

The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College
in the University of Toronto presents the

2018 Charlevoix G7 Final Compliance Report

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Prepared by
Angela Min Yi Hou, Julia Tops, and Cindy Xinying Ou

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www.g7.utoronto.ca
g7@utoronto.ca
[@g7_rg](#)

“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in *G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit*

munkschool.utoronto.ca



At Trinity College
1 Devonshire Place
Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 3K7
T: 416.946.8900 F: 416.946.8915

At the Observatory
315 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 0A7
T: 416.946.8929 F: 416.946.8877

At the Canadiana Gallery
14 Queen’s Park Crescent West
Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 3K9
T: 416.978.5120 F: 416.978.5079

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15. Environment: Ocean Plastics Charter

“Supporting secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.”

G7 Charlevoix Ocean Plastics Charter

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan	N/A		
United Kingdom			+1
United States	N/A		
European Union			+1
Average		+0.67	

Background

With the importance of plastic to the economy and society at large, the plastics industry has surged in growth over the past 50 years. Between 1950 and 2015, 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic was manufactured while some 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste was produced, resulting in an inability to manage them effectively at their end-of-life.³³¹⁰ In 2017, only nine percent of plastic produced was recycled, 12 percent incinerated and the remaining 79 percent ending up in landfills or the natural environment.³³¹¹ Each year, it is estimated that 8-12 million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in our oceans, making up 80 percent of the litter found in aquatic environments.³³¹² If current production and waste management trends continue, 12 billion tonnes will have accumulated by 2050, at which point oceans will have more plastic than fish (by weight).³³¹³ Moreover, the production of plastics emits some 400 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year due to the energy used in their production, transport, and final waste treatment.³³¹⁴

The problem of plastics pollution has come to the forefront of public awareness across the world and public opinion now agrees that the pervasiveness of plastic in our everyday lives poses serious

³³¹⁰ Seven charts that explain the plastic pollution problem, BBC 10 December 2017. Access Date: 4 September 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42264788>.

³³¹¹ Seven charts that explain the plastic pollution problem, BBC 10 December 2017. Access Date: 4 September 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-42264788>.

³³¹² Clean Seas Plastic Management Infographic, UN Environment (UNEP). Access Date: 4 September 2018. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21511/CleanSeas_final_Infographic.pdf?amp%3BisAllowed=y%2C%20thumbnail||https%3A/wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21511/CleanSeas_Infographic_cover.png&sequence=1.

³³¹³ Clean Seas Plastic Management Infographic, UN Environment (UNEP). Access Date: 4 September 2018. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21511/CleanSeas_final_Infographic.pdf?amp%3BisAllowed=y%2C%20thumbnail||https%3A/wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21511/CleanSeas_Infographic_cover.png&sequence=1.

³³¹⁴ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Page 1, OECD. 24 May 2018. Access Date: 4 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

dangers to marine life, our natural environment, and public health.³³¹⁵ The current system of plastics recycling is resulting in low recovery rates of plastic waste while the poor quality of recycled plastic and lack of price incentives are holding back secondary plastic markets.³³¹⁶ Secondary Plastics Market is for “recycled plastics in its bid to create a truly circular economy.”³³¹⁷ A circular economy aims to “redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits and entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system.”³³¹⁸ Given the scale of this challenge, it is recognized that technical, policy and regulatory improvements can create better and greater recycling rates and further support the secondary plastics market, which has a critical role to play in plastics management.³³¹⁹ This includes reducing and restricting plastic waste, particularly single-use plastics and microplastics such as takeaway cups, cutlery, plastic straws and microbeads in personal care products while also addressing issues in the supply chain, from plastics design, production and use to the end-of-life stage.³³²⁰ The end-of-life stage refers to plastics that have served their intended purpose and are then treated as waste and leaked into the environment or recovered and reused or refurbished into new goods.³³²¹ These options are dependent on type and quality of plastic material, and whether appropriate separation technologies are in place to separate, recover and reprocess these plastics. New innovations have the potential to bring improvements in plastic design, separation and reprocessing and in developing plastics that are renewably sourced and biodegradable.³³²² Currently, however, these technologies have not been scaled up due to fragmentation and lack of coordination in the plastics economy.³³²³

Plastics are made from a polymer mixed with additives such as stabilizers, plasticizers, and pigments, and can contain unintended contaminants such as bisphenol A (BPA) and certain phthalates, whose risks to human health and the environment have already been documented.³³²⁴ The secondary

³³¹⁵ Plastic waste threat to marine life, The Guardian 15 September 2007. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2007/sep/16/pollution.travelnews>.

³³¹⁶ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Page 1, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

³³¹⁷ EU Plastics Strategy Aims to Build Secondary Markets to Make Recycling Plastics ‘Profitable’, resource 16 January 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://resource.co/article/eu-plastics-strategy-aims-build-secondary-markets-make-recycling-plastics-profitable-12352>.

³³¹⁸ What is a circular economy?, Ellen McArthur Foundation. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/concept>.

³³¹⁹ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Page 2, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en

³³²⁰ World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics (2016). Access Date: 24 September 2018. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>.

³³²¹ Global Forum on Environment — Plastics in a Circular Economy: Design of Sustainable Plastics from a Chemicals Perspective, Slide2, OECD 29 May 2018. Date Access: 24 September 2018. <https://www.slideshare.net/secret/tdTfwCh9qcUGpp>.

³³²² The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 17, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>

³³²³ The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 17, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>.

³³²⁴ Briefing: Plastics in a Circular Economy, Page 4, European Parliament, May 2017. Access Date: 24 September 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/603940/EPRS_BRI\(2017\)603940_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/603940/EPRS_BRI(2017)603940_EN.pdf).

plastics market collects and sorts this primary plastic waste that is produced and reprocesses it back into raw material or recycles it into new plastic goods. Because most plastic produced has a “useful life” of less than one year, applying circular economy principles to reduce waste to a minimum and making the business case for plastics recycling can improve the economics and uptake of plastics recycling. By creating a better “after-use” or secondary plastics market, environmental outcomes will improve due to less leakage into natural systems such as oceans.³³²⁵

A major challenge in building a better and more effective secondary market lies in the fact that the plastics market is very fragmented due to the lack of standards and coordination across the value chain. This has resulted in the creation of different plastics such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET), high-density polyethylene (HDPE), polypropylene and polystyrene as well as varying approaches to labelling, collection schemes, and sorting and reprocessing systems.³³²⁶ Moreover, the development, design, and format of new plastic materials are disconnected from the development of after-use systems and infrastructure.³³²⁷ “

Finally, recycling rates for different polymers vary widely across countries, with PET and HDPE — which are mostly used for packaging — being recycled at high rates (19 percent to 85 percent), while polypropylene and polystyrene are much less recycled at 1-2 percent.³³²⁸ According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, overall plastics recycling rates range from 30 percent in the European Union to 10 percent in the United States while in many developing and emerging economies, uncontrolled waste collection and treatment is still the norm.³³²⁹

To address these challenges, G7 members — with the exception of Japan and the United States — agreed to and signed an Ocean Plastics Charter at the Charlevoix Summit held in June 2018. In this Charter, members pledge to “move toward a more resource-efficient and sustainable approach to the management of plastics,” which includes making all plastics recyclable by 2030, reducing single-use plastics and promoting the use of recycled plastic, improving and increasing recycling infrastructure, and creating more sustainable technologies.³³³⁰

On 25 September 2018, UN Environment launched a Global Plastics Platform to encourage and support commitments to reduce plastic pollution. The Platform will provide policy support and find ways “to change the design, production, consumption, and disposal of plastics around the world, in

³³²⁵ The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 15, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>

³³²⁶ The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 25, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>

³³²⁷ The New Plastics Economy — Rethinking the future of plastics, Page 25, World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company January 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2018

<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability%20and%20Resource%20Productivity/Our%20Insights/The%20new%20plastics%20economy/The%20New%20Plastics%20Economy.ashx>

³³²⁸ Governments need to encourage plastic recycling markets, OECD Newsroom, OECD 4 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. <http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/governments-need-to-act-to-encourage-plastic-recycling-markets.htm>

³³²⁹ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Page 1, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 4 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en

³³³⁰ G7 Charlevoix Summit, Ocean Plastics Charter, G7 Presidency 11 June 2018. Access Date: 3 September 2018 <https://g7.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/OceanPlasticsCharter.pdf>

line with a transition to a more circular economy.”³³³¹ Furthermore, the Platform will look for opportunities to reduce economic and industrial waste. This initiative builds on the World Economic Forum-hosted Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, the work of the Regional Seas Conventions, and other existing partnerships.³³³²

Commitment Features

In the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter, leaders have committed to “supporting secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.”

The core of this commitment is to support secondary markets for plastics. To achieve this outcome, G7 leaders named two possible instruments. These are 1) by using policy measures; and 2) by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

The core commitment is a pledge to “support the secondary or ‘after-use’ market for plastics by developing various policies that encourage better and more recycling of plastic waste.” “Support” is defined as “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”³³³³ The “after-use” market for plastics is part of the new plastics economy and is the redesign and convergence of materials, formats, and after-use systems to substantially improve the collection, sorting and reprocessing yields, quality, and economics, while allowing for regional differences and continued innovation.”³³³⁴

Such actions to support these goals include improving regulation at the production level, enforcing rules to tackle illegal dumping, setting recycling targets to drive the supply market, creating public awareness campaigns for consumers and manufacturers to create demand for plastics recycling and for goods made with recycled plastic, and supporting the development of more cost-effective collection, sorting and reprocessing systems.³³³⁵ In this regard, investing in domestic reprocessing capacity would decrease reliance on the limited number of global markets such as China, who in January 2018 decided to close their market to imports of plastic waste, thereby creating demand shocks due to this market concentration.³³³⁶ A combination of these and other policy interventions can help create a better functioning secondary plastics market. When G7 members pledge to support the secondary plastics market with policy actions that promote better plastics management, they recognize the economic, regulatory and technical obstacles to a well-functioning plastics market.

³³³¹ UN Environment Announces Global Plastics Platform, Highlights Countries’ Commitments, International Institute for Sustainable Development 2 October 2018. Access Date: 7 October 2018. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-environment-announces-global-plastics-platform-highlights-countries-commitments/>

³³³² UN Environment Announces Global Plastics Platform, Highlights Countries’ Commitments, International Institute for Sustainable Development 2 October 2018. Access Date: 7 October 2018. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-environment-announces-global-plastics-platform-highlights-countries-commitments/>

³³³³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 7 September 2018 <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

³³³⁴ The New Plastics Economy, Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Coves) 2017. Access Date: 28 September 2018. https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/NPEC-Hybrid_English_22-11-17_Digital.pdf.

