Circular economy: state of play

CEN-CENELEC Workshop on sustainability for PPE

> Annalisa Tessarolo 18.03.2021





#### Changing the way Europe consumes & produces



### 35 actions

Make sustainable products the norm in the EU Empower consumers & public buyers Sustainable production processes

Electronics & ICT Batteries & vehicles Packaging Plastics Textiles Construction & buildings Food, water & nutrients

Reduce Waste Reduce Waste Exports Boost market for high quality & safe secondary raw materials Making circular economy work for people, regions and cities

Circular economy as a requisite for climate neutrality

Getting the Economics Right

**Financial Markets** 

**Investments and R&I** 

**Global Level Playing Field** 

Monitoring



### Relevant initiatives



Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to protect our fragile natural resources

Farm to Fork Strategy to make food systems more sustainable

**Renovation Wave** to boost renovation in line with circular principles

Chemical Strategy for Sustainability to ensure chemicals are safe and sustainable

#### **Ongoing**:

- Circular economy in the EU Recovery Plan → Cooperation with Member States via the Semester on their draft RRPs + Mainstreaming circularity in EU funding programmes within the MFF
- The New European Bauhaus initiative (launched on 18/01) → A design movement integrating three dimensions: sustainability (including circularity), quality of experience (including aesthetics) and inclusion (including affordability)



Circular Economy in the

context of the European Green

Deal

The route so far: kick-starting CEAP implementation

- Revision of the Skills Agenda adopted in July 2020
- Pact for Skills launched in October 2020
- Green City Accord launched in October 2020
- New regulatory framework on batteries proposed in December 2020









### A shared agenda

EU institutions and advisory bodies, Member States and stakeholders positively welcomed the CEAP's ambition

- Council conclusions "Making the Recovery Circular and Green" adopted on 17 December
- Clear on the need to place CE in a key position to achieve a resilient economic recoveryCall the Commission to come forward with the legislative initiatives on a Sustainable Product Policy Framework
- Support Commission's approach as described in the CEAP for key value chains (batteries, packaging, plastics, textiles)
- Support CEAP vision to **reduce and prevent waste**.
- Welcome Commission's initiatives on international agreements



Own-initiative Report adopted February 2021



European Committee of the Regions Opinion adopted on 12 October



European Economic and Social Committee Opinion adopted on 15 July



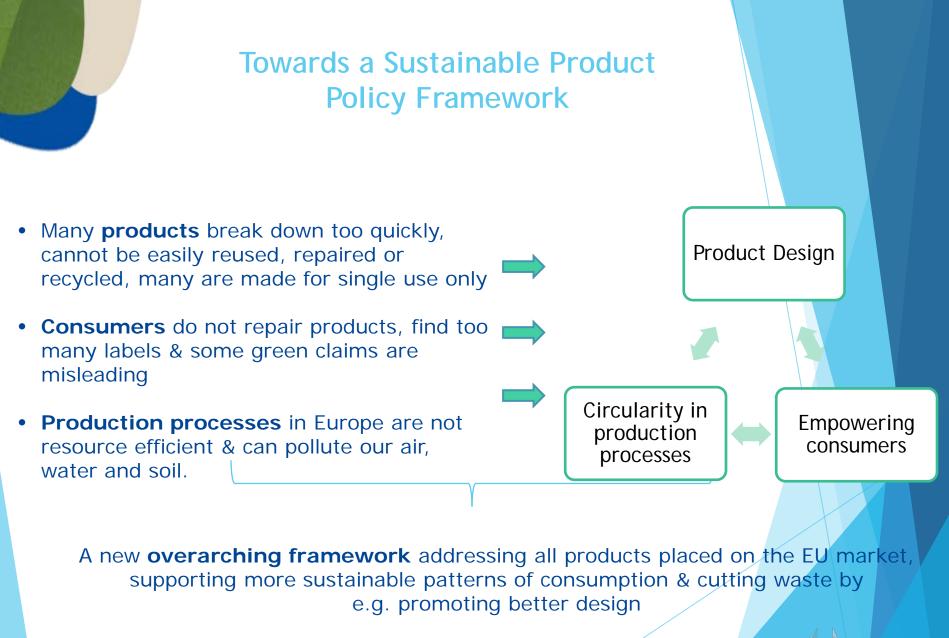
# What to expect in 2021: highlights

- Start roll-out of the Sustainable Product Policy
  Framework:
  - Sustainable Products Initiative
  - Legislative proposal on substantiating green claims & Legislative proposal empowering consumers in the green transition
- Apply the framework to:
  - EU Textiles Strategy
  - Circular Electronics Initiative
- Revision of the rules on waste shipments
- Kick-start the negotiations on the international agreement for plastics & launch of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency



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### **Textiles**

- **EU Textiles Strategy (Q4 2021)**: Applying the new sustainable product
- framework including Ecodesign measures
- Boosting the sorting, re-use and recycling of textiles through innovation
- Providing incentives and support to create new circular business models



Less than 1% of all textiles worldwide are recycled





### **Crosscutting actions**

#### **Circular economy as prerequisite for climate neutrality**



Measuring circularity contribution to climate mitigation

Strengthening the role of circularity in future revisions of the National Energy and Climar Plans

Certification of carbon removals



#### **Getting the economics right**

Integrating C.E. in EU Taxonomy Regulation (Q4 2021)

EU Ecolabel criteria for financial products (Q4 2021)

Circular solutions in State Aid, business strategies, financial instruments and reporting (2021)



#### Research, innovation and digitalization

European Regional Development Fund/LIFE/HorizonEurope



### Less waste, more value

#### **Prevent** waste in the first place

- Specific waste reduction targets for more complex streams
- Enhance the implementation of the requirements for EPR schemes
- Continue modernising EU waste laws (packaging, end-of-life vehicles, hazardous substances in electronic equipment; batteries adopted Q4 2020)
- Propose to harmonise separate waste collection systems

#### Transform waste into high-quality and safe resources in markets for recycled materials

- Develop chemicals that are sustainable and safe by design
- Reduce the presence of hazardous substances detrimental to health and the environment
- Assess the scope to develop further EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams

#### Address waste exports

- Establish 'recycled in the EU' as a benchmark for quality secondary materials
- Thoroughly review EU rules on waste shipments, increasing the processing of materials
- Adopt multilateral, regional and bilateral measures to combat environmental crime









## Thank you!

Questions? Contact annalisa.tessarolo@ec.europa.eu