknowledged the common objectives of MEPs to improve consumer safety by making it more effective and future-proof. She also stated that the proposal should be a safety net while ensuring proportionality considering products' specific features and risks. Among other points mentioned, she stressed that the framework should work more efficiently, advocated against the creation of a bureaucratic system and claimed that the technical documentation and administrative procedure should be based on the risk-based approach according to the specific characteristics of the products. Finally, she recognised the need for further political debate on issues such as responsible persons, online markets, alignment with the DSA. Regarding the upcoming agenda at the European Parliament level, the vote in IMCO will be delayed to June 15 and 16, a month later than was previously expected.

GPSR Review

Finally, it is worth mentioning that [the Supporting Study for the evaluation of certain aspects of the New Legislative Framework \(NLF\) \(Decision No 768/2008/EC and Regulation \(EC\) No 765/2008\)](#) published on 6 May also addressed the GPSR proposal given its alignment with the NLF. In this study it is observed that the GPSR, which incorporates core NLF principles, actually goes beyond the elements covered by the NLF. For instance, the GPSR emphasises new aspects in the risk assessment of product or places new obligations on manufacturers. Overall, the GPSR presents five concepts and definitions that are not included in the NLF legal texts, but that can be considered as generic or partly generic when viewing safety as a horizontal concept across EU product legislation. Three of these definitions existed in some form in the GPSD, namely the concepts of "product", "safe product" and "dangerous product". Two are entirely original to the GPSR proposal, namely "online marketplace" and "substantial modification". In addition, the concept of "presumption of safety" is considered to go beyond its equivalent in the NLF and other related legislation.



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Standardisation Policy

To recall, the European Commission published its [EU Standardisation Strategy](#) on 2 February. This strategy reflects a top-down vision on the role of standards, which are seen as "embedded in policy objectives" to serve the EU's priorities and strategic before market needs. It is claimed to aim aligning standardisation, notably with the digital transition and the green transition.

In response to the EU standardisation strategy, industries published a [Joint industry statement](#) on 6 April. This statement acknowledges the proposed actions of the European Commission to consolidate the strengths of the existing European Standardisation system and consequently preserve:

- its inclusive and successful market-driven nature, with stakeholders in the driving seat, beyond political priorities.
- its ties with key trading partners to further promote the participation of European stakeholders in international standardisation activities.

- its efficient mechanisms for the development, assessment, and timely revision of relevant, state-of-the-art harmonised European standards that respond to market needs and support the application of EU law.

The industry statement further calls for:

- Limiting the use of (EC) common or technical specifications, as an alternative to harmonised European standards, to exceptional cases, further to a proper ex-ante impact assessment with the direct involvement of the industry.
- Using the future EU High-Level Forum as a platform to directly involve all stakeholders in standardisation, especially when setting agendas and developing actions, while maintaining the Standards Market Relevance Round Table (SMARRT) as a platform for transparency and dialogue to enhance the effectiveness of the legislator's use of the ESS.

As part of its strategy, the Commission has proposed to amend the [Regulation \(EU\) No 1025/2012 on standardisation](#) with the aim of improving the governance in European standardisations organisations, ETSI to start with. The Rapporteur in the European Parliament Internal Market (IMCO) Committee, Ms Svenja Hahn (Renew, Germany), has already published her two-amendment [report on the Commission's proposal](#), for consideration by her peers before mid-May 2022, with a vote scheduled for 12 July 2022.

Meanwhile, we are expecting more details on how the Commission will implement its strategy, for instance on the scope of competences and the possibility to take part in the High-Level Forum. Such clarification may hopefully come on 7 June 2022, on the occasion of the next and perhaps last meeting of the informal dialogue platform SMARRT, which the Commission intends to phase out.



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Intellectual Property Rights

Following the [Intellectual Property Action Plan](#) adopted in November 2020, the Commission has [proposed a first-ever framework](#) to protect the intellectual property for craft and industrial products that rely on the originality and authenticity of traditional practices from their regions.

Drawing on the success of the geographical indication (GI) system used for wine, spirits and agricultural products, the proposed regulation will provide for an EU

indication protection. Producers will be able to file their GI applications to designated Member States' authorities, who will then submit successful applications for further evaluation and approval to the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).



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MARKET ACCESS

Issues of General Interest

Market Access

The European Commission has published a [factsheet on the Single Entry Point](#) for stakeholders facing market access issues in third countries.



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Foreign Subsidies

Further to the publication of a proposal for a Regulation on foreign subsidies distorting the internal market, the legislative process is ongoing.

In the European Parliament, the Internal Market (IMCO), Legal Affairs (JURI) and Economic Affairs (ECON) have adopted their opinion (see IMCO, JURI and ECON). The International Trade Committee (INTA) followed through on 25th April with a unanimous adoption of its report. The file will now go to plenary in May and then in trilogue negotiations with the Council.

MEPs propose that mergers and investments involving more than €50 million in foreign subsidies for companies with a yearly turnover of €400 million should notify the Commission where non-EU companies acquire EU firms. The same would apply to procurement bids exceeding €200 million. The Commission would then decide whether to forbid or approve mergers, foreign investments and biddings as well as apply fines if these are not notified. The Council, however, supports a different approach and raised the thresholds to narrow down investigations to 'the most distortive cases'. Trilogue negotiations are therefore likely to be lively.

In the Council, a cover note has been published.