³³³⁵ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 3-4, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

³³³⁶ Governments need to encourage plastic recycling markets, OECD Newsroom, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. <http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/governments-need-to-act-to-encourage-plastic-recycling-markets.htm>.

The first instrument, “by using policy measures” is a policy that is adopted by the member to target a local, regional or national objective regarding secondary plastics. This includes the fragmentation in the plastics market with regards to the collection, sorting and reprocessing of plastic waste into raw material or new goods.³³³⁷ In addition, recognizing that all plastics are not manufactured the same due to the purpose and length of time the plastic is used for, a categorization system would be needed to increase uptake in reusing, recycling, and recovery.³³³⁸ Simultaneously, investment, expansion, and innovation in end-user systems and infrastructure would also be required to capture plastic waste leakage and further improve the economics of plastics management.³³³⁹

The second instrument is “by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.” “Develop” is “when a commitment states it will develop, it should be interpreted to mean that a new initiative will be established in the area. It should not apply to old initiatives.”³³⁴⁰ It should be interpreted to mean a brand-new initiative.³³⁴¹

International incentives motivate one to do something on a global scale, where each nation encourages each other. An example of this could be economic incentives to support secondary markets for plastics.³³⁴² “International standards” of behaviour for responsible practices should be clearly outlined and subscribed to surrounding how to act and approach these secondary markets for plastics.³³⁴³

Developing incentives to improve the design and chemistry of plastics that would increase the “useful life” beyond one year would reduce and potentially restrict consumption of single-use plastics such as shopping bags, food packaging, bottles, cups and drinking straws while creating higher quality plastic for the secondary market, thereby improving the economics of the value chain.³³⁴⁴

Full compliance is awarded to a G7 member who completes the core commitment and implements both instruments of 1) using policy measures and 2) developing EITHER international incentives or international standards or requirements for product stewardship, design, and recycled content. “Or” implies a list of possibilities so one out of the three suggested tools alongside policy measures, counts as full compliance.

³³³⁷ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 3-4, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

³³³⁸ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 3-4, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

³³³⁹ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 3-4, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

³³⁴⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto). 2 May 2016. Access Date: 7 September 2018 <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

³³⁴¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto). 2 May 2016. Access Date: 7 September 2018 <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

³³⁴² Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, UNEP. April 2009. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/10744/MarineLitterAglobalChallenge.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.

³³⁴³ Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, UNEP. April 2009. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/10744/MarineLitterAglobalChallenge.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.

³³⁴⁴ Improving Markets for Recycled Plastics: Trends, Prospects, and Policy Responses, Pages 4-5, OECD 24 May 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/improving-markets-for-recycled-plastics/executive-summary_9789264301016-4-en.

Partial compliance will be awarded if the G7 member fulfills the core commitment but with only one of the two instruments. Non-compliance will be awarded if the G7 member does not fulfill the core commitment or its supporting instruments.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does NOT support secondary markets for plastics nor does so 1) by using policy measures; and 2) by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.
0	The G7 member supports secondary markets for plastics AND does so 1) by using policy measures; OR 2) by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.
+1	The G7 member does supports secondary markets for plastics AND does so 1) by using policy measures; AND 2) by developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

*Compliance Director: Laila Kanji
Lead Analyst: Sonja Dobson*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 10 June 2018, the Government of Canada pledged to invest CAD100 million in preventing plastic waste entering the oceans, investigate the issue of plastic waste on shorelines, and improve management of existing plastic resources.³³⁴⁵

On 1 August 2018, Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, underlined the significance of the sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems, and the protection of the marine environment during a tour of environmental research and clean energy companies in Mont-Joli, Quebec.³³⁴⁶

On 8 September 2018, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, launched the Community Cleanup, which called on Canadians to clean up plastics from their local shorelines, parks, and neighborhoods. The program encourages Canadians to connect with their local members of Parliament to organize community plastic cleanups.³³⁴⁷

On 17 September 2018, the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, introduced the new Ocean Plastics Education Kit for Canadian students in partnership with Ocean School, Ocean Wise, Sea Smart, Students on Ice and WE. The kit is meant to raise

³³⁴⁵ Working together on climate change, oceans, and clean energy, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Quebec City) 10 June 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/06/10/working-together-climate-change-oceans-and-clean-energy>

³³⁴⁶ Minister McKenna visits Mont-Joli to highlight clean energy and the protection of marine environment, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/07/minister-mckenna-visits-mont-joli-to-highlight-clean-energy-and-the-protection-of-marine-environment.html>

³³⁴⁷ Thousands of Canadians to tackle plastic pollution across the country, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 31 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/09/thousands-of-canadians-to-tackle-plastic-pollution-across-the-country.html>

awareness of issues on marine plastics, as well as to empower Canadian students to develop solutions toward the marine litter issues.³³⁴⁸

On 20 September 2018, the Government of Canada announced its “Greening Government Strategy,” which includes commitments to “increase plastic waste diversion,” “reduce single-use plastic use in operations, meetings and events,” and “procure sustainable plastics products.” The objective is to redirect at least 75 percent of plastic waste from federal operations by 2030.³³⁴⁹

On 20 September 2018, the Government of Canada hosted the Oceans Inspiration Expo in partnership with GLOBE Series and Delphi Group. The Expo, held in Halifax, facilitated a discussion on acknowledging marine issues such as sustainable oceans and fisheries and ocean plastics and marine litter.³³⁵⁰

On 28 September 2018, the G7 Innovation Challenge to Address Marine Plastic Litter was recognized by plastic makers in Canada and the United States. The new G7 Innovation Challenge aims to encourage the development of new technology to build on the successes and innovations in the plastics value chain.³³⁵¹

On 12 October 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada published feedback received from Canadians between April and September 2018 regarding their views on “Moving Canada Toward Zero Plastic Waste.” These consultations discussed how Canada can reduce plastic waste and marine litter and help develop a federal-provincial-territorial approach to keep plastic within the economy and out of landfills and the environment.³³⁵²

On 14 November 2018, the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau met the Premier of the State Council of People’s Republic of China, Li Keqiang at the third Canada-China Annual Leaders’ Dialogue. Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Li issued the Joint Statement on Marine Litter and Plastics, acknowledging the negative impacts of plastic pollution and focusing on the significance of managing plastics and protecting oceans through a sustainable lifecycle approach.³³⁵³

On 23 November 2018, Minister McKenna, was joined by her provincial and territorial counterparts through a teleconference for the annual meeting of Canadian Council of Minister of the Environment in Ottawa. Federal, provincial, and territorial environment ministers agreed to support

³³⁴⁸ Government of Canada partners on new tool to help students learn about plastic pollution, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 September 2018. Access date: 11 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/09/government-of-canada-partners-on-new-tool-to-help-students-learn-about-plastic-pollution.html>

³³⁴⁹ Government of Canada actions on plastic waste in federal operations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/innovation/greening-government/government-canada-actions-plastic-waste-federal-operations.html>

³³⁵⁰ Media Advisory — G7 Oceans Inspiration Expo Opens to the Public, Canada News Wire (Halifax) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/media-advisory---g7-oceans-inspiration-expo-opens-to-the-public-693758321.html>

³³⁵¹ Media Statement: Plastic makers endorse new G7 Innovation Challenge to address marine plastic litter, Canadian Plastics Industry Association (Mississauga) 28 September 2018. Access Date: 4 November 2018. https://plastics.ca/_resources/Innovation%20Challenge%20Media%20Statement%20CPIA.pdf

³³⁵² Moving Canada toward zero plastic waste: Closed consultation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 October 2018. Access Date: 31 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/consultations/moving-toward-zero-plastic-waste.html>

³³⁵³ Joint Statement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Marine Litter and Plastics, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 20 December 2018. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/11/14/joint-statement-between-government-canada-and-government-peoples-republic-china>

the Canada-wide zero-plastic-waste strategy to “prevent, reduce, reuse, and clean up plastic waste.” The ministers also agreed to in principle an updated memorandum of understanding for mutual aid for environmental emergencies. The council affirmed its commitment to the joint work on shared environmental priorities, such as the quality of air and water, climate change, and other effects.³³⁵⁴

On 8 February 2019, the Honorable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, announced a new policy to prevent the use and purchase of single-use plastics.³³⁵⁵ This new policy that established by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard issued an associated directive to limit the purchase and use for federal government meetings, conferences, and events. Minister McKenna says “with the longest coastline in the world, and thousands of communities and wildlife that depend on our oceans, lakes and rivers, we need to beat plastic pollution together with actions big and small. By reducing, reusing and recycling plastic pollution, we can protect our nature, create thousands of new jobs, grow our economy and cut our emissions.”³³⁵⁶

On 15 March 2019, following five days of discussion at the UN Environment Assembly in Kenya, Canada was one of 170 countries who signed onto a non-binding UN resolution to “significantly reduce” the use of plastics by 2030.³³⁵⁷

On 24 May 2019 in Boisbriand, Linda Lapointe, Member of Parliament for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, announced that KWI Polymers is receiving CAD150, 000 under the Canadian Plastic Innovation Challenge on behalf of the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Gerneau.³³⁵⁸ It is supported and funded by the Innovative Solutions Canada program, in order to develop feasible solutions for recycling fiberglass, which will reduce the marine litter, and marine pollution.³³⁵⁹

On 4 June 2019, Minister McKenna and Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, announced that Canada would host the 2020 World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF2020), in partnership with Finnish Innovation Fund, Sitra.³³⁶⁰ This event will bring business and thought leaders together from around the world to share ideas on innovative product

³³⁵⁴ Federal government, provinces, and territories push forward a Canada-wide zero-plastic-waste strategy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 November 2018. Access date: 25 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2018/11/federal-government-provinces-and-territories-push-forward-on-a-canada-wide-zero-plastic-waste-strategy.html>

³³⁵⁵ Curbing plastic pollution in our oceans: Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard take action, Government of Canada, 2 February 2019. Access date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/curbing-plastic-pollution-in-our-oceans-fisheries-and-oceans-and-the-canadian-coast-guard-take-action.html>.

