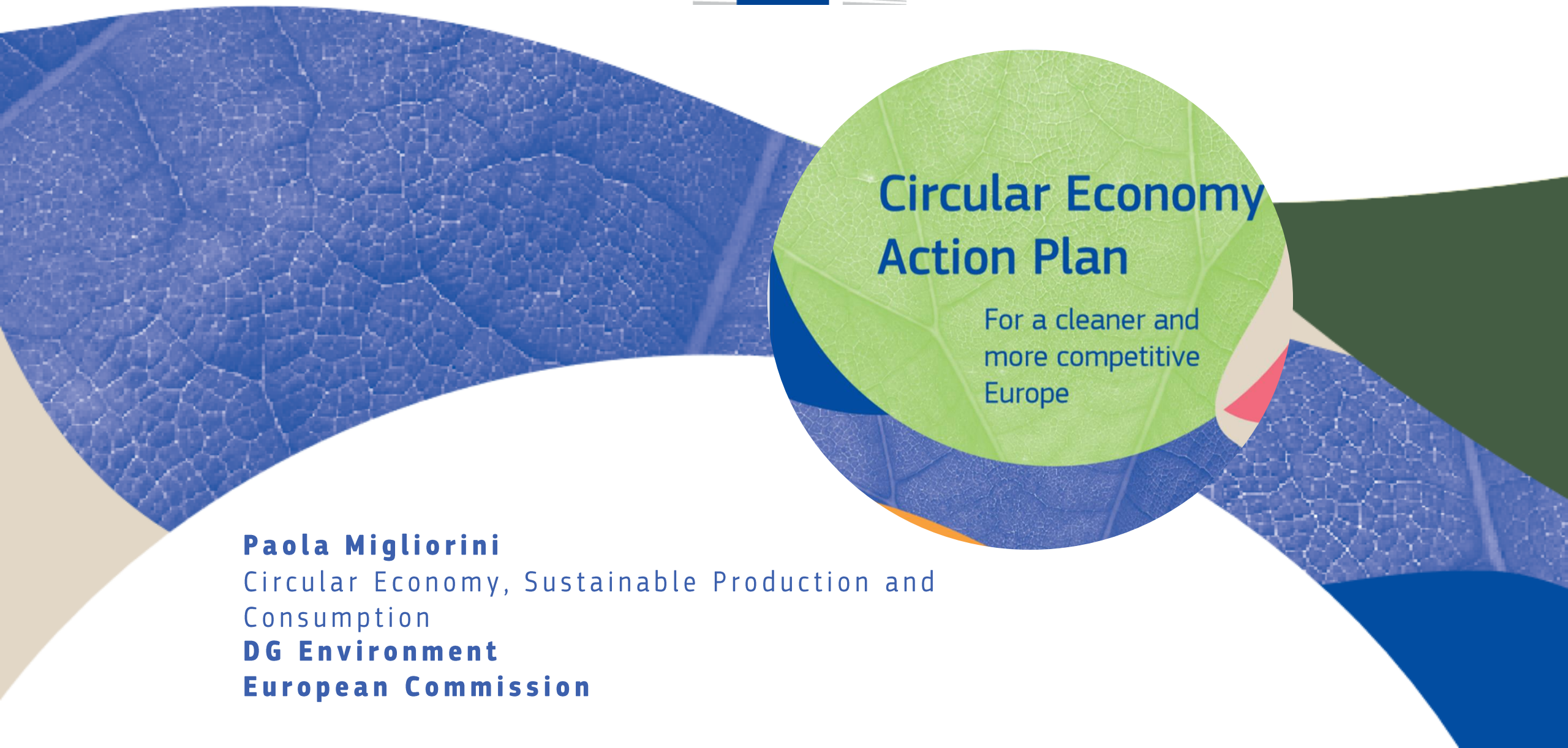
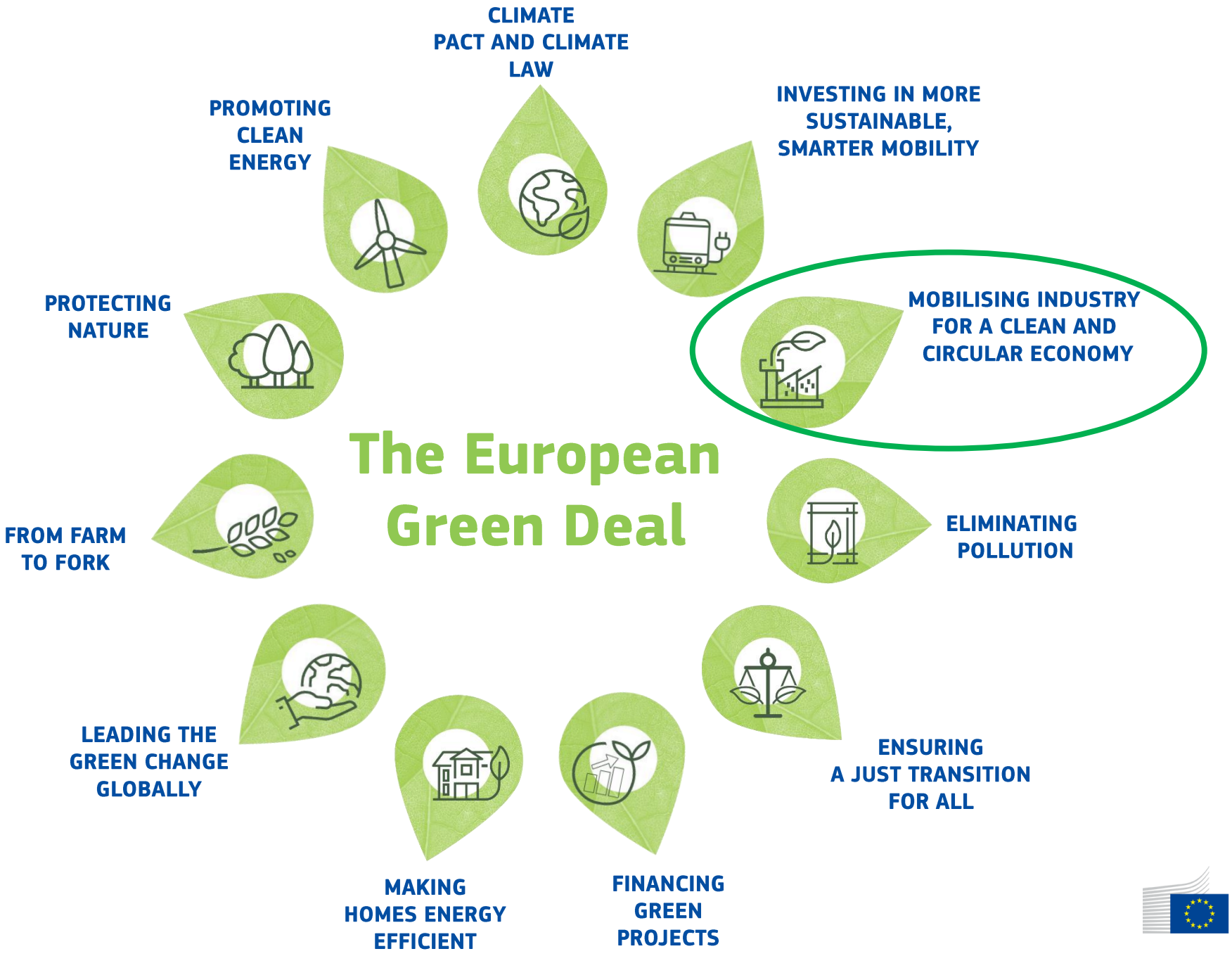


