

Minutes meeting Suez-Cabinet First Vice President
07 February 2018

Participants:

Suez: Jean-Marc Boursier (Deputy director general - division Recycling et Valorisation in Europe); Denis Bonvillain (EU affairs coordinator); Valérie Plainemaison (Fédération Nationale des Activités de la Depollution et de l'Environnement (FNADE))

FVP Cabinet: Helena Braun

SG: [REDACTED] (unit D3, Resource efficiency)

Minutes

The meeting was requested by Suez to explain their position on the Plastic Strategy, adopted by the Commission on 16 January 2018. Suez explained it welcomed the Plastic Strategy, which is of high interest for the company as it is involved in all aspects of the plastic value chain. While supporting the set targets for increased reuse and recycling of plastics by 2030, SUEZ explained its main concern, being the low demand side of recycled plastics. The targets on reuse and recycling can only be met if the market for recycled plastics gets a significant boost on the short term. To this extent, SUEZ proposed consideration of the following measures:

- 1) update criteria for the EU eco-label to include accurate information to consumers on the products they buy (grade of recyclability, recyclable content);
- 2) update criteria for Eco-design. These should ensure products can be easily reused, dismantled and recycled;
- 3) more ambitious Green procurement to include upgraded green criteria on recyclability of products;
- 4) incentives for production of greener plastic products at cheaper prices (e.g. lower VAT for recycled products of increased carbon price under the Emission Trading System);
- 5) legislative measures to promote minimal recycled plastic content in certain packaging

The Commission representatives took note of the views expressed and clarified relevant links with the Plastic Strategy, including set targets for recyclability, the ongoing pledging campaign inviting industry and public actors to come forward with commitments to ensure recycled plastics find their way into new products on the EU market (outcome to be assessed before looking into EU regulatory action) and the intention to table a legislative proposal on single-use plastics.

In follow-up to the meeting, SUEZ provided its position paper on the Plastic Strategy, which is added as annex to the minutes.