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**WORKING PAPER**

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**MEETING DOCUMENT**

From:	Commission
To:	Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry)
Subject:	Circular Plastics Alliance and its upcoming declaration

Delegations will find attached a background note on the Circular Plastics Alliance and its upcoming declaration, with a view to item 3. of the meeting of the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) on 13 June 2019.

## **Competitiveness Council Working Party**

**13 June 2019**

### **Boosting the European market for recycled plastics through voluntary action and commitments – the Circular Plastics Alliance and its upcoming Declaration**

The European Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy has set the ambitious target that 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics find their way into products in the EU in 2025. To achieve this goal, the European Commission called on stakeholders to submit voluntary pledges to produce or use more recycled plastics in 2025.

70 companies or business organisations submitted pledges<sup>1</sup> to the European Commission in 2018. The assessment of the pledges by the Commission<sup>2</sup> showed that the pledges from the supply side were sufficient to reach and even exceed the 10 million tonnes target while the pledges from the demand side would only secure the use of 6.4 million tonnes of recycled plastics in 2025.

To bridge this gap, the Commission initiated the Circular Plastics Alliance, bringing together key actors of the plastics value chains to reach the 10 million tonnes target.

The Alliance met for the first time on 5 February 2019 (European Industry Days), endorsed the 10 million tonnes target and decided to work further on 5 topics, i.e. recycled content; design for recyclability; collection and sorting of plastic waste; R&D and investments, including chemical recycling; and monitoring. Working groups met on each topic at operational level from March to June 2019.

The Circular Plastics Alliance intends to adopt a Declaration on 20 September 2019, describing a vision towards recycled plastics in general and the 10 million tonnes target in particular, and commitments for action to getting there.

To deliver their voluntary commitments and reach the 10 million tonnes target, the signatories of the Circular Plastics Alliance need support from all levels of government, including EU and national authorities. The objective is to foster coordinated action between the key private and public actors involved in the plastics value chains.

The Commission expects the Circular Plastics Alliance to agree on a draft Declaration at working level on 12 June. DG GROW will present the content of this draft to the Competitiveness Attachés on 13 June and circulate the draft after the meeting. DG GROW will invite one representative per Member State to attend the final meeting of the Circular Plastics Alliance at working level, which will take place on 3 July 2019 in Brussels. This meeting should allow the Alliance to finalise the draft Declaration and discuss how Member States can help deliver the voluntary commitments of the Alliance.

The Circular Plastics Alliance will formally present and adopt its Declaration at the high-level meeting on 20 September 2019, chaired by Vice-President Katainen. The Commission plans for a large event (up to 400 participants).

Member States could co-sign the Declaration and show support by high-level attendance.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/european-strategy-plastics-voluntary-pledges\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/european-strategy-plastics-voluntary-pledges_en)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/34267>