³³⁵⁶ Curbing plastic pollution in our oceans: Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard take action, Government of Canada, 2 February 2019. Access date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2019/02/curbing-plastic-pollution-in-our-oceans-fisheries-and-oceans-and-the-canadian-coast-guard-take-action.html>.

³³⁵⁷ UN resolution pledges to plastic reduction by 2030, BBC News (London). 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47592111>.

³³⁵⁸ New Funding Will Support Research to Develop Recycling Solutions for Fiberglass. CISION, 24 May 2019. Access date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/new-funding-will-support-research-to-develop-recycling-solutions-for-fiberglass-882522906.html>.

³³⁵⁹ New Funding Will Support Research to Develop Recycling Solutions for Fiberglass. CISION, 24 May 2019. Access date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/new-funding-will-support-research-to-develop-recycling-solutions-for-fiberglass-882522906.html>.

³³⁶⁰ Canada to host the 2020 World Circular Economy Forum, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 June 2019: Access date: 18 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/06/canada-to-host-the-2020-world-circular-economy-forum.html>

design and business models for reusing and remanufacturing materials, and create new economic opportunities.³³⁶¹

On 6 June 2019, in order to celebrate Environment Week, the Canadian Plastics Industry Association and the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada highlighted their actions on making strides to tackle plastic waste.³³⁶²

On 10 June 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that “as early as 2021, Canada will ban harmful single-use plastics from coast to coast.”³³⁶³ The government is looking at items such as water bottles, straws and plastic bags, which will be determined by a science-based review.³³⁶⁴ In addition, he shared that the government will work with provinces and territories to introduce standards and targets for companies that manufacture plastic products or sell items with plastic packaging, so they become responsible for their plastic waste.”³³⁶⁵

Canada has fully complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter goals by supporting secondary markets for plastics using policy measures to promote the reduction and recycling of plastics as well as through public engagement on encouraging a zero plastic waste future.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Angelab Liu

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 25 June 2018, the French Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Nicolas Hulot, and the Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Brune Poirson, participated in the Council of the European Ministers of the Environment. Mr. Poirson reiterated support for a ban on single-use plastics, stating that “France ... supports at the European level the ban on single-use plastic objects that generate a lot of marine litter.”³³⁶⁶ This follows the Roadmap for the Circular Economy adopted on 23 April 2018.³³⁶⁷

³³⁶¹ Canada to host the 2020 World Circular Economy Forum, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 June 2019: Access date: 18 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/06/canada-to-host-the-2020-world-circular-economy-forum.html>

³³⁶² Canada's Chemistry and Plastics Industries Making Strides to Tackle Plastic Waste, CISION, 6 June 2019. Access date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-s-chemistry-and-plastics-industries-making-strides-to-tackle-plastic-waste-846513867.html>.

³³⁶³ Canada will ban 'harmful' single-use plastics as early as 2021, The Guardian, 10 June 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/10/canada-ban-single-use-plastics-bags-bottles-straws-2021>

³³⁶⁴ Canada to ban harmful single-use plastics and hold companies responsible for plastic waste, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 10 June 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2019/06/10/canada-ban-harmful-single-use-plastics-and-hold-companies-responsible-plastic-waste>

³³⁶⁵ Canada to ban harmful single-use plastics and hold companies responsible for plastic waste, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 10 June 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2019/06/10/canada-ban-harmful-single-use-plastics-and-hold-companies-responsible-plastic-waste>

³³⁶⁶ Conseil des ministres européens de l'environnement, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 25 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/conseil-des-ministres-europeens-l'environnement-france-emmene-leurope-sur-voie-lambition>

³³⁶⁷ Roadmap for the Circular Economy, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 23 April 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/FREC%20anglais.pdf>

On 25 June 2018, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition released a Corporate Social Responsibility framework for the logistics industry that called on operators to promote the reuse or recycling of resources used by the industry such as plastic packaging and film.³³⁶⁸

On 2 July 2018, the French Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Brune Poirson and the Secretary of State to the Minister of Economy and Finance, Delphine Gény-Stephann, obtained commitments from 55 companies and industry groups to incorporate an additional 300,000 tonnes of recycled plastics into their products by 2025, doubling the current rate of recycled plastics usage, as well as commitments to design, obtain, and recycle materials in an environmentally conscious way.³³⁶⁹

On 26 July 2018, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition released a fact sheet on governmental actions to promote a circular economy titled “Three Months of Work: An Advancing Roadmap.” It indicated that by 2020, the French “will have more opportunities to purchase products made of materials from recycling” and “will sort their waste more easily thanks to harmonization in the colour of waste bins through all French territory by 2022.”³³⁷⁰

On 1 August 2018, Poirson announced the launch of an “Oceans Mission” that would include new measures to protect the oceans from waste, in particular, plastic pollution.³³⁷¹

On 12 August 2018, Poirson announced plans to introduce a penalty system that would make packaging made with non-recycled plastic up to 10 percent more expensive.³³⁷² Poirson indicated: “Tomorrow, when there is a choice between two bottles, one made with recycled plastic, the other not, the first one will be cheaper.” Poirson also announced that the government would increase taxes on landfills and reduce taxes on recycling activities.³³⁷³

On 14-15 October 2018, Poirson held consultations at the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition with a variety of stakeholders with a view to preparing a law on the circular economy.

³³⁶⁸ Référentiel de responsabilité sociétale des entreprises (RSE) en logistique, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 25 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/R%E2%94%9C%C2%AEf%E2%94%9C%C2%AErentiel%20RSE%20en%20logistique%20version%20compl%E2%94%9C%C2%BFte.pdf>

³³⁶⁹ 100% plastiques recyclés en 2025 : 55 industriels et fédérations s’engagent en faveur du recyclage et de l’éco-conception, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 2 July 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/100-plastiques-recycles-en-2025-55-industriels-et-federations-sengagent-en-faveur-du-recyclage-et>

³³⁷⁰ Trois mois de travail, une feuille de route qui avance, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/bilanpersFREC_web.pdf

³³⁷¹ Pollution des océans et des récifs coralliens, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/pollution-des-oceans-et-des-recifs-coralliens-brune-poirson-sattaque-aux-substances-chimiques-et-aux>

³³⁷² France to set penalties on non-recycled plastic next year, France24 (Paris) 12 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.france24.com/en/20180812-france-plastic-penalties-recycling-environment-reduce-reuse-pollution>

³³⁷³ France to make unrecycled plastic bottles more expensive, Reuters (Paris) 13 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-plastics/france-to-make-unrecycled-plastic-bottles-more-expensive-idUSKBN1KY13T>

Stakeholders consulted included manufacturers, local authorities, representatives of the recycling industry, and environmental organizations.³³⁷⁴

From 15 October 2018 to 15 December 2018, the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, supported by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency, ran a national audiovisual campaign discussing the environmental and economic benefits of recycling and encouraging citizens to move towards a circular economy. The campaign was co-funded by 13 recycling sector organizations and had a budget of EUR3.6 million.³³⁷⁵

On 10 January 2019, Poirson jointly launched a call for innovative packaging and paper waste collection solutions with Arnaud Leroy, president of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), and Jean Hornain, director general of recycling non-profit Citeo.³³⁷⁶ The government, ADEME, and Citeo will offer financial and technological support to communities, companies, and other groups putting forward projects, with Citeo providing EUR6 million.³³⁷⁷

On 18 January 2019, Poirson, along with Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Secretary of State to the Minister of Economy and Finance, signed a contract by the strategic committee of the waste transformation and recovery sector.³³⁷⁸ This contract committed to six projects, which aim to increase the ratio of recycled materials in new products while ensuring quality, safety, and traceability; support a network of expertise on product recyclability and eco-design; accelerate the growth of French companies in the environmental sector; support skill development in the sector; and accelerate the automation of waste sorting.³³⁷⁹ The contract is in line with the Roadmap for the Circular Economy adopted on 23 April 2018, which aims to halve landfilling and bring about a 100 per cent recycling rate for plastics.³³⁸⁰

³³⁷⁴ Note aux rédactions — Économie circulaire: Brune Poirson consulte l'ensemble des parties prenantes, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018.

<https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/note-aux-redactions-economie-circulaire-brune-poirson-consulte-lensemble-des-parties-prenantes>

³³⁷⁵ "Ensemble, continuons de recycler!" Brune Poirson lance une grande campagne de communication inter-filière sur le recyclage, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/ensemble-continuons-recycler-brune-poirson-lance-grande-campagne-communication-inter-filiere-sur>

³³⁷⁶ Le Gouvernement, l'ADEME et Citeo s'associent pour une collecte des emballages innovante, performante et solidaire, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/gouvernement-lademe-et-citeo-sassocient-collecte-des-emballages-innovante-performante-et-solidaire>.

³³⁷⁷ Le Gouvernement, l'ADEME et Citeo s'associent pour une collecte des emballages innovante, performante et solidaire, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/gouvernement-lademe-et-citeo-sassocient-collecte-des-emballages-innovante-performante-et-solidaire>.

³³⁷⁸ Signature du Contrat du comité stratégique de filière "Transformation et valorisation des déchets", Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 18 January 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/cp-signature-du-contrat-du-comite-strategique-filiere-transformation-et-valorisation-des-dechets>.

³³⁷⁹ Signature du Contrat du comité stratégique de filière "Transformation et valorisation des déchets", Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 18 January 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/cp-signature-du-contrat-du-comite-strategique-filiere-transformation-et-valorisation-des-dechets>.

³³⁸⁰ France Unveils Circular Economy Roadmap, Latham & Watkins LLP 27 April 2018. Access Date: 20 March 2019. <https://www.globalelr.com/2018/04/france-unveils-circular-economy-roadmap/>.

