Council of the European Union

Brussels, 4 December 2015
(OR. en)

14972/15
ADD 1

ENV 768
COMPET 557
AGRI 642
TRANS 402
MI 779
IND 201
CONSOM 212
ECOFIN 954
ENER 417
RECH 305
SAN 424

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	3 December 2015
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2015) 614 final - ANNEX 1
Subject:	ANNEX to the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy

Delegations will find attached document COM(2015) 614 final - ANNEX 1.

Encl.: COM(2015) 614 final - ANNEX 1

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 2.12.2015
COM(2015) 614 final

ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy

The measures presented in this action plan will all need to be taken forward in line with the better regulation principles, including where appropriate an impact assessment.

Actions	Timetable
Production	
Emphasis on circular economy aspects in future **product requirements under the Ecodesign directive**.	2016 onwards
Ecodesign work plan 2015-2017 and **request to European standardisation organisations** to develop standards on material efficiency for setting future Ecodesign requirements on durability, reparability and recyclability of products.	December 2015
Proposal for an **implementing regulation** on televisions and displays	End 2015 or beginning 2016
Examine options and actions for a more coherent policy framework of the different strands of work of EU product policy in their contribution to the circular economy	2018
Include guidance on circular economy into **Best Available Techniques reference documents (BREFs)** for several industrial sectors	2016 onwards
Guidance and promotion of best practices in the mining waste management plans	2018
Establishing an open, **pan-European network of technological infrastructures for SMEs** to integrate advanced manufacturing technologies into their production processes	2016
Examine **how to improve the efficiency and uptake** of the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the pilot programme on environmental technology verification (ETV)	2017
Develop an improved **knowledge base and support to SMEs** for the substitution of hazardous substances of very high concern	2018

Consumption	
Better enforcement of existing guarantees on tangible products, accompanied by a **reflection on improvements** (upcoming Commission proposal for online sales of goods, and Fitness Check of consumer legislation)	2015-2017
Action on false green claims, including **updated guidance** on unfair commercial practices	2016
Analysis of the possibility to propose horizontal requirements on repair information provision in the context of Ecodesign	2018
REFIT of Ecolabel, to be followed by actions to enhance its effectiveness	2016
Assessment of the possibility of an **independent testing programme** on planned obsolescence	2018
Subject to evaluation of the current ongoing pilots, explore the possible uses of the Product Environmental Footprint to measure and communicate environmental information	2016 onwards
Action on Green Public Procurement: enhanced integration of circular economy requirements, support to higher uptake including through training schemes, reinforcing its use in Commission procurement and EU funds	2016 onwards

Waste management	
Revised legislative proposal on waste	Dec 2015
Improved cooperation with Member States for better implementation of EU waste legislation, and combat illicit shipment of end of life vehicles	2015 onwards
Stepping up **enforcement** of revised Waste Shipment regulation	2016 onwards
Promotion of industry-led **voluntary certification** of treatment facilities for key waste/recyclate streams	2018 onwards
Initiative on waste to energy in the framework of the Energy Union	2016
Identification and dissemination of good practices in waste collection systems	2016 onwards

Market for secondary raw materials	
Development of **quality standards** for secondary raw materials (in particular for plastics)	2016 onwards
Proposal for a revised fertilisers regulation	Early 2016
Proposed legislation setting minimum requirements for reused water for irrigation and groundwater recharge	2017
Promotion of safe and cost-effective water reuse, including **guidance** on the integration of water reuse in water planning and management, **inclusion of best practices in relevant BREF**s, and support to innovation (through the European Innovation Partnership and Horizon 2020) and investments	2016-2017
Analysis and policy options to address the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislation, including how to reduce the presence and improve the tracking of chemicals of concern in products	2017
Measures to facilitate waste shipment across the EU, including **electronic data exchange** (and possibly other measures)	2016 onwards
Further development of the EU **raw materials information system**	2016 onwards

Sectorial action	
Plastics	
Strategy on plastics in the circular economy	2017
Specific action to reduce marine litter implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals	2015 onwards

Food waste	
Development of a **common methodology and indicators** to measure food waste	2016
Stakeholders platform to examine how to achieve SDGs goals on food waste, share best practice and evaluate progress	2016
Clarify relevant EU legislation related to waste, food and feed in order to facilitate food donation and utilisation of former foodstuffs for animal feed	2016
Explore options for more effective use and understanding of date marking on food	2017

Critical raw materials	
Report on critical raw materials and the circular economy	2017
Improve **exchange of information** between manufacturers and recyclers on electronic products	2016 onwards

European standards for material-efficient recycling of electronic waste, waste batteries and other relevant complex end-of-life products	2016 onwards
Sharing of best practice for the recovery of critical raw materials from mining waste and landfills	2017

Construction and demolition	
Pre-demolition assessment **guidelines** for the construction sector	2017
Voluntary industry-wide **recycling protocol** for construction and demolition waste	2016
Core indicators for the assessment of the lifecycle environmental performance of a building, and incentives for their use	2017 onwards

Biomass and bio-based materials	
Guidance and dissemination of best practice on the cascading use of biomass and support to innovation in this domain through Horizon 2020	2018- 2019
Ensuring coherence and synergies with the circular economy when examining the sustainability of bioenergy under the Energy Union	2016
Assessment of the contribution of the 2012 Bioeconomy Strategy to the circular economy and possible review	2016

Innovation and investments	
Initiative "Industry 2020 and the circular economy" under **Horizon 2020**	October 2015
Pilot project for "innovation deals" to address possible regulatory obstacles for innovators	2016
Targeted outreach to encourage applications for funding under EFSI, and support the development of projects and investment platforms relevant to the circular economy	2016 onwards
Targeted outreach and communication activities to assist Member States and regions for the uptake of Cohesion Policy funds for the circular economy	2016 onwards
Support to Member States and regions to strengthen innovation for the circular economy through smart specialisation	2016 onwards
Assessment of the possibility of launching a **platform together with the EIB and national banks** to support the financing of the circular economy	2016
Engagement with stakeholders in the implementation of this action plan through existing fora in key sectors	2016 onwards
Support to a range of stakeholders through actions on public-private partnerships, cooperation platforms, support to voluntary business approaches, and exchanges of best practices	2015 onwards

Monitoring	
Development of a **monitoring framework** for the circular economy	2017