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EUROPE'S
TECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRIES

Trade Defence Instruments / EU anti-dumping measures

Date of Publication	Legal act	Product	Country of origin or exportation	Measure	Update
21.04.2022	Implementing Regulation	Certain steel products		Anti-dumping	Definitive safeguard measure
12. 04.2022	Implementing Decision	Certain hot-rolled flat products of iron, non-alloy and other alloy steel	Russia	Anti-dumping	Notice of termination of the partial interim review
05.04.2022	Implementing Regulation	Certain hot-rolled flat products of iron, non-alloy or other alloy steel	China	Anti-dumping	Notice of initiation of an expiry review
23.03.2022	Implementing Regulation	Calcium silicon	China	Anti-dumping	Definitive measure



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EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences

The European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs has published its [opinion](#) on the proposal on applying a generalised scheme of tariff preferences. The International Trade Committee (INTA) voted early May and adopted the draft report.



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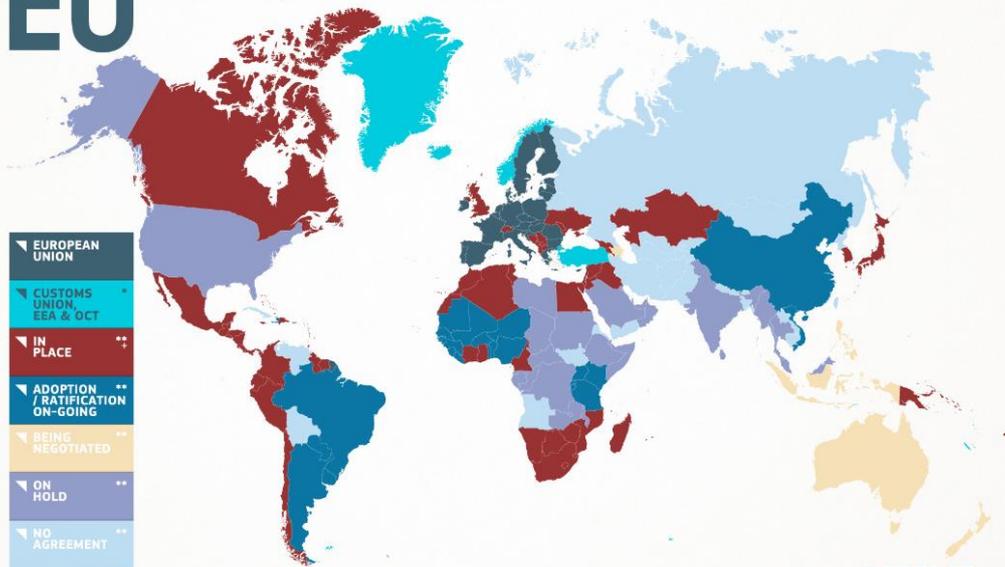
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Free Trade Agreements – overview

Country	Current Status	Next steps
Singapore	Trade and investment agreements were adopted in October 2018. On 21 November 2019 the Free Trade Agreement entered into force.	Investment Protection Agreement to be ratified by all the Member States before entering into force. Here more information
Vietnam	The FTA entered into force on 1 st August 2020. The Commission has updated its Guidance on the Rules of Origin	Here more information
Mercosur	Ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement. In June 2019, EU and Mercosur reached a political agreement .	The Commission has published the agreement in principle and its texts though these are not fully final yet.
China	Ongoing negotiations for an Investment Agreement. Agreement in principle reached on 30 th December 2020	The text of the agreement is being finalised and will need to be legally reviewed before submission for approval to the EU Council and the European Parliament.
Australia	Ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement. 12th round of negotiations took place on 7-18 February 2022 by videoconference.	No date for the next round of negotiations is scheduled yet. Here more information
New Zealand	Ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement. 11th round of negotiation took place on 28/06 – 08/07. The Commission has published the Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment	The date for the next round of negotiations is not scheduled yet. Here more information
Indonesia	Ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement. The latest round of negotiations took place on 15-26 June 2020. The European Commission has published conclusions of the sustainability impact assessment	The next round of negotiations will take place in July 2021. Here more information

Tunisia	Ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement. 4 th round of negotiations took place in 28-30 April/1-2 May 2019 in Tunis.	Negotiations are at a standstill due to change of government in Tunisia and civil society protest. Here more information
Chile	Ongoing negotiations to revise and modernise the free trade agreement. The 10th round of negotiations took place in April 2021.	The 11 th round of negotiations is not yet scheduled. Here more information
ESA (Eastern and Southern Africa countries: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe)	Ongoing negotiations to deepen the existing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). 7th round of negotiations took place on 28 March – 1 April.	The next round of negotiations will take place in a few months. Here more information
India	EU and India have launched the EU-India Trade and Technology Council. Negotiations on a trade and investment agreement have also resumed after several years of suspension.	

EU trade agreements 2021



* European Economic Area (EEA) / Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT).
 ** Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), Investment Agreement, Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), Partnership and Co-operation Agreement with preferential element (PCA).
 + The agreements with Chile, Tunisia, and Eastern and Southern Africa are currently being updated; the updated agreement with Mexico is under ratification. The DCFTA with Georgia does not apply in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom is applied provisionally, pending ratification by the EU.



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ENVIRONMENT

REACH

REACH review

The public consultation on REACH revision was open for [comments](#) until 15 April 2022. As a reminder, the [Chemicals strategy for sustainability](#), adopted by the European Commission on 14 October 2020, lists a series of measures to achieve the EU's zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment and is a key component of the European Green Deal. The Strategy recognises the need for a targeted revision of the REACH legislation to achieve its objectives.