On 31 January 2019, Poirson met with representatives of major French fast food chains to present a timeline for better waste management.³³⁸¹ By the end of March 2019, companies are to communicate their strategy for compliance with regulations on the sorting of different waste streams, including plastic.³³⁸² These strategies will be studied and presented by the end of April and begin to be implemented by the beginning of September. Poirson indicated: “It would not occur to any restaurant to compromise on the rules of hygiene.³³⁸³ The same must apply to the sorting of waste.”³³⁸⁴

On 21 February 2019, Poirson signed a National Pact on Plastic Packaging Auchan Retail France, Biscuits Bouvard, Carrefour, Casino, Coca-Cola European Partners, Danone, Franprix, L’Oréal, LSDH, Monoprix, Nestlé France, Système-U, Unilever, the Tara Expeditions Foundation, and WWF France.³³⁸⁵ Commitments in the Pact include developing a list of problematic and unnecessary packaging elements and creating measures to eliminate them; collectively recycling 60 per cent of plastic packaging by 2022; using eco-design to make 100 per cent of packaging reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025; and conducting information and education campaigns to raise awareness of plastic pollution among the general public.³³⁸⁶ Progress will be assessed every six months starting 2021, and progress will also be made public annually.³³⁸⁷

On 15 March 2019 following five days of discussion at the UN Environment Assembly in Kenya, France was one of 170 countries who signed onto a non-binding UN resolution to “significantly reduce” the use of plastics by 2030.³³⁸⁸

On 26 March 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron and Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a joint declaration in which their nations committed to “strongly support international action against

³³⁸¹ Brune Poirson a convoqué les patrons de la restauration rapide pour leur rappeler leurs obligations réglementaires en matière de gestion des déchets, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/brune-poirson-convoque-patrons-restauration-rapide-leur-rappeler-leurs-obligations-reglementaires-en>.

³³⁸² Brune Poirson a convoqué les patrons de la restauration rapide pour leur rappeler leurs obligations réglementaires en matière de gestion des déchets, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/brune-poirson-convoque-patrons-restauration-rapide-leur-rappeler-leurs-obligations-reglementaires-en>.

³³⁸³ Brune Poirson a convoqué les patrons de la restauration rapide pour leur rappeler leurs obligations réglementaires en matière de gestion des déchets, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/brune-poirson-convoque-patrons-restauration-rapide-leur-rappeler-leurs-obligations-reglementaires-en>.

³³⁸⁴ Brune Poirson a convoqué les patrons de la restauration rapide pour leur rappeler leurs obligations réglementaires en matière de gestion des déchets, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/brune-poirson-convoque-patrons-restauration-rapide-leur-rappeler-leurs-obligations-reglementaires-en>.

³³⁸⁵ Pacte National sur les emballages plastiques: le Gouvernement, des entreprises françaises et des ONG s’engagent, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/pacte-national-sur-emballages-plastiques-gouvernement-des-entreprises-francaises-et-des-ong>.

³³⁸⁶ Pacte National sur les emballages plastiques: le Gouvernement, des entreprises françaises et des ONG s’engagent, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/pacte-national-sur-emballages-plastiques-gouvernement-des-entreprises-francaises-et-des-ong>.

³³⁸⁷ Pacte National sur les emballages plastiques: le Gouvernement, des entreprises françaises et des ONG s’engagent, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/pacte-national-sur-emballages-plastiques-gouvernement-des-entreprises-francaises-et-des-ong>.

³³⁸⁸ UN resolution pledges to plastic reduction by 2030, BBC News (London). 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47592111>.

plastic pollution of the ocean and land through the strengthening of existing arrangements, including the Basel Convention.”³³⁸⁹

On 5 April 2019, Poirson and Stientje van Veldhoven, Dutch Secretary of State for Infrastructure and Water Management, co-chaired a meeting to begin the development of a European pact on plastic packaging attended by plastics industry representatives and officials from Norway, Luxembourg, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, and Austria.³³⁹⁰ The pact builds on the French and Dutch national pacts on plastic packaging, both of which focus on promoting recyclability and recycling. It is expected to be presented in the fall of 2019 and will followed by a European Plastics Summit in 2020.³³⁹¹

On 19 April 2019, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition launched consultations on a draft national waste management plan, whose goals included using tax measures to make waste recovery cheaper than disposal, accelerating the collection of recyclable packaging, and including sorting instructions with all plastic packaging. The consultation closed at the end of May 2019.³³⁹²

On 6 May 2019 following the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting held in Metz, France, a communiqué was issued stating France’s offer “to host, under its G7 Presidency, a scientific workshop dedicated to the standardization and harmonization of microplastics monitoring, including biomonitoring, and the potential contribution of behavioural sciences to designing strategies to reduce microplastics and plastic pollution.”³³⁹³

France has fully complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter goals through supporting secondary markets for plastics by using tax policy measures, public engagements, and other initiatives to promote recycling, recovery, and reduction of plastics waste while contributing to international requirements for better product stewardship.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zhenglin Liu

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

³³⁸⁹ Déclaration conjointe entre la France et la Chine, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 26 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/declaration-conjointe-entre-france-et-chine>.

³³⁹⁰ Réunion de mobilisation de pays européens pour la création d’un pacte plastique sur les emballages en Europe, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 3 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/reunion-mobilisation-pays-europeens-creation-dun-pacte-plastique-sur-emballages-en-europe>.

³³⁹¹ Franco-Dutch plastic ‘coalition of the willing’ takes shape, EURACTIV (Brussels) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/franco-dutch-plastic-coalition-of-the-willing-takes-shape/>.

³³⁹² Plan national de gestion des déchets: la concertation du public est lancée, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/plan-national-gestion-des-dechets-concertation-du-public-est-lancee>.

³³⁹³ G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris), 6 May 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Communiqu%C3%A9%20G7_Version%20EN.pdf

On 18 September 2018, German Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze released a statement prior to the G7 Environment Ministers meeting stating that “we must work for sustainable and resource-efficient use of plastics along the entire life cycle, from product design and manufacture to recycling.”³³⁹⁴

On 26 November 2018, Minister Schulze announced a strategy for combatting plastic waste. This strategy is a five-point plan that will focus on circumventing unnecessary packaging, making products more environmentally friendly, increasing recycling, preventing plastics from entering organic waste, and increasing donations for international actions which eliminate plastic waste from the oceans and rivers.³³⁹⁵

On 1 January 2019, Germany introduced a new Packaging Act. Companies that produce volumes of packaging over 30,000 kilograms of plastic and compounds sold in Germany must submit a declaration of compliance to the Federal Government or they will incur a EUR50,000 fine.³³⁹⁶ The German government aims of reaching a target of 70 per cent reusable beverage packaging with the Act. The Act introduces incentives for packaging producers to incorporate recyclable designs into their products. The Act requires retailers to indicate whether beverage packaging is reusable or disposable.³³⁹⁷ Online retailers must register with a central packaging agency to maintain domestic market access. The German government aimed to increase plastic recycling rates to 58.5 per cent from 36 per cent with the new Packaging Act.³³⁹⁸

In February 2019, German Environmental Minister Schulz met with sales representatives from a variety of industries to discuss how to avoid plastic, which she said would result in new plastic laws that would be introduced in the autumn.³³⁹⁹ Minister Schulze said she expected “retailers and manufacturers to commit themselves to using alternatives to plastic across the board” by the time the next meeting takes place in fall.”³⁴⁰⁰

On 15 March 2019, following five days of discussion at the UN Environment Assembly in Kenya, Germany was one of 170 countries who signed onto a non-binding UN resolution to “significantly reduce” the use of plastics by 2030.³⁴⁰¹

On 21 May 2019, Minister Schulze called for swift implementation of the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive, which will ban selected single-use plastic products that end up as marine litter, require plastic bottles to have a minimum of 30 per cent of recycled plastic, and give the plastics industry a

³³⁹⁴ G7 environment ministers discuss measures to combat climate change, marine litter and resource inefficiency, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g7-umweltministerinnen-und-minister-diskutieren-massnahmen-gegen-klimawandel-meeresmuell-und-ressour/>

³³⁹⁵ Germany unveils 5-point plan to reduce plastic waste, DW News (Berlin) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-unveils-5-point-plan-to-reduce-plastic-waste/a-46455503>

³³⁹⁶ Getting Ready for Germany’s New Packaging Law, Packaging Europe. 20 June 2018. Accessed 12 November 2018. <https://packagingeurope.com/getting-ready-for-germanys-new-packaging-law/>.

³³⁹⁷ New Packaging Law Introduced in Germany, Clarity EU. 28 June 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2018. https://www.clarity.eu.com/home/news/news.php?news_id=363&type_id=1®ion_id=&story=New+packaging+law+approved+in+Germany.

³³⁹⁸ The New Packaging Law: What Will Change?, Landbell. 12 December 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2018. https://verpackungsgesetz-info.de/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/20171019_landbell_verpackg-factsheet_en_final.pdf.

³³⁹⁹ Are plastic bags on the way out in Germany? The Local de. 17 May 2019. Access Date: 23 May 2019. <https://www.thelocal.de/20190517/are-plastic-bags-finally-on-the-way-out-in-germany>.

³⁴⁰⁰ Large majority of German consumers supports EU ban on disposable plastics, Xinhua News (Berlin) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/12/c_137972584.htm

³⁴⁰¹ UN resolution pledges to plastic reduction by 2030, BBC News (London). 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47592111>.

larger share of waste removal costs. These regulations are to be national law in two years' time across EU member states. Schulze stated "As plastic waste accounts for the largest share of marine litter, it is only right that we ban disposable plates and cutlery and other single-use plastic products as quickly as possible. In Germany, these products are to set vanish from our shelves even before 2021."³⁴⁰²

Germany has partially complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter goals by stating its support for the secondary plastics market and called for a ban on single use plastics however has yet to implement policy measures or international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design, and recycled content.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Heerea Rikbraj

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 28 June 2018, Italian Minister of the Environment, Sergio Costa, announced that an amendment to Italy's Code on the Environment was being developed to involve Italy's fishermen in the clean-up of marine litter and allow them to bring plastic waste recovered from its waters to land. Currently, they are not allowed to bring this ashore for the purposes of reusing, recycling and recovering. According to Minister Costa, this is the first step "towards a circular economy."³⁴⁰³

On 26 September 2018, Italian Undersecretary for the Environment, Salvatore Micillo, spoke at a conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Corepla, the National Consortium for the collection, recycling and recovery of plastic packaging. There he reiterated that a law was being developed to allow the country's fisherman to recover plastic waste from Italy's waters and bring it back to shore, in efforts to tackle marine plastic pollution. Micillo further stated that "the circular economy is the future, and we want to develop it."³⁴⁰⁴

On 1 October 2018, the Directorate General for Waste and Pollution at the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection concluded a consultation on the document "The Circular Economy and the Efficient Use of Resources: Indicators for measuring the circular economy," which addresses plastics throughout. The consultation began on 30 July 2018, and the ministry indicated that it was a step towards creating a "National Action Plan for the Circular Economy."³⁴⁰⁵

³⁴⁰² Minister Schulze calls for swift implementation of EU rules on single-use plastics, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 21 May 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-neue-eu-regeln-fuer-einwegplastik-rasch-umsetzen/>

³⁴⁰³ Mare, Costa: a breve legge per recupero plastica, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 28 June 2018. Access Date: 17 October 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mare-costa-breve-legge-recupero-plastica>

³⁴⁰⁴ Il Sottosegretario Micillo a Corepla: Italia leader nel riciclo, su plastica dobbiamo fare di più. Presto una legge per pulire i mari, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 17 October 2018. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/il-sottosegretario-micillo-corepla-italia-leader-nel-riciclo-su-plastica-dobbiamo-fare-di>

³⁴⁰⁵ Documento "Economia Circolare ed Uso Efficiente Delle Risorse — Indicatori per la misurazione dell'economia circolare, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. <http://indicatoricircolari.consultazione.minambiente.it/>

On 19 December 2018, Minister Costa spoke in Brussels in anticipation of the EU Environment Council meeting, announcing that he will soon present a “Salvamare” bill to support fishermen in bringing plastic waste ashore for collection.³⁴⁰⁶

On 15 March 2019, following five days of discussion at the UN Environment Assembly in Kenya, Italy was one of 170 countries who signed onto a non-binding UN resolution to “significantly reduce” the use of plastics by 2030.³⁴⁰⁷

On 4 April 2019, the “Salvamare” bill was passed by the Italian Council of Ministers, rewarding fishermen to for bringing plastic waste onshore for collection.³⁴⁰⁸ Prior to the passing of this bill, they risked being charged for its disposal or were suspected of waste trafficking.

