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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on the Environment
N° Cion doc.:	14248/23 + ADD 1
Subject:	Reducing Microplastic Pollution Regulation: WPE on 16 April 2024 - Presidency steering note

With a view to the above WPE meeting, delegations will find attached a steering note, prepared by the Presidency.

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Working Party on the Environment (WPE)

16 April 2024

Proposal for a Regulation on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution

Presidency Steering Note

The proposal for a Regulation on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution was published by the Commission on 16 October 2023 (ST 14248/23 (2023/0373(COD))).

During the Working Party on the Environment of 14 February 2024, the Commission gave a detailed presentation of the proposal and its Impact Assessment (ST 14248/23 + ADD 1 + ADD 3-5 and WK 2553/2024 for the Commission Presentation). Member States were given the opportunity to provide written comments and questions (see WK 3846/2024 + ADD 1-4). During the Environment Council of 25 March, a policy debate was held (ST 7753/24).

On 16 April 2024, the Working Party on the Environment will begin with the **detailed examination** of the proposal for a Regulation on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution.

The Presidency intends to structure the debate by dividing the discussion in the following thematic clusters:

- **Cluster 1:** subject matter and scope (Article 1) and definitions (Article 2)
- **Cluster 2:** general obligations, including public register (Article 3), obligations regarding the handling of plastic pellets (Article 4 and Annex I on risk assessment plan for installation, Annex II on self-declaration of conformity and Annex III on actions for carriers), (Article 13 on standardized methodology for the estimation of the quantities of losses)
- **Cluster 3:** certification of large and medium-sized enterprises, including public register (Article 5 and Annex IV), exemption from notification and certification obligations for EMAS-registered operators (Article 6), accreditation of certifiers (Article 7)
- **Cluster 4:** compliance: verification of compliance and reporting (Article 8), incidents and accidents (Article 9), non-compliance (Article 10), designation and powers of competent authorities (Article 11), assistance relating to compliance (Article 12)
- **Cluster 5:** complaint-handling and access to justice (Article 14), penalties (Article 15), compensation (Article 16)
- **Cluster 6:** delegation of powers to amend the Annexes (Article 17 and 18), entry into force and application (Article 19)

For each cluster, the Commission will be asked to give a short overview, to reply to the written questions of Member States and to provide clarifications where possible. After that the Presidency will invite delegations to give their further reactions, comments and questions, to which the Commission will have an opportunity to react.

With respect to the inclusion of **maritime transport**, the Presidency intends to use the policy debate from the Environment Council as the baseline for further deliberations on this issue. Delegations are invited to send further clarifications or drafting suggestions on the issue of inclusion of maritime transport within the scope of this Regulation. However, during this Working Party on the Environment meeting, this issue will not be addressed separately.

Additional written comments and concrete text suggestions are still welcome either before or after the Working Party meeting, and at the latest by 23 April COB to:

the Presidency ([redacted] and [redacted]),
copying the Commission ([redacted] and [redacted])
and the Council Secretariat [redacted];
[redacted] and
environment@consilium.europa.eu)