The next steps of the revision process are:

- Q3 2021 to Q2 2022: targeted stakeholder consultations as part of supporting studies and workshops
- 2022: drafting of a proposal for a revision of REACH
- September 2022: publication of the impact assessment
- Q4 2022: Commission adoption of the proposal

The [webpage](#) on the REACH Revision is now available. This is part of an updated webpage on the [implementation](#) of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

The REACH Regulation was [last evaluated in 2018](#). It concluded that REACH is effective but that there are opportunities for further improvement, simplification and burden reduction. Following the evaluation, a number of non-legislative actions have been launched (some of them finalised, others still ongoing) to improve the implementation of REACH.

Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)

New intention to identify a substance of very high concern has been received for:

- [isobutyl 4-hydroxybenzoate](#) (EC 224-208-8, CAS 4247-02-3);
- [bis\(2-ethylhexyl\) tetrabromophthalate](#) (EC 247-426-5, CAS 26040-51-7); and
- [barium diboron tetraoxide](#) (EC 237-222-4, CAS 13701-59-2).
- reaction mass of [2,2,3,3,5,5,6,6-octafluoro-4-\(1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropan-2-yl\)morpholine](#) and [2,2,3,3,5,5,6,6-octafluoro-4-\(heptafluoropropyl\)morpholine](#) (EC 473-390-7, CAS -).

Restriction

[Denmark](#), [Germany](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Norway](#) and [Sweden](#) have submitted an intention to restrict the manufacture, placing on the market and use of [per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\)](#) (EC/CAS -) on 15 July 2021. This is a large family of thousands of synthetic chemicals that are widely used throughout society. A [call for evidence](#) was held during the summer of 2020. ECHA also organised a [webinar](#) on 29 October 2020 to learn about the REACH restriction process and the status of the proposed PFAS restriction. The five countries have launched a survey on PFAS and their alternatives and are looking for more information for the intended restriction. The deadline for [comments](#) was 17 October 2021. A [regulatory management option analysis conclusion document](#) (RMOA) is also available on ECHA's website. The PFAS restriction process will not integrate the essential use criteria as it will not be ready in time for the PFAS restriction proposal currently being drawn up. Instead, the proposal will have to rely on existing tools, for example analysing specific uses and considering whether there are safer available alternatives, to determine whether the use is essential or not. The Commission will also decide about the restrictions that are already in the pipeline for specific PFASs, once the universal PFAS restriction will be adopted.

The next steps of the process are:

- The five Member States would finalise the Annex XV dossier within 12 months of its notification to ECHA. ECHA would then publish the dossier following a conformity check. The expected date of submission of the dossier is now 13 January 2023 (instead of 15 July 2022).
- Following the dossier's publication, a 6-months publication consultation would start, in 2023

- Based on the final ECHA opinion, the European Commission may decide to draft an amendment to restrict non-essential uses of PFAS under REACH Annex XV (expected in 2024)
- The amendment of the Annex XV would then possibly enter into force in 2025

Furthermore, the Commission has published a Restrictions Roadmap, an important step forward to provide detailed information on all ongoing work on future restrictions under the EU chemical legislation. The [Roadmap](#) prioritises group restrictions for the most harmful substances to human health and the environment as set out in the [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#). In full respect of the prerogatives of EU countries under the REACH Regulation, the Restrictions Roadmap includes a rolling list of substances, which will become the basis for the multiannual planning under REACH. The rolling list will be regularly reviewed and updated ensuring a balance between needed flexibility and commitment to ensure progress. Moreover, ECHA has published an [Article 69\(2\) assessment report](#) concluding that further examination of the risks from the use of 10 phthalates in articles should be considered as part of a larger investigation to address risks of ortho-phthalates. Ortho-phthalates are listed in the Restriction Roadmap.

Moreover, Italy has submitted a proposal to restrict the use of [terphenyl, hydrogenated](#) (EC 262-967-7, CAS 61788-32-7) as a substance, in mixtures and articles or parts thereof. The Netherlands has submitted a proposal to restrict [N,N-dimethylacetamide \(DMAC\) \(EC 204-826-4, CAS 127-19-5\) and 1-ethylpyrrolidin-2-one \(NEP\) \(EC 220-250-6, CAS 2687-91-4\)](#). These proposals will now be evaluated by ECHA's scientific committees for Risk (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) and subject to a consultation to be launched after both committees agree on the reports' conformity.

In addition, ECHA and the Member States have assessed a group of [148 bisphenols](#) and recommended that more than 30 bisphenols need to be restricted due to their potential hormonal or reprotoxic effects. Three bisphenols (bisphenol A, bisphenol B and 2,2-bis(4'-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpentane) have already been identified as substances of very high concern (SVHCs). SVHC identification or harmonised classification and labelling is proposed for further bisphenols where sufficient information on hazards is already available. However, for many group members, more data needs to be generated before potential endocrine-disrupting and reprotoxic properties can be confirmed. German authorities are already preparing a proposal to restrict the use of bisphenol A and other bisphenols with endocrine-disrupting properties for the environment. Once it is clearer which bisphenols the German proposal will cover, ECHA and the European Commission will consider any further needs for regulatory action on bisphenols. The planned restriction of per- and

polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) will also need to be considered in any additional action as bisphenol AF and its eight salts are also defined as PFASs. The use of products containing bisphenols may expose people and the environment to their harmful effects. Bisphenols are mostly used as intermediates in the manufacture of polymers or polymer resins, such as polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins and hardeners. They are also used in thermal paper, inks and coatings, adhesives, textiles, paper or in board. Industrial uses are expected to lead to relatively low exposures, whereas professional and consumer uses may lead to higher exposures.