Italy has partially complied with its commitment by developing the policy measure of its “Salvamare” bill for fishermen, but has not contributed to international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Zhenglin Liu

Japan: N/A

Japan has not signed the Ocean Plastics Charter but has taken steps to reduce the amount of plastic waste disposed into the ocean by passing a bill that reduces the amount of microplastics leaked into the ocean and has initiated plans to recycle disposable plastics.

On 11 June 2018, Minister Yasunari Morino of the Japanese foreign ministry stated in an interview “[The Charter] expects the countries to institute a wide range of regulatory measures around plastic goods, including various commonplace goods in our lives.” He went on further saying, “we need to look at the implications of this document for how it will affect our lives and industry. And also we believe that all countries, not only G-7 but all countries including developing countries, need to be involved in the discussion efforts to tackle this global issue.”³⁴⁰⁹

On 15 June 2018, the Japanese parliament approved a bill intended to decrease the amount of microplastics dumped into the ocean, but it included no sanctions for failure to comply.³⁴¹⁰

On 4 July 2018, the Japanese Environment Ministry started planning on how to increase recycling of disposable plastics. One idea is administering subsidies to help waste management companies build state of the art recycling facilities.³⁴¹¹

³⁴⁰⁶ Plastica, ministro Costa: "Giornata importante. Avviato cammino di tutela dei mari e dell'ambiente", Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2018. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/plastica-ministro-costa-giornata-importante-avviato-cammino-di-tutela-dei-mari-e>.

³⁴⁰⁷ UN resolution pledges to plastic reduction by 2030, BBC News (London). 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47592111>.

³⁴⁰⁸ Costa: con la legge Salvamare iniziamo a ripulire il mare dalla plastica, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (Rome) 4 April 2018. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/costa-con-la-legge-salvamare-iniziamo-ripulire-il-mare-dalla-plastica>.

³⁴⁰⁹ Japan Needs Longer Look at Oceans Plastics Charter After G-7 Summit, Bloomberg News (Washington D.C) 11 June 2018. Access Date: 07 October 2018. <https://www.bna.com/japan-needs-longer-n73014476401/>

³⁴¹⁰ Japan passes anti-plastic law but with no sanctions for polluters, The Jakarta Post (Tokyo) 16 June 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2018/06/16/japan-passes-anti-plastic-law-but-with-no-sanctions-for-polluters.html>

On 17 August 2018, a Japanese government panel commenced discussions on an action plan to reduce plastic waste. The panel will evaluate “how to efficiently recover and recycle disposable plastic items, promote bioplastics that are derived from biomass sources and easily decomposable in nature.”³⁴¹²

On 14 October 2018, the Japanese government announced a 25 percent reduction in disposable plastics by 2030, making it mandatory for shops to charge for plastic bags and slashing the use of microplastics in facial scrubs and toothpaste. In addition, the government intends to increase monitoring of illegal dumping and promote the use of environmentally friendly bioplastics made from plants.³⁴¹³

On 7 November 2018, the Ministry of the Environment presented a policy that would request companies to curb the use of microbeads used in facewash and toothpaste, and restaurants and shops to not use plastic bags and straws.³⁴¹⁴

On 22 February 2019, a Japanese government council finalised environmental policy draft for 25 per cent reduction in disposable plastics by 2030. The policy advocates for complete recycling or reuse of plastic waste.³⁴¹⁵

On 27 February 2019, the Japanese government announced its plans to ban the export of dirty non-recyclable plastic wastes through revision of relevant ordinances on procedures for exporting such waste.³⁴¹⁶

On 4 March 2019, Japan in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, announced its new initiative to boost knowledge on and develop measures against marine plastic litter.³⁴¹⁷ The Government of Japan stated “we will continue to exercise our leadership in promoting measures by the international community as a whole including emerging countries to combat marine plastic litter, to realize a world without additional pollution.”³⁴¹⁸

³⁴¹¹ How China’s plastic waste ban has left Japan to deal with mountains of trash, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 04 July 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2153690/how-chinas-plastic-waste-ban-has-left-japan-deal-mountains-trash>

³⁴¹² Japanese government panel begins discussions on reducing plastic waste, Japan Times (Tokyo) 17 August 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/08/17/national/science-health/japanese-government-panel-begins-discussions-reducing-plastic-waste/#.W8hx4ktKjIU>

³⁴¹³ Japan eyes reducing amount of plastic waste by as much as 25% by 2030, Japan Times (Tokyo) 14 October 2018. Access Date: 11 November 2018. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/10/14/national/japan-eyes-reducing-amount-plastic-waste-much-25-2030/#.W-haBZnKjIU>

³⁴¹⁴ Japan gov’t to urge companies to curb use of microplastics, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 7 November 2018. Access Date: 21 December 2018. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2018/11/4279143ebb2f-govt-to-urge-companies-to-curb-use-of-microplastics.html>

³⁴¹⁵ Government panel finalises draft to cut plastic waste by 25% by 2030. The Mainichi (Tokyo) 22 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190222/p2g/00m/0dm/075000c>

³⁴¹⁶ Japan to ban exports of nonrecyclable dirty plastic waste, The Mainichi (Tokyo) 27 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190227/p2a/00m/0na/015000c>

³⁴¹⁷ Japan and United Nations Environment Programme Announce New Cooperation to Boost Knowledge on Marine Plastic Litter in Southeast Asia and in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo), 4 March 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002357.html

³⁴¹⁸ Japan and United Nations Environment Programme Announce New Cooperation to Boost Knowledge on Marine Plastic Litter in Southeast Asia and in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo), 4 March 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002357.html

On 15 March 2019, following five days of discussion at the UN Environment Assembly in Kenya, Japan was one of 170 countries who signed onto a non-binding UN resolution to “significantly reduce” the use of plastics by 2030.³⁴¹⁹

On 6 May 2019 following the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting held in Metz, France, a communiqué was issued highlighting Japan’s initiative to launch the “Project of Harmonization of Marine Microplastics Monitoring Methodologies” for standardizing and harmonizing monitoring methodologies for microplastics.³⁴²⁰

On 5 June 2019, the Japanese government announced their plan to ban the provision of single-use plastic bag for free by retail shops to shoppers, while leaving the price to be charged for a plastic bag to the retailers. Environment Minister Yoshiaki Harada, stated in a press conference that “the proportion of plastic bags among plastic waste is not big, but charging would be symbolic.”³⁴²¹

Although Japan has not signed on to the Ocean Plastics Charter, it plans on developing strategies and policies to reduce marine plastic pollution.

Analyst: Judith Nwachibelu

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 18 June 2018, Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), opened a competition that offers GBP4 million to businesses that intend on reducing or reusing plastic in innovative ways.³⁴²² Possible circular economy approaches could include but are not limited to, the development of new polymer materials, new product designs, new recycling processes, increasing the value of recycled polymer, and innovations that encourage people to change behaviour to reduce plastic waste.³⁴²³

On 18 June 2018, the UK launched the Plastics and Research Innovation Fund, amounting to GBP20 million.³⁴²⁴ The funding is to be managed by UKRI to develop a more sustainable approach to plastics to create “a new model where you use, you reuse, and you recycle.”³⁴²⁵

³⁴¹⁹ UN resolution pledges to plastic reduction by 2030, BBC News (London). 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47592111>.

³⁴²⁰ G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris), 6 May 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Communiqu%C3%A9%20G7_Version%20EN.pdf

³⁴²¹ Japan to ban free plastic bags at stores to fight marine pollution, Japan Today (Tokyo) 05 June 2019. Access Date 09 June 2019. <https://japantoday.com/category/business/japan-to-ban-free-plastic-bags-at-stores-to-fight-pollution-minister>.