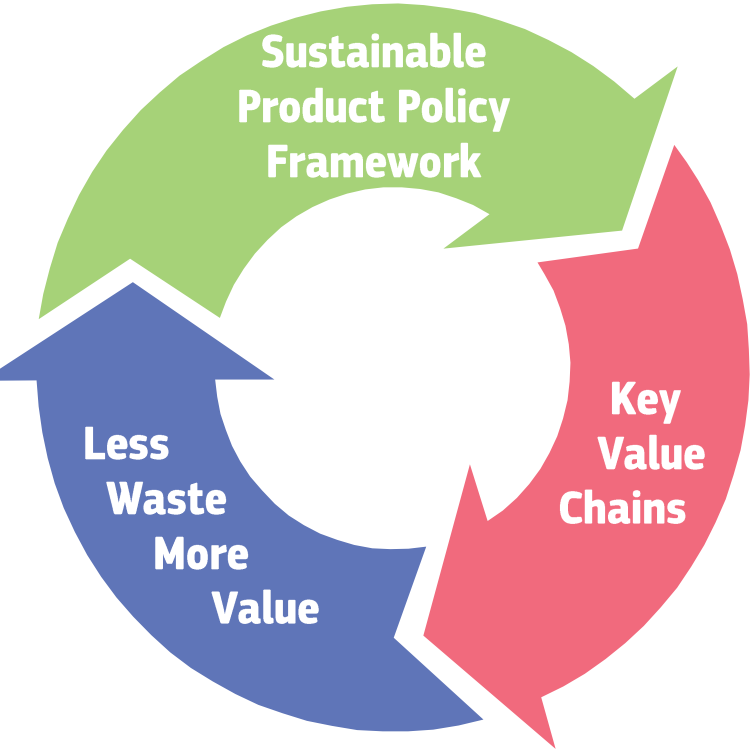
Paola Migliorini
Circular Economy, Sustainable Production and Consumption
DG Environment
European Commission