ECHA will also update the intention to submit an Annex XV restriction dossier on [medium-chain chlorinated paraffins \(MCCP\)](#) to include uses in PVC as well as other substances that contain chloroalkanes with carbon chain lengths within the range C₁₄ to C₁₇ (EC -, CAS -).

In addition, the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) adopted its opinion supporting Norway's proposal to restrict Dechlorane Plus. The Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) also supports the restriction in its draft opinion, which was open for consultation until 16 May 2022. The proposal aims to address risks for human health and the environment from emissions of the substance. RAC concluded that there is an EU-wide risk for people and the environment from the use of [Dechlorane Plus](#), which is a very persistent and very bioaccumulative substance. It is mainly used as a flame retardant, for example, in adhesives and sealants in cars, aeroplanes and electronic equipment. RAC considers that the proposed restriction would be effective in reducing emissions of Dechlorane Plus and the related risks. SEAC considers that a restriction is, in general, an appropriate Union-wide measure to address the identified risks from Dechlorane Plus and any of the restriction options presented by Norway could be proportionate in terms of their benefits and costs to society. SEAC, however, noted that there are clear differences between the different restriction options in terms of their marginal cost-effectiveness. A 60-day consultation of SEAC's draft opinion started on 17 March 2022. The combined opinion of both committees is expected to be ready by summer.

Authorisation

ECHA has invited comments on its proposal to include 8 substances of very high concern in the REACH Authorisation List, including lead. ECHA has included lead metal in its draft 11th recommendation for authorisation, launching a [public consultation](#) until 2 May 2022. There was also a [call for information](#) by the European Commission on the possible socio-economic consequences of subjecting lead metal to the REACH authorisation requirement.

ECHA also identified [five substances](#) as substances of very high concern due to their reprotoxic, carcinogenic or endocrine disrupting properties and recommended for the European Commission to add them to the Authorisation List in 2019. The five substances are:

- Tetraethyllead (TEL) (EC 201-075-4, CAS 78-00-2);
- 4,4'-bis(dimethylamino)-4''-(methylamino)trityl alcohol [with ≥ 0.1% w/w of Michler's ketone (EC 202-027-5) or Michler's base (EC 202-959-2)] (EC 209-218-2, CAS 561-41-1);
- Reaction products of 1,3,4-thiadiazolidine-2,5-dithione, formaldehyde and 4-heptylphenol, branched and linear (RP-HP) [with ≥ 0,1% w/w 4-heptylphenol, branched and linear (4-HPbl)] (EC -, CAS -);
- 2-ethylhexyl 10-ethyl-4,4-dioctyl-7-oxo-8-oxa-3,5-dithia-4-stannatetradecanoate (DOTE) (EC 239-622-4, CAS 15571-58-1); and
- Reaction mass of 2-ethylhexyl 10-ethyl-4,4-dioctyl-7-oxo-8-oxa-3,5-dithia-4-stannatetradecanoate and 2-ethylhexyl 10-ethyl-4-[[2-[(2-ethylhexyl)oxy]-2-oxoethyl]thio]-4-octyl-7-oxo-8-oxa-3,5-dithia-4-stannatetradecanoate (reaction mass of DOTE and MOTE) (EC -, CAS -).

These substances are used, for example, as fuel additives, in formulation of inks, in lubricants, and as a stabiliser in the production of polymers. Companies that want to continue using these substances after the agreed sunset dates will need to apply for authorisation.

ECHA also published a [report](#) forecasting the number of applications expected for five substances added to the Authorisation List on 8 April 2022. The report estimates that ECHA should receive 12 to 23 applications in 2023. It also investigates the availability of potential alternatives. ECHA conducted similar work in 2019 for 11 substances that were added to the Authorisation List in 2020.

Registration

The European Commission has revised certain information requirements for registering chemicals under REACH. The [update](#) of the REACH annexes clarifies the information that companies need to submit in their registrations and makes ECHA's evaluation practices more transparent and predictable. The changes will start to apply from 14 October 2022. Companies should get familiar with the updated annexes and prepare to review their registration dossiers. ECHA will publish further advice later this year.



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RoHS2 Directive

Renewal of exemptions

Further to the series of renewal requests submitted by the industry in January 2020, the Commission has contracted external consultants, namely Oeko-Institut together with Fraunhofer IZM, to perform the technical assessment. The assessment of sixteen requests for nine RoHS exemptions started in December: it is named [RoHS project \('Pack 22'\)](#). The study covers lead related exemptions 6(a)/6(a)-I, 6(b)/6(b)-I, 6(b)-II, 6(c), 7(a), 7(c)-I and 7(c)-II (Annex III). The [stakeholder consultation](#) ran until 3 March 2021 and the final [technical study report](#) was published in January 2022. For more details, please see the [Technical specifications](#) and the [Project Description](#).

Moreover, the [stakeholder consultation](#) for the pack 24 (which includes exemptions 5(b), 18(b), 18(b)-I, 24, 29, 32 and 34 of Annex III and exemption 34 of Annex IV) ran until 8 June 2021. The consultation targeted at the following groups: EEE industry, EEE industry federations, Consultancies, Research institutions & universities, NGOs and Public administrations. The [final technical study report](#) was published in February 2022. The consultants are [Ramboll/Oeko-Institut](#). For more information, please refer to the [Project Description](#).