³⁴²² Reducing plastic waste in the environment: apply for funding, UK Government (London) 18 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reducing-plastic-waste-in-the-environment-apply-for-funding>

³⁴²³ Reducing plastic waste in the environment: apply for funding, UK Government (London) 18 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reducing-plastic-waste-in-the-environment-apply-for-funding>

³⁴²⁴ Science Minister announces £20 million Plastics Research and Innovation Fund to turn the tide on plastics production, UK Research and Innovation (London) 18 June 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. <https://www.ukri.org/news/science-minister-announces-20-million-plastics-research-and-innovation-fund-to-turn-the-tide-on-plastics-production/>

On 19 June 2018, the UK government prohibited the sale of products containing microbeads in an attempt to prevent the small plastics from entering and harming the marine environment.³⁴²⁶

On 30 June 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs offered a GBP 19,000 contract for research into the economic and environmental consequences of introducing a policy ban on all single-use plastics.³⁴²⁷ This ban would include plastic straws, plastic plates, and plastic cutlery.³⁴²⁸

On 30 August 2018, Prime Minister Theresa May confirmed that the government will deliberate a change to the national fee for plastic bags purchased from retailers, increasing the fee from GBP0.05 to GBP0.10.³⁴²⁹ It is proposed this fee is to be extended to smaller retail stores, as it was only applicable to those retailers with more than 250 employees.³⁴³⁰

On 30 August 2018, The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a new partnership with the UK Scouts.³⁴³¹ The Government intends on creating a new “Plastics and Marine Environment Activity Pack” to reduce the amount of single-use plastics in the ocean.³⁴³² This will be supplemented through an international exchange programme that allows scouts from the United Kingdom and Kenya to interact and learn about the harmful impacts of plastic pollution.³⁴³³ The Prime Minister, during her visit to Africa in the same week, pledged approximately GBP40,000 for a new Girl Guides and Scouts Plastic Challenge Badge that aims to educate children from three African countries about the detriments posed by plastic consumption.³⁴³⁴

On 11 September 2018, the Environment Agency published the Packaging Producer Responsibility Monitoring Plan of 2018, which is meant to ensure that packaging producers in England meet EU packaging recovery and recycling targets and they are registered in accordance with these

³⁴²⁵ Science Minister announces £20 million Plastics Research and Innovation Fund to turn the tide on plastics production, UK Research and Innovation (London) 18 June 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. <https://www.ukri.org/news/science-minister-announces-20-million-plastics-research-and-innovation-fund-to-turn-the-tide-on-plastics-production/>

³⁴²⁶ World leading microbeads ban comes into force, UK Government (London) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-microbeads-ban-comes-into-force>

³⁴²⁷ Plastic plates and cutlery to be banned from sale under government plans, Telegraph (London) 30 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/06/30/plastic-plates-cutlery-banned-sale-government-plans/>

³⁴²⁸ Plastic plates and cutlery to be banned from sale under government plans, Telegraph (London) 30 June 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/06/30/plastic-plates-cutlery-banned-sale-government-plans/>

³⁴²⁹ Plastic bags: Charge could rise to 10p and be extended to smaller shops, British Broadcasting Company (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45353073>

³⁴³⁰ Plastic bags: Charge could rise to 10p and be extended to smaller shops, British Broadcasting Company (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45353073>

³⁴³¹ Next Generation of Leaders to Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-leaders-to-join-fight-against-plastic-pollution>

³⁴³² Next Generation of Leaders to Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-leaders-to-join-fight-against-plastic-pollution>

³⁴³³ Next Generation of Leaders to Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-leaders-to-join-fight-against-plastic-pollution>

³⁴³⁴ Next Generation of Leaders to Join Fight Against Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-leaders-to-join-fight-against-plastic-pollution>

regulations.³⁴³⁵ In addition, the plan verifies data on recycling and recovery rates, ensures recycling and recovery of waste packaging meets standards, and that packaging is not disposed of through illegal avenues.³⁴³⁶ The plan enables the Environment Agency to exercise certain powers to guarantee the compliance of all packaging producers.³⁴³⁷

On 22 October 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs set out a strategy to ban the circulation of straws, stirrers, and cotton buds.³⁴³⁸ An online consultation was opened to gather views of stakeholders.³⁴³⁹

On 29 October 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs proposed a new tax on food and drink companies for plastic packaging that does not include at least 30 percent recycled content.³⁴⁴⁰ This tax, however, is subject to consultation and is due to come in to effect on 1 April 2022.³⁴⁴¹

On 29 October 2018, Chancellor Philip Hammond announced a GBP10 million fund to prevent the illegal industrial dumping of waste.³⁴⁴² Pledges of GBP20 million and GBP10 million were granted to augment recycling and help fund innovative approaches to reduce litter respectively.³⁴⁴³

On 29 October 2018, the UK government signed the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy Global Commitment to eradicate plastic waste and pollution.³⁴⁴⁴ The primary targets of this commitment are to eliminate single-use plastics in exchange for reusable packaging, encourage

³⁴³⁵ Packaging producer responsibility monitoring plan 2018, UK Government (London) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018>

³⁴³⁶ Packaging producer responsibility monitoring plan 2018, UK Government (London) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018>

³⁴³⁷ Packaging producer responsibility monitoring plan 2018, UK Government (London) 11 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018/packaging-producer-responsibility-monitoring-plan-2018>

³⁴³⁸ Government Launches Plan to ban Plastic Straws, Cotton-buds, and Stirrers, UK Government (London) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-plan-to-ban-plastic-straws-cotton-buds-and-stirrers>

³⁴³⁹ Consultation on Proposals to Ban the Distribution and/or Sale of Plastic Straws, Plastic-Stemmed Cotton-buds and Plastic Drink Stirrers in England, Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (London) 22 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/plastic-straws-stirrers-and-buds/>

³⁴⁴⁰ Budget: Tax on Plastic Packaging; £20m Investment in Recycling; PRN Reform, British Plastics and Rubber (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/News/budget-tax-on-plastic-packaging-20m-investment-in-recycling/>

³⁴⁴¹ Budget: Tax on Plastic Packaging; £20m Investment in Recycling; PRN Reform, British Plastics and Rubber (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/News/budget-tax-on-plastic-packaging-20m-investment-in-recycling/>

³⁴⁴² Budget: Tax on Plastic Packaging; £20m Investment in Recycling; PRN Reform, British Plastics and Rubber (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/News/budget-tax-on-plastic-packaging-20m-investment-in-recycling/>

³⁴⁴³ Budget: Tax on Plastic Packaging; £20m Investment in Recycling; PRN Reform, British Plastics and Rubber (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.britishplastics.co.uk/News/budget-tax-on-plastic-packaging-20m-investment-in-recycling/>

³⁴⁴⁴ UK Signs Global Commitment to Eliminate Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://deframedia.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/29/uk-signs-global-commitment-to-eliminate-plastic-pollution/>

innovation to ensure that all plastic packaging could be safely reused, recycled, or composted, and circulate the plastic produced by implementing reusing strategies.³⁴⁴⁵

On 27 November 2018, the Government announced a 97 percent drop in single-use plastics being used by Foreign office staff in the United Kingdom.³⁴⁴⁶

On 5 December 2018, UK Research and Innovation offered GBP60 million in funding to be distributed through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund for innovative businesses to help develop new forms of packaging and plastic made from forms of waste to reduce oil-based plastic use, smart packaging labels to inform consumers of how to dispose of products, and a sell-by-date that deteriorates at the same rate as produce that show consumers when their food will spoil to reduce food waste. Businesses will be able to access funds through managed competitions when they overcome challenges of developing sustainable plastic packaging.³⁴⁴⁷

On 18 December 2018, the UK government launched a new plan for packaging and waste that requires businesses and manufacturers to pay for the full cost of the recycling or disposing of their packaging waste that is not made of at least 30 per cent recycled material.³⁴⁴⁸

On 27 December 2018, the Education Secretary publicly called on senior leaders to stop using single-use plastic items in an effort to urge all schools to eliminate their use of single use plastics by 2022.³⁴⁴⁹

On 16 January 2019, the Ministry of Justice published a single-use plastics policy report outlining the most effective methods to combating single-use plastic-related issues.³⁴⁵⁰

On 18 February 2019, the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) opened an online consultation on proposals to introduce a deposit return scheme for drink containers in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.³⁴⁵¹ Glass bottles, plastic bottles, and cans would all have an additional deposit price when the drinks are being purchases. The deposit would be reimbursed to the consumer once the empty drink containers are given to a designated return point after the consumption of the product.³⁴⁵²

³⁴⁴⁵ UK Signs Global Commitment to Eliminate Plastic Pollution, UK Government (London) 29 October 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://deframedia.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/29/uk-signs-global-commitment-to-eliminate-plastic-pollution/>

³⁴⁴⁶ FCO Reaches Major Milestone in Plastic Elimination Campaign, UK Government (London) 27 November 2018. Date Accessed: 9 December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fco-reaches-major-milestone-in-plastic-elimination-campaign>

³⁴⁴⁷ Food scraps could be turned into environmentally friendly plastic packaging, UK Government (London). 5 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/food-scraps-could-be-turned-into-environmentally-friendly-plastic-packaging>.

³⁴⁴⁸ Gove launches landmark blueprint for resources and waste, Department for Environment, Food, & Rural Affairs (London) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gove-launches-landmark-blueprint-for-resources-and-waste>.

³⁴⁴⁹ Schools challenged to go single-use plastic free by 2022, UK Government (London). 27 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-challenged-to-go-single-use-plastic-free-by-2022>.

³⁴⁵⁰ Ministry of Justice: Single-use plastics policy, UK Government (London). 16 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministry-of-justice-single-use-plastics-policy>.

³⁴⁵¹ Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers (bottles and cans), UK Government (London). 18 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-a-deposit-return-scheme-drs-for-drinks-containers-bottles-and-cans>.

³⁴⁵² Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers (bottles and cans), UK Government (London). 18 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-a-deposit-return-scheme-drs-for-drinks-containers-bottles-and-cans>.

On 25 February 2019, on-line consultation about the banning of the distribution and/or sale of plastic straws, stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England was updated and DEFRA stated that it aims to publish feedback responses by the end of March.³⁴⁵³

On 15 March 2019, following five days of discussion at the UN Environment Assembly in Kenya, the UK was one of 170 countries who signed onto a non-binding UN resolution to “significantly reduce” the use of plastics by 2030.³⁴⁵⁴

On 22 May 2019, Michael Gove confirmed the ban on plastic straws, drinks stirrers, and plastic stemmed cotton buds in England, following an open consultation in February 2019.³⁴⁵⁵ The ban will come into effect in April 2020.³⁴⁵⁶

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter goals by supporting the secondary plastics market through its funding incentives and policy measures to promote reduction, recovery, and recycling of plastic waste.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hamza Naim

United States: N/A

The United States has not signed the Ocean Plastics Charter but is working towards developing a secondary market for plastics through its newly enacted policy measures and solution-based discussions happening in the Senate.

On 1 July 2018, the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 officially took effect. The bill, which was passed on 28 December 2015, restricts the manufacturing of rinse-off cosmetics and non-prescription drugs that contain plastic microbeads and prohibits the introduction or delivery of these products into interstate commerce.³⁴⁵⁷

On 26 September 2018, the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, held a hearing titled “Cleaning Up the Oceans: How to Reduce the Impact of Man-Made Trash on the Environment, Wildlife, and Human Health?” The Senate Committee examined the environmental impact of mismanaged plastic waste in the oceans and discussed various solutions to this bipartisan issue, welcoming proposals about how to incentivize plastic manufacturers to improve plastic design

³⁴⁵³ Single use plastic: banning the distribution and/or sale of plastic straws, stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England, UK Government (London). 25 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/single-use-plastic-banning-the-distribution-and-or-sale-of-plastic-straws-stirrers-and-plastic-stemmed-cotton-buds-in-england>.

