

Fiche d'entretien

WHO	<p>PlasticsEurope [REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] PlasticsEurope • [REDACTED] PlasticsEurope • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED]
WHEN	21 Sept. 2021, 11:00 am
WHERE	Online
WHY	<p>A business case for low-carbon and circular plastics</p> <p>The plastics producers (petro-chemicals and chemicals) are under heavy pressure to 1) recycle more and reduce plastic pollution; and 2) decarbonise.</p> <p>Chemical recycling of plastic waste is a possible new growth opportunity; however, the business case will heavily depend from the EU policy framework.</p> <p><i>We agreed on the below agenda points with PlasticsEurope.</i></p>
MESSAGE	<p>1. Transition to climate-neutral and circular plastics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastics recycling has significant CO2 reduction potential. It is essential to position plastics recycling (including chemical recycling) within the broader pathway to circular and carbon-neutral plastics (<i>cf. agenda point 2</i>). • We look forward to the results of the Systemiq study commissioned by PlasticsEurope (and are available for the Steering Committee btw¹). • A large part of the pathway is common to plastics and the broader chemicals industry (<i>cf. low-carbon production</i>). However, there are also issues specific to plastics that require deep cooperation along the value chain (mainly circular economy aspects i.e. plastic waste management, reduction and reuse). • The Circular Plastics Alliance can be a good platform to share the results of the Systemiq study and start build a consensus around the broader transition pathway for plastics. <p>2. Chemical recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical recycling will not be sufficient to deal with all plastic waste. Chemical recycling is a necessary complement. The question is how to implement this complementarity in practice. • There should be a clear framework ensuring fair competition, i.a. technology-neutral and taking into account CO2 emissions. • DG GROW has commissioned a study to the JRC to compare plastic waste management options (environmental, technical and economic). PlasticsEurope members are contributing actively, this should continue. • Ultimately, each recycling technology should prevail where it can deliver the best results, technically, economically and environmentally, also taking into account local or national specificities. The Circular Plastics Alliance has estimated that chemical recycling could account for 10% of recycling capacities

¹ Only DG ENV represents the Commission so far

	<p>by 2025. This EU average will vary a lot depending on the choices by each country in terms of infrastructure and investments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• [REDACTED]• We plan to issue a voluntary standardisation request on recycled plastics, covering design-for-recycling of plastic products, quality of sorted waste and quality of recycled plastics. The question is how this standardisation work takes chemical recycling into account. A key objective should be to translate EU standards and methods into international standards for the global market. <p>3. <u>Single Market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are well aware of the risk of fragmentation of the single market on plastics, notably during transposition of the Single-Use Plastics directive (environment legal basis). We assess whether national measures are justified by environmental protection, also having in mind on-going discussions on harmonised labelling and waste sorting rules (revisions of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive in 2022 and Waste Framework Directive in 2023).• Our vision is that of a single market for sorted plastic waste and for recycled plastics, with high quality and traceability of the materials within Europe.• European initiatives like the Circular Plastics Alliance, where the whole plastics value chain and the Member States can agree at EU level on a credible vision for circular plastics and take joint action to implement the EU plastics strategy on the ground, can play a role to limit fragmented national initiatives. So far, the CPA does not include many national authorities; we need to work on this. <p>4. <u>Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PlasticsEurope has played a leading role in the CPA so far and we hope to this engagement continued.• The CPA should continue to support the transition to circular plastics. This requires accelerating the cooperation with national stakeholders and authorities, to reinforce the articulation between the CPA roadmap and national strategies (with a focus on waste collection, investments and recycled content in products).• In the future, the CPA could enlarge its scope to the broader transition to circular plastics, e.g. by including reduction and reuse, as well as decarbonisation (e.g. bio-based plastics) and by updating its work according to new developments (chemical recycling).• <i>Note: the CPA cannot discuss future policy targets or legislation (not a registered expert group) but only take operational action to implement pre-defined policy objectives.</i> <p>5. <u>5th session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Global Plastics Agreement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are well aware of the importance of this work, however DG GROW is not actively involved (insufficient staff resources).
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² Method to calculate recycled content in plastics from chemical recycling (see background for further details)