Furthermore, the [stakeholder consultation](#) for the pack 23 (which includes exemptions 4(f), 8(b)/8(b)-I, 13(a), 13(b)/13(b)-I/13(b)-II/13(b)-III, 15/15(a) & 9(a)-II - 9(a)-II) ran until 27 May 2021.

The exemption request 2021-2 (RoHS Pack 25) for "Bis (ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) as a plasticizer in polyvinyl chloride (PVC), serves as a base material for amperometric, potentiometric and conductometric electrochemical sensors which are used in in-vitro diagnostic medical devices for the analysis of whole blood" was withdrawn by the applicant on 14 March 2022. Since there were no contributions submitted during the stakeholder consultation on this request, it was assumed that the exemption was not needed. The assessment will thus be suspended.

A new RoHS project (Pack 26) for the assessment of one exemption request has also started. The study covers an exemption request for lead as a thermal stabilizer in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) used as base material in amperometric, potentiometric and conductometric electrochemical sensors, to be listed in Annex IV of RoHS Directive. A [stakeholder consultation](#) was open until 19 May 2022. Stakeholders can register under [Registration](#) in order to regularly receive information on project progress and in order to be involved in the evaluation.

Moreover, the [final report](#) of the Annex IV - 16 Exemptions (Pack 21) was published in April 2022.

RoHS General Review

The [public consultation on the RoHS review](#) is now open until 2 June 2022. The purpose is to collect information and views from stakeholders on how the RoHS Directive could be improved in order to maintain its relevance and increase its efficiency. The [evaluation of the Directive](#) flagged as such potential areas for improvement:

- the exemption process,
- the process of reviewing the list of restricted substances,
- the alignment of RoHS with other EU legislative frameworks (e.g. the more horizontal Regulation on chemicals, REACH) and the [European Green Deal](#) objectives, and in particular the [CEAP](#), the [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#), the [Zero pollution action plan](#) and the [Sustainable Products Initiative](#).

The next steps of the RoHS Review are:

- Support study (since April 2021)
 - The European Commission launched, in April 2021, a support study which is prepared by the consultants Oeko Institut and Ramboll. This support study will include technical workshops and a stakeholder conference (which are expected to take place in 2022)
 - It will evaluate different policy options, including the nature of RoHS (should it be a regulation or a directive?)
- Commission's legislative proposal (expected for Q4 2022)



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Circular Economy Policy

Sustainable Products Initiative

On 30 March, the European Commission officially published its Sustainable Products Policy legislative proposal, namely the [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation](#) (ESPR), which will revise the current Ecodesign Directive. This publication was part of the 'Circular Economy Package I', and was accompanied by several other legislative proposals, including the ["Empowering the consumer for the green transition"](#) initiative, and the [Ecodesign & Energy Labelling Working Plan 2020-2024](#).

The proposal establishes a framework to set Ecodesign requirements for specific product groups to significantly improve their circularity, energy performance and other environmental sustainability aspects. It will enable the setting of performance and information requirements for almost all categories of physical goods placed on the EU market, with some notable exceptions, such as food and feed. For groups of products that share sufficient common characteristics, the framework will also allow to set horizontal rules.

The range of requirements will include product durability, reusability, upgradability and reparability, the presence of substances that inhibit circularity, energy and resource efficiency, recycled content, remanufacturing and recycling, carbon and environmental footprints.

The EPSR also establishes the framework of the "Digital Product Passport", which will aim at helping consumers and businesses make informed choices when purchasing products, facilitate repairs and recycling, and improve transparency about products' life cycle impacts on the environment. The product passport should also help public authorities to better perform checks and controls.

Furthermore, the proposal introduces a new process of setting up product-specific requirements through delegated acts (DAs), instead of implementing acts (IAs) as in the current Ecodesign Directive. This will shorten the length of the procedure but takes away some decision-making powers from the EU Member States (MSs), against which they openly protested during a Consultation Forum held on 31 March.

The Commission has opened a call for feedback on the ESPR with a deadline of 22 June 2022. Thereafter, all input will be summarised and presented to the European Parliament and Council of the EU with the aim of feeding it into the legislative debate.



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Empowering the consumer for the green transition

On 30 March, the European Commission officially published its legislative proposal on the [“Empowering the consumer for the green transition”](#) initiative as part of the ‘Circular Economy Package I’.

The proposal amends two existing consumer law directives on [Consumer Rights](#) and the [Unfair Commercial Practices](#) with the aim of ensuring that consumers get adequate information on products’ durability and reparability before purchasing a product. Additionally, it will strengthen consumer protection against untrustworthy or false environmental claims and premature obsolescence practices that prevent consumers from shopping more sustainably.

The overall target is to support the required changes in consumer behaviour to achieve the climate and environmental objectives under the European Green Deal.

The Commission’s proposed amendments include:

- **Consumer Rights Directive** (requirements on traders to provide consumers with info on the main characteristics of goods or services):
 - Added info on durability, commercial guarantees that are beyond the compulsory legal such, reparability and ‘environmental or social impact’.
 - Added specific rules in its Annex I (the blacklist) defining greenwashing practices seen as unfair in all circumstances.
- **Unfair Commercial Practices Directive** (rules on misleading practices):
 - Pre-contractually address misleading environmental and obsolescence cases.
 - Periods during which the producer commits to provide software updates (for goods with digital elements).
 - Reparability score and other repair info, should no reparability score be available at EU level (e.g. information on the availability of spare parts and a repair manual).

The Commission has opened a call for feedback on the proposal with a deadline of 29 May 2022. Thereafter, all input will be summarised and presented to the European Parliament and Council of the EU with the aim of feeding it into the legislative debate.