³⁴⁵⁴ UN resolution pledges to plastic reduction by 2030, BBC News (London). 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47592111>.

³⁴⁵⁵ Gove takes action to ban plastic straws, stirrers, and cotton buds, UK Government (London). 22 May 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gove-takes-action-to-ban-plastic-straws-stirrers-and-cotton-buds>.

³⁴⁵⁶ Gove takes action to ban plastic straws, stirrers, and cotton buds, UK Government (London). 22 May 2019. Access Date: 18 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gove-takes-action-to-ban-plastic-straws-stirrers-and-cotton-buds>.

³⁴⁵⁷ The Microbead-Free Waters Act: FAQs, United States Food and Drug Administration (New Hampshire) 3 November 2017. Access Date: 5 October 2018.

<https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/guidanceregulation/lawsregulations/ucm531849.htm>

and production. The committee also recognized the importance of improving waste management and recycling infrastructures at the federal level.³⁴⁵⁸

On 11 October 2018, the Save Our Seas Act of 2018 was signed by President Trump and enacted into US public law.³⁴⁵⁹ The law helps guarantee the proper allocation of waste management resources, technologies, and investments. The law also reauthorizes the Marine Debris Act, which promotes marine debris research and land-based waste management solutions.³⁴⁶⁰ The legislation encourages the US federal government to collaborate with the governments of developing nations to enhance waste management infrastructure.³⁴⁶¹

On 14 November 2018, the US Senate Recycling Caucus held a briefing on Capitol Hill to evaluate the various opportunities and shortcomings of the current US recycling industry. The summit brought together multiple stakeholders within the recycling chain to discuss strengthening secondary markets for plastics.³⁴⁶²

On 15 March 2019, following five days of discussion at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Kenya, the United States was one of 170 countries who signed onto a non-binding UN resolution to “significantly reduce” the use of plastics by 2030.³⁴⁶³ However, it opposed an initial proposal to phase out single-use plastic by 2025.³⁴⁶⁴

On April 4, 2019, a new congressional resolution “Recognising the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal” was introduced in the House of Representatives.³⁴⁶⁵ The Green New Deal is a proposed strategy for the United States to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, investing in green technologies and promoting job growth in clean energy industries.³⁴⁶⁶ Furthermore, the resolution calls upon the federal government to invest in “promoting the widespread use and development of next-generation recycling and waste management technology,

³⁴⁵⁸ Cleaning Up the Oceans: How to Reduce the Impact of Man-Made Trash on the Environment, Wildlife, and Human Health, The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Washington D.C.) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=9DED4FB8-AFFC-490A-A80F-DE55626E3E5F>

³⁴⁵⁹ S.3508 — Save Our Seas Act of 2018, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 5 November <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3508?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22save+our+seas%22%5D%7D&r=2>

³⁴⁶⁰ Cleaning Up the Oceans: How to Reduce the Impact of Man-Made Trash on the Environment, Wildlife, and Human Health, American Chemistry Council Statement for the Record Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Washington D.C.) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e/7/e7e8aeaa-2e1b-42a4-9609-7d4ee98e4600/76D4592DB8DBB6A8A69FF6F5F17429E9.dooley-testimony-09.26.2018.pdf

³⁴⁶¹ America’s Plastics Makers Contribute To Solutions On Marine Litter, American Chemistry Council Statement for the Record Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Washington D.C.) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e/7/e7e8aeaa-2e1b-42a4-9609-7d4ee98e4600/76D4592DB8DBB6A8A69FF6F5F17429E9.dooley-testimony-09.26.2018.pdf

³⁴⁶² ISRI addresses Senate Recycling Caucus for America Recycles Day, Recycling Today (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 22 November 2018. <https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/isri-address-recycling-caucus-america-recycles-day/>

³⁴⁶³ UN resolution pledges to plastic reduction by 2030, BBC News (London). 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47592111>.

³⁴⁶⁴ UN resolution pledges to plastic reduction by 2030, BBC News (London). 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47592111>.

³⁴⁶⁵ H. Res. 288 – Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/288/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22recycling%22%5D%7D&r=3&s=3>.

³⁴⁶⁶ What is the Green New Deal? A Climate Proposal Explained, The New York Times (New York, NY) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/21/climate/green-new-deal-questions-answers.html>.

such as plastics-to-fuel initiatives and transforming post-consumer recycled plastics into new materials such as asphalt.”³⁴⁶⁷

On 3 June 2019, the US Committee on Appropriations reported bill H.R. 3052 to the House of Representatives.³⁴⁶⁸ The bill makes appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending 30 September 2020.³⁴⁶⁹ The accompanying report expressed the committee’s concern “that the current system of recycling waste materials in the U.S. is unsustainable” and thereby directed the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a national recycling strategy which would include standardized labeling, increased public education and a number of comprehensive measures to decrease cross contamination in the recycling process.³⁴⁷⁰

Although the United States has not signed on to the Ocean Plastics Charter, it has displayed increased support for the development of a secondary market for plastics through the implementation of policy measures and growing concern about the lack of a national recycling strategy. Despite this however, the United States has yet to create “international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.”

Analyst: Emma Davy

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support secondary markets for plastics including using policy measures and developing international incentives, standards or requirements for product stewardship, design and recycled content.

On 10 July 2018, the European Parliament’s environment committee proposed increased restrictions on plastic pollution under the Plastics Strategy.³⁴⁷¹ Actions include prohibiting microplastics, oxo-degradable plastics, and dangerous substances in plastics as well as collecting taxes from sales of plastics should be put towards preventing the creation of plastic waste.³⁴⁷² Nevertheless, the Committee failed to advocate for economic incentives to decrease the production and consumption of plastics and plastic pellets.³⁴⁷³

³⁴⁶⁷ H. Res. 288 – Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/288/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22recycling%22%5D%7D&r=3&s=3>.

³⁴⁶⁸ H.R. 3052 - Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 3 June 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3052/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22H.R.+3052%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=2>.

³⁴⁶⁹ FY2020 Filed Report - 116 - 100, House Committee on Appropriations (Washington D.C.) 3 June 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY2020%20Interior%20Filed%20Report%20-%20HR3052.pdf>.

³⁴⁷⁰ FY2020 Filed Report - 116 - 100, House Committee on Appropriations (Washington D.C.) 3 June 2019. Access Date: 7 June 2019. <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY2020%20Interior%20Filed%20Report%20-%20HR3052.pdf>.

³⁴⁷¹ Briefing EU Legislation in Progress, Single-use plastics and fishing gear: Reducing marine litter, Page 10. European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)625115_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI(2018)625115_EN.pdf)

³⁴⁷² Briefing EU Legislation in Progress, Single-use plastics and fishing gear: Reducing marine litter, Page 10. European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)625115_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI(2018)625115_EN.pdf)

³⁴⁷³ Briefing EU Legislation in Progress, Single-use plastics and fishing gear: Reducing marine litter, Page 10. European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2018. Access Date: 30 October 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)625115_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625115/EPRS_BRI(2018)625115_EN.pdf)

On 13 September 2018, EU members of parliament proposed actions for EU-wide measures on biodegradability and composability of plastics including making oxo-degradable plastics illegal by 2020, banning microplastic beads, and creating incentives for collecting plastic waste at sea.³⁴⁷⁴ The proposals were set out in the non-binding draft resolution and were adopted.³⁴⁷⁵

On 10 October 2018, the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) voted to approve the European Commission's proposed regulations to deal with the use and waste of single-use plastics, in a motion to be put before the European Parliament on 24 October.³⁴⁷⁶ The ENVI vote included affirmations to establish an extended producer responsibility plan, which creates guidelines enforcing plastic-producing companies to support the costs of ocean litter cleanup.³⁴⁷⁷ The vote also included the approval of structures that will enforce a 90 percent recycling rate of plastic beverage bottles by 2025 and called for a full ban of lightweight plastic bags on the EU market.³⁴⁷⁸ A collection target of 50 percent and a recycling target of 15 percent by 2025 was also set by the ENVI for abandoned plastic fishing gear.³⁴⁷⁹

On 11 October 2018, the European Commission reviewed and updated the 2012 European Bioeconomy Strategy.³⁴⁸⁰ The updates recognize that the European bio-economy, of which the bioplastics industry is a major component, is worth EUR2.1 trillion in Europe alone, and aims to incentivize research in the bioplastics industry.³⁴⁸¹ The Commission's updates also focus on driving research into marine biodegradability, while simultaneously scaling-up bio-based sectors to support plastics recycling and the circular economy.³⁴⁸²

On 24 October 2018, member of the European Parliament (MEPs) voted in favour of the ENVI-approved proposed a ban on single-use plastics, enforcing a total ban on the EU market by 2021.³⁴⁸³ MEPs also passed amendments calling for a further market ban of polystyrene food containers and

³⁴⁷⁴ EU strategy to cut plastic waste: more recycling, ban on micro-plastics, European Parliament (Brussels) 7 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20180830STO11347/eu-strategy-to-cut-plastic-waste-more-recycling-ban-on-micro-plastics>

³⁴⁷⁵ MEPs propose ways to boost plastics recycling, European Parliament (Brussels) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180906IPR12112/meps-propose-ways-to-boost-plastics-recycling>

³⁴⁷⁶ MEPs fight to curb plastic pollution but miss key opportunity on microplastics, WWF: European Policy Office (Brussels) 10 October 2018. Access date: 4 November 2018. www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=336370

³⁴⁷⁷ MEPs fight to curb plastic pollution but miss key opportunity on microplastics, WWF: European Policy Office (Brussels) 10 October 2018. Access date: 4 November 2018. www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=336370

³⁴⁷⁸ MEPs fight to curb plastic pollution but miss key opportunity on microplastics, WWF: European Policy Office (Brussels) 10 October 2018. Access date: 4 November 2018. www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=336370

³⁴⁷⁹ MEPs fight to curb plastic pollution but miss key opportunity on microplastics, WWF: European Policy Office (Brussels) 10 October 2018. Access date: 4 November 2018. www.wwf.eu/media_centre/?uNewsID=336370

³⁴⁸⁰ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

³⁴⁸¹ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

³⁴⁸² A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

³⁴⁸³ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

oxo-degradable plastics by 2021.³⁴⁸⁴ Under the amendments, plastic waste from tobacco products will also be reduced by 80 percent by 2030.³⁴⁸⁵ However, MEPs did not vote to pass the ENVI-approved proposed ban on lightweight plastic bags.³⁴⁸⁶