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Waste Framework Directive

Waste Framework review

The revision of the Directive aims to improve waste management in line with the waste hierarchy. The key aims of the revision are to decrease waste generation, improve separate waste collection to yield optimal recycling results, including by avoiding contamination of recyclable waste, and increase the amounts of waste oils collected and treated in line with the waste hierarchy. The [call for evidence](#) was launched on 25 January and was open until 22 February 2022.

The next steps of the review are:

- Open public consultation (expected for Q2 2022)
- Commission's legislative proposal (expected for Q2 2023)

SCIP Database (previously ECHA Waste Database)

Despite a lengthy debate, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) eventually launched the [SCIP database](#) on 28 October 2020, and suppliers must submit SCIP notifications since 5 January 2021. As a reminder, 'SCIP' is the database for information on Substances of Concern In articles as such or in complex objects (products) established under the Waste Framework Directive. ECHA has published [SCIP manuals](#) in 23 EU languages. When preparing a SCIP notification, these manuals help to refer to already submitted data.



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EU Ecolabel

Proposal for a Directive to empower consumer for the green transition

On 30 March, the European Commission published its Circular Economy Package including the proposal for a Directive ([2022/0092](#)) as regards empowering consumers for the green transition.

The proposal amends the Consumer Rights Directive (CSD) and the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD) and aims, *inter alia*, to ban generic environmental claims used in marketing towards consumers, where the excellent environmental performance of the product or trader cannot be demonstrated in accordance with the EU Ecolabel ([Regulation EC 66/2010](#)), officially recognised eco-labelling schemes in the Member States, or other applicable Union laws, as relevant to the claim. The list of banned practices is listed in Annex I of the proposal. Stakeholders are invited to share their views and reply to the [consultation](#) on the proposal by 29 May 2022.

The proposal should be read in conjunction with the CSD and UCPD, but also with the upcoming [proposal on the substantiation of green claims](#) expected on 17 July 2022 and the revision of the directive on the sale of goods foreseen in Q3 2022.



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Green Public Procurement

GPP in new Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

The proposal for a new Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation ([2022/0095](#)), published on 30 March 2022, includes setting mandatory criteria for the public procurement of environmentally sustainable products, drawing where appropriate on existing voluntary criteria.

The Commission is required to adopt delegated acts to supplement the Regulation by establishing requirements on Member States incentives and on public procurement criteria. Article 58 specifies that green public procurement requirements may take the

form of mandatory technical specifications, selection criteria, award criteria, contract performance, clauses, or targets, as appropriate. In addition, incentives provided by Member States can be leveraged through environmental sustainability requirements on the products those incentives concern.

Sustainable Products Regulation is open until 22 June, and depending on the negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council, the first ESPR Delegated Acts could be expected in Q4 2024 or Q1 2025.



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Environmental Footprint

PEF/OEF method webinar

On 28 April, the European Commission organised a [digital training event](#) on the Environmental footprint methods. The event aimed at providing capacity building and information, focussing on the technical aspects of the PEF/OEF methods. The event also aimed to strengthen the skills, competencies, and abilities of stakeholders in applying the PEF/OEF methods, understand the results and use them in the decision-making processes. Case studies and feedback from companies that use PEF/OEF methods are part of the agenda, and the Commission aims to publish its presentation soon.

As a reminder, the Proposal for a Regulation on substantiating environmental claims using the Product/ Organisation Environmental Footprint methods (green claims) is expected to be adopted on 20 July, as part of the Circular Economy Package 2.



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ENERGY

Energy Efficiency

Energy Labelling Regulation

On 28 March 2022, the European Commission launched the beta version of the public interface of the European Product Registry for Energy Labelling (EPREL), which can be accessed [here](#). It is designed to be a consumer tool, which will facilitate awareness in the face of higher energy prices, presenting a way to easily calculate minimum life cycle costs.

Because this is a beta version, certain features are still lacking and only products from digitally verified suppliers are published.

On 31 March, the European Commission held a Consultation Forum during which it presented the public interface and shared additional details, including that there are now 1,300,000 registered models (increasing by 10,000 every week) by 7,300 suppliers.

In case a producer has not yet been digitally verified through a 'digital seal' as an EPREL supplier, guidance on verification, including a demonstration video, is available on the [EPREL Wiki](#).

As a next step, the full launch is expected in May 2022 in the context of REPowerEU. However, this will be dependent on the supplier verification progress and feedback on the beta version.



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Ecodesign Directive

Ecodesign Working plan 2022-2024

On 30 March 2022, the European Commission published the [Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2022-2024](#), which will guide the European Commission's work on individual product categories for the next years.

This will be the final Working Plan under the current Ecodesign Directive, which is subject to revision by the proposed [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation](#). It will continue focusing on energy related products (ErPs), until the new Ecodesign Regulation comes into force.

According to the published Communication, the Commission will continue the work on the reviews of the existing rules and complete the new measures that have been introduced in previous Working Plans. Furthermore, the documents set an indicative list of new ErP product groups for study.

The main priorities ahead that are outlined include:

- 46 reviews due before end of 2025.
- Priority groups: heating & cooling; rescaling of certain product groups; and certain reviews for specific reasons (e.g., water pumps, fans, EPS).
- New product groups: low temperature emitters; professional laundry appliances; professional dishwashers; universal external power supplies (EPS); and EV chargers.
- Horizontal priorities: standardisation; development of a repairability scoring system; recycled content; durability, firmware and software; scarce, environmentally relevant and critical raw materials; EPREL, market surveillance.