On 29-30 October 2018, the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs, and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, led the EU delegation at the annual Our Ocean conference, in Bali.³⁴⁸⁷ Commissioner Vella announced the European Commission's initiative to launch a coalition of aquariums to fight plastic pollution, through a reduction in single-use plastics on the premises and an awareness campaign to highlight the effects of single-use plastics on marine life.³⁴⁸⁸ The initiative aims to have a minimum of 200 aquariums worldwide signed on by 2019 and will be sponsored and coordinated by the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, with the support of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, the European Union of Aquarium Curators, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the U.S. Aquarium Conservation Partnership and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.³⁴⁸⁹

On 20 November 2018, the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, announced that as part of the European Plastics Strategy to boost the secondary plastics market, voluntary pledges by EU industries could result in 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics supplied by 2025.³⁴⁹⁰ However, pledges to recycle this plastic, required to match this number, only totalled 5 million tonnes; the European Commission acknowledged that more industry commitment will be required to move the secondary plastics market forward.³⁴⁹¹ Further detail on private recycled plastic pledges will be published in the first quarter of 2019.³⁴⁹²

On 11 December 2018, the European Commission launched the Circular Plastics Alliance, a working group that gathers large private stakeholders in plastics production and formally organizes their recycling pledges with EU supervision.³⁴⁹³ 30 stakeholder organizations participated in the formation of the Circular Plastics Alliance, which met on 5 February 2019, and signed agreements ensuring that

³⁴⁸⁴ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

³⁴⁸⁵ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

³⁴⁸⁶ A new bioeconomy strategy for a sustainable Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 2 November 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-bioeconomy-strategy-sustainable-europe-2018-oct-11-0_en

³⁴⁸⁷ European Commission joins forces with world aquariums to fight plastic pollution, European Commission (Brussels) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 04 November 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6203_en.htm

³⁴⁸⁸ European Commission joins forces with world aquariums to fight plastic pollution, European Commission (Brussels) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 04 November 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6203_en.htm

³⁴⁸⁹ European Commission joins forces with world aquariums to fight plastic pollution, European Commission (Brussels) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 04 November 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6203_en.htm

³⁴⁹⁰ EU Plastics Strategy: Commission welcomes voluntary pledges from industry to boost the market for recycled plastics and encourages further action, European Commission (Brussels) 20 November 2018. Access Date: 21 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6444_en.htm

³⁴⁹¹ EU Plastics Strategy: Commission welcomes voluntary pledges from industry to boost the market for recycled plastics and encourages further action, European Commission (Brussels) 20 November 2018. Access Date: 21 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6444_en.htm

³⁴⁹² EU Plastics Strategy: Commission welcomes voluntary pledges from industry to boost the market for recycled plastics and encourages further action, European Commission (Brussels) 20 November 2018. Access Date: 21 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6444_en.htm

³⁴⁹³ Industry: Circular Plastics Alliance, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/circular-plastics-alliance_en.

10 million tons of plastics will be recycled in the EU by 2025, focusing their pledges on 5 key topics: collection and sorting of plastic waste; product design for recycling; recycled plastic content in products; R&D and investments, and monitoring of recycled plastics sold in the EU.³⁴⁹⁴

On 19 December 2018, the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement with the outgoing Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and adopted the newly drafted Single-Use Plastics Directive, designed to completely ban single-use plastics from EU markets by 2021, in accordance with measures passed by the European Parliament in October 2018.³⁴⁹⁵ The Single-Use Plastics Directive integrates ENVI-proposed guidelines on plastic beverage bottle bans, ocean cleanup guidelines, and oxo-degradable plastics, proposes a ban for single-use products that have readily available non-plastic alternatives, and focuses on new labeling, design, and cleanup requirements for products that do not.³⁴⁹⁶

On 18 January 2019, the European Council formally introduced the Single-Use Plastics Directive, setting requirements that will ensure that the Directive is transposed in all member states within 2 years.³⁴⁹⁷ The Directive sets formal guidelines for single-use plastic consumption reduction, the banning of all oxo-degradable plastic products, Extended Producer Responsibility trajectories, and awareness raising, among others.³⁴⁹⁸ The Directive also commissions an evaluation report to be written by the European Council, “most likely” by 2027.³⁴⁹⁹

On 30 January 2019, the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) released a draft law recommending that microplastics and microbeads be added to the EU’s Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation.³⁵⁰⁰ This would place a ban on both microplastics, and plastic microbeads being added to several product types, including cosmetics, paints, detergents, and some medical and agricultural products, under the restriction dossier prepared by the ECHA that would be added to the EU’s REACH regulation, were the draft law to be approved.³⁵⁰¹ The ban would come into force immediately for firms that have already made commitments to the eradication of microplastics and would be enacted within 2-6 years for all other plastics producers.³⁵⁰² The draft

³⁴⁹⁴ Industry: Circular Plastics Alliance, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/circular-plastics-alliance_en.

³⁴⁹⁵ Single-use plastics: Commission welcomes ambitious agreement on new rules to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2019. europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6867_en.htm.

³⁴⁹⁶ Single-use plastics: Commission welcomes ambitious agreement on new rules to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2019. europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6867_en.htm.

³⁴⁹⁷ The End Of Plastic Cutlery, Plates And Straws: EU Market Says Goodbye To Single-Use Plastic Products, Forbes (Brussels) 22 January 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/anagarciavaldivia/2019/01/22/the-end-of-plastic-cutlery-plates-and-straws-eu-market-says-goodbye-to-single-use-plastic-products/#68d06cd15656>.

³⁴⁹⁸ The New EU Single-use Plastics Directive EU to Adopt Law on the Reduction of the Impact of Certain Plastic Products on the Environment, National Law Review (Brussels) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 30 May 2019. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/new-eu-single-use-plastics-directive-eu-to-adopt-law-reduction-impact-certain>.

³⁴⁹⁹ The New EU Single-use Plastics Directive EU to Adopt Law on the Reduction of the Impact of Certain Plastic Products on the Environment, National Law Review (Brussels) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 30 May 2019. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/new-eu-single-use-plastics-directive-eu-to-adopt-law-reduction-impact-certain>.

³⁵⁰⁰ EU moves to ban microplastics in most products, Rethink Plastic Alliance (Brussels) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://rethinkplasticalliance.eu/news/eu-moves-to-ban-microplastics-in-most-products/>.

³⁵⁰¹ EU moves to ban microplastics in most products, Rethink Plastic Alliance (Brussels) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://rethinkplasticalliance.eu/news/eu-moves-to-ban-microplastics-in-most-products/>.

³⁵⁰² EU moves to ban microplastics in most products, Rethink Plastic Alliance (Brussels) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://rethinkplasticalliance.eu/news/eu-moves-to-ban-microplastics-in-most-products/>.

law written by ECHA will be put to a vote in the European Parliament this summer, followed by a vote by the European Commission's REACH Committee before 2020.³⁵⁰³

On 27 March 2019, the European Parliament officially approved the Single-Use Plastics Directive to tackle marine litter coming from the 10 single-use plastic products most often found on European beaches, as well as abandoned fishing gear and oxo-degradable plastics.³⁵⁰⁴ The directive is part of the larger EU Plastics Strategy, which aims to have all plastic packaging in the EU reusable or recyclable by 2030.³⁵⁰⁵ This initiative is also a key element of the Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan as it stimulates the production and use of sustainable alternatives that avoid marine litter.³⁵⁰⁶

On 21 May 2019, the European Council approved the Single-Use Plastics Directive, officially replacing the EU's previous plastics regulation and cleanup legislation which was passed in 2003.³⁵⁰⁷

On 3 June 2019, the European Environment Agency released a report surveying and assessing plastic waste reduction targets and capabilities of 32 European Economic Area states, finding that nine had published sufficiently explicit numerical targets for plastic waste reduction.³⁵⁰⁸ The report recommended that the European Commission enforce more stringent, exact and member-state-specific waste reduction programs, in addition to the broader framework of the Single-Use Plastics Directive.³⁵⁰⁹

On 7 June 2019, the Single-Use Plastics Directive entered into the Official Journal of the Union, ensuring its adoption by all member states within two years of the entry date.³⁵¹⁰

The EU has fully complied with the Oceans Plastics Charter by contributing to the development of new incentives and standards of plastic production and recycling while supporting the secondary plastics market. Although the passage of the Single-Use Plastics Directive is encouraging, the Directive's legislation requires specification to the markets of specific EU member states, as well as further, stronger content to encourage ERP among EU member state corporations.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arjun Kaul

³⁵⁰³ EU moves to ban microplastics in most products, Rethink Plastic Alliance (Brussels) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://rethinkplasticalliance.eu/news/eu-moves-to-ban-microplastics-in-most-products/>.

³⁵⁰⁴ Circular Economy: Commission welcomes European Parliament adoption of new rules on single-use plastics to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1873_en.htm

³⁵⁰⁵ Circular Economy: Commission welcomes European Parliament adoption of new rules on single-use plastics to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1873_en.htm

³⁵⁰⁶ Circular Economy: Commission welcomes European Parliament adoption of new rules on single-use plastics to reduce marine litter, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 19 June 2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1873_en.htm

³⁵⁰⁷ Circular Economy: Commission welcomes Council final adoption of new rules on single-use plastics to reduce marine plastic litter, European Commission (Brussels) 21 May 2019. Access Date: 30 May 2019. https://chemycal.com/news/9213e78d-903d-4c2a-b22f-521b4869034d/Circular_Economy_Commission_welcomes_Council_final_adoption_of_new_rules_on_single-use_plastics_to_reduce_marine_plastic_litter.

³⁵⁰⁸ Preventing plastic waste in Europe, European Environment Agency (Copenhagen) 03 June 2019. Access Date: 09 June 2019. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/preventing-plastic-waste-in-europe/#page=1>.

³⁵⁰⁹ Preventing plastic waste in Europe, European Environment Agency (Copenhagen) 03 June 2019. Access Date: 09 June 2019. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/preventing-plastic-waste-in-europe/#page=1>.

³⁵¹⁰ Register of Commission Documents, European Commission (Brussels) 07 June 2019. Access Date: 09 June 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/index.cfm?fuseaction=list&coteld=3&documentType=COMMISSION_REGULATION_UNDER_ECT&version=ALL.