More information, including the Annex and staff working document, is available [here](#).

- **Methodology for Ecodesign of Energy related Products (MEErP):**

The second report on the revision of the methodology for Ecodesign of Energy related Products (MEErP) was expected to be circulated on 30 March 2022, together with the Sustainable Products Initiative. However, the work is still ongoing.

The aim of the revision is to update, where necessary, the data used in the MEERP analyses and ensure that the methodology remains fit for its purpose and is in line with recent policy developments.

Once the second report becomes available, the European Commission's Joint Research centre (JRC) is expected to hold a stakeholder meeting and announce more specific end date for the finalisation of the project.



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Ecodesign Directive - Update on Lots / implementing measures

ENER Lot 1 & 2: Space and Water heaters: on 3 March, the European Commission issued Calls for Evidence on the [Energy Labelling](#) and [Ecodesign](#) requirements for hydronic central space heaters and combination heaters.

Additionally, the Commission also issued calls for evidence on the [Energy Labelling](#) and [Ecodesign](#) requirements for dedicated water heaters and hot water storage tanks.

The deadline to provide comments on the four calls was 1 April 2022.

As next steps, the Commission will publish the draft delegated acts and their final versions are expected in the 3rd quarter of 2023.

ENER Lot 7: External Power Supplies (EPS): on 31 March, the European Commission held a Consultation Forum meeting to present the study work done so far on the potential revision of the current [Ecodesign](#) requirements. The review will be closely linked to the [Common Charger Initiative](#) and the study will assess in particular:

- The feasibility of setting a requirement regarding minimum energy efficiency at 10% load.
- Options for including within the scope of the Regulation: wireless chargers, active Power over Ethernet injectors (PoE), external power supplies used with electrical and electronic household, gardening and office equipment.
- Options for including requirements in support of circular economy objectives, including interoperability (key for the Common Charger Initiative).

As a next step, the Commission will launch a consultation, accompanied by a questionnaire, in the autumn.

ENER Lot 11: Industrial fans/fans driven by motors: on 1 April 2022, the European Commission held a Consultation Forum meeting to discuss the draft elements of the possible future regulation that will revise the current [Ecodesign](#) rules, which include:

- Scope extension to jet fans with dedicated limit and efficiency formula.
- Minimum efficiency limits and equations unchanged, but new Tiers proposed.
- New information, material and resource efficiency requirements.

The publication and adoption of the new act is expected by mid-2023.

ENER Lot 20: Local space heaters: on 10 March, the European Commission held a Consultation Forum meeting, during which it shared that it does not expect major surprises concerning the respective [Ecodesign](#) revision. These are the main outtakes:

- Energy efficiency limits will remain the same.
- The scope will be extended to include slave heaters, towel heaters and tube heaters above 120 kW.
- Low-power modes will be removed from the energy efficiency formula and replaced by fixed values.
- The definitions on gas and oil heaters will be adapted to the terminology from related standards.
- Circular economy and material efficiency measures might be introduced, e.g., the availability of spare parts, and regulation on the modularity of controllers.

The Commission will issue a [Call for Evidence](#) soon and the new revised rules are expected to become applicable from June 2025.

ENTR Lot 6: Ventilation units: on 10 March, the European Commission held a Consultation Forum meeting, during which it introduced the main commitments for the review of the respective [Ecodesign](#) and [Energy Labelling](#) regulations. They include:

- Extension of the scope of ventilation units to < 30 W.
- Consideration on low-energy consuming filters on energy efficiency.
- Tighter ecodesign requirements with an additional tier.

- SEC calculation and classes for demand-controlled UVUs and BVUs.
- Rescaling of the energy label.

The Commission intends to launch a dedicated technical support study for further analysis in preparation for the impact assessment. It is also expected to hold at least one more stakeholder meeting for technical discussions.

Timewise, the Commission will begin the work in the summer of 2022. It will last 12 months.



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Issues of General Interest

Energy Infrastructure Package

Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (AFID)

As a reminder, on 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal for a [revised Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation \(AFIR\)](#), to ensure that drivers are able to charge or fuel their zero emission vehicles via a reliable network across the EU.

On 21 March, the lead European Parliament Committee TRAN (Committee for Transport and Tourism) published its amendments to the [draft report](#) of the rapporteur Ismail Ertug (S&D, DE):

- Amendments [132 – 392](#)
- Amendments [393 – 809](#)
- Amendments [810 – 1175](#)

Furthermore, the three European Parliament committees ITRE, ENVI and REGI also adopted their opinions on the European Commission's proposed revision, which will inform the work of the TRAN Committee:

- ITRE committee [opinion](#) by rapporteur Michael Bloss (the Greens, DE)

- ENVI committee [opinion](#) by rapporteur Alexandr Vondra (ECR, CZ)
- REGL committee [opinion](#) by rapporteur Bronis Ropé (the Greens, LT)

As next steps, the negotiations on the compromise amendments in the TRAN Committee are ongoing. The vote is foreseen in the week of 11 July, but it may be postponed to September, and the indicative European Parliament Plenary sitting date is 12 September.

The Transport Council is scheduled to present its general orientation/progress report on 2 June 2022.



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Sector Coupling

Following the European Commission's Communication on "[An EU strategy for Energy System Integration](#)" published in July 2020, the Commission is developing a proposed action plan to drive the energy transition, including a system-wide [Digitalisation of Energy Action Plan](#) that could accelerate the implementation of digital solutions and energy system integration across multiple energy carriers, infrastructures and consumption sectors. According to the [roadmap](#), the Digitalisation of Energy Action Plan will support energy system integration by focusing on five areas:

- Developing a European data-sharing infrastructure
- Empowering citizens by providing them with tools for participation in the energy markets, tailored data driven services and implementing reskilling and upskilling pathways
- Enhancing the uptake of digital technologies in the energy sector by mobilising research, fostering innovation and making use of complementary instruments to support the scaling up of piloted solutions
- Enhancing the cybersecurity of the energy sector
- Supporting the development and uptake of climate neutral solutions for the Information and Communication Technologies sector as complementing in the European Digital Strategy

According to the Commission's roadmap, the Action Plan will primarily focus on electricity, while addressing other energy carriers such as hydrogen and natural gas, at least from an energy system integration perspective.

In terms of timeline, the Commission is expected to publish the Action plan in Q2 2022.



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Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Directive

On 20 April, the European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy held a [consideration](#) of amendments to the [draft report](#) on the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Rapporteur Niels Fuglsang (S&D, Denmark) said that while MEPs had agreed on the energy efficiency first principle, he will ask the Commission for an impact assessment on higher energy efficiency targets, not based on current energy prices, and expected for the first half of May. He said the energy efficiency targets could be raised from 9% to 19% and the Committee will also look at the Renew group proposal to raise the target to 13%. Finally, he stated that electrifying the EU energy system would increase energy efficiency and allow the Union to use less energy.

The vote in the Committee is expected to take place on 14 June 2022, and on the Council's side there will be a progress report foreseen for 27 June 2022.



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Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD)

As a reminder, on 15 December 2021, the European Commission adopted its proposal for a [recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive \(EPBD\)](#), widening its scope, increasing its requirements, and adding new sustainability aspects.

A feedback period was opened until 1 April 2022. All input will be summarised and presented to the European Parliament and Council of the EU with the aim of feeding it into the legislative debate.

As next steps, the European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), which will be in the lead of the file, will present its first amendments by 5 July 2022 and will hold a vote on them on 26 October.

The Council of the EU is expected to present its progress report on 27 June 2022.

For more information and context, you can consult the European Parliament's [Briefing](#) document.



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DECARBONISATION & CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustainable finance

In regard to the work on the Taxonomy, the EU Platform on Sustainable Finance issued final reports on:

- Technical screening criteria for the four remaining EU Taxonomy objectives. Published on 30 March, the [report](#) outlines recommendations for the Taxonomy objectives 3-6 and how to improve the Taxonomy's design and criteria.
- Extended environmental transition taxonomy intended to increase transparency in the entire economy. This is supposed to help all economic actors to share their transition stories. Published on 29 March, the report outlines a set of recommendations available [here](#).
- A [report](#) on extending the taxonomy to social objectives, published on 28 February. The Platform plans to conduct a public consultation on this report from end June to mid-August.

Regarding the Platform's report on future technical screening criteria, the Commission plans to publish the Taxonomy's next Delegated Act with technical screening criteria in June 2022.

In addition, the mandate of the EU Platform on Sustainable Finance expires in September 2022. The Platform will consult the members and is expected to publish its opinion on its future working model.



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PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

PUBLICATIONS

Author	Date	Title
European Parliament	17 March	Privacy and security aspects of 5G technology
European Commission	21 March	Preliminary assessment of 5G networks & the impact on operators in the EU and EEA
EUROSTAT	24 March	EU international trade of goods 2021
European Commission	24 March	Implementation and application of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the UK 1 January – 31 December 2021
European Commission	24 March	Member States' Annual Activity Reports on Export Credits
European Chemicals Agency	8 April	Impacts of REACH authorisation of trichloroethylene

Council	2 May	Background paper on Enforcement in the Single Market
European Investment Bank	6 May	Digitalisation in Europe 2021-2022
European Commission	11 May	Report on the cybersecurity of Open RAN
European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)	12 May	Annual Report on Cybersecurity Research and Innovation Needs and Priorities
European Commission	12 May	Report: SMEs and cybercrime
European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)	13 May	AI Watch: Revisiting Technologies Readiness Levels for relevant Artificial Intelligence technologies

EVENTS

Organiser	Date	Name & Location
CEIR, Europump and Pneurop	10 May	Sustainability and Decarbonisation: how can the EU's industrial policy support industry's efforts? Brussels, Belgium
Commission	10-11 May	Series of webinars on the revised TEN-E Regulation (Online)

Em-Power Europe	11-13 May	Electric Vehicle Integration into Power Grids Munich, Germany
EURACTIV	17 May	Sustainable and healthy buildings - Reaching the goals of the EU Green Deal. Online
ACER, CEER	17 May	Webinar on gas storage regulation and security of supply Online
DG ENER	19 May	Regulatory aspects under the revised TEN-E Online
Big Data Value Association (BDV)	24 May-9 June	Data Week 2022 Naples, Italy & Online
Commission	30 May	EU Green Week
Orgalim	1 June	Sustainable Products and Digital Product Passports Online
EPPA and DEKRA	1 June	webinar on F-Gases Initiative
Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact	1 June	How do data centres contribute to a green economy?

		Online
CEN and CENELEC and European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)	8-9 June	Workshop on Data quality requirements for inclusive, non-biased and trustworthy AI Online
Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation	27 September	AIOTI Signature Event 2022

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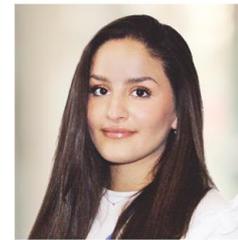
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