The European Green Deal



European Commission

Changing the way Europe consumes and produces



35 actions

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

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

Reduce Waste
Reduce Waste Exports
Boost market for high quality and 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

European Commission

An Advanced Phase of Implementation

- **New regulatory framework on batteries** proposed in December 2020
- **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency** launched in February 2021
- Proposal to review **EU rules on concentration limits of persistent organic pollutants in waste** adopted in October 2021
- Proposal for a revision of the EU **Waste Shipment Regulation adopted** in November 2021
- Legally binding **global agreement to combat plastic pollution** agreed at UNEA5.2 in March 2022
- **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation** proposed in March 2022
- **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles** proposed in March 2022
- Revision of **Construction Products Regulation** proposed in March 2022
- **Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition** initiative proposed in March 2022
- Revised **Industrial Emissions Directive** in April 2022
- **Circular Economy Package adopted in November 2022**

Measures of CEAP Annex adopted

European Commission

Policy Framework on Bio-based, Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics

A climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy

Maintaining the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible, & minimising the generation of waste

Improving the economics and quality of recycling & curbing plastic waste & littering

European Commission

Why a policy framework on these plastics?

- Perceived as ‘good’ or ‘better’ for the environment
- They present **opportunities** …

  … and **challenges**
- Today a niche market, but tomorrow?

Evidence

OPC: 660 responses
(37% from citizens and society)

Biobased plastics (EC study)

- Biomass content for a product to be labelled as biobased
- Is sourcing sustainable?
- JRC Plastic LCA Method

Biodegradable plastics (EC Chief Scientific Advisors)

- No licence to litter
- Which applications make sense?
- Case of agri-plastics (EC study)

Compostable plastics (EC study)

- Contamination of waste streams
- Which applications make sense?

European Commission

A clarifying policy framework

- Priority to **reduce**, **reuse** and **recycle**
- No perpetuating single use models
- No generic claims, eg. *bioplastics*
- Yes genuinely sustainable alternatives & transparency

European Commission

Biobased plastics

- **Biomass content** to be specified;
  Priority to 14C methods
- Priority to **secondary** vs primary **biomass**
- Priority to **long-lived** vs short-lived **products**
- **Sustainability criteria** to comply with:
  - RED III – land use and biodiversity
  - GHG: research needed

Biodegradable plastics

- Biodegradation = **system property**
- **Timeframe** and specific **environment** to be specified
- No claims on biodegradation for **litter-prone products**
- **Mulch films** are a good example;
  Standard to be revised

Compostable plastics

- Only **industrially** compostable plastics;
  Route to be specified (pictograms)
- **Compostable bags to collect biowaste** are a good example
- Plus **a few packaging applications**;
  Standard to be revised
- **Other packaging** => material recycling

European Commission

Next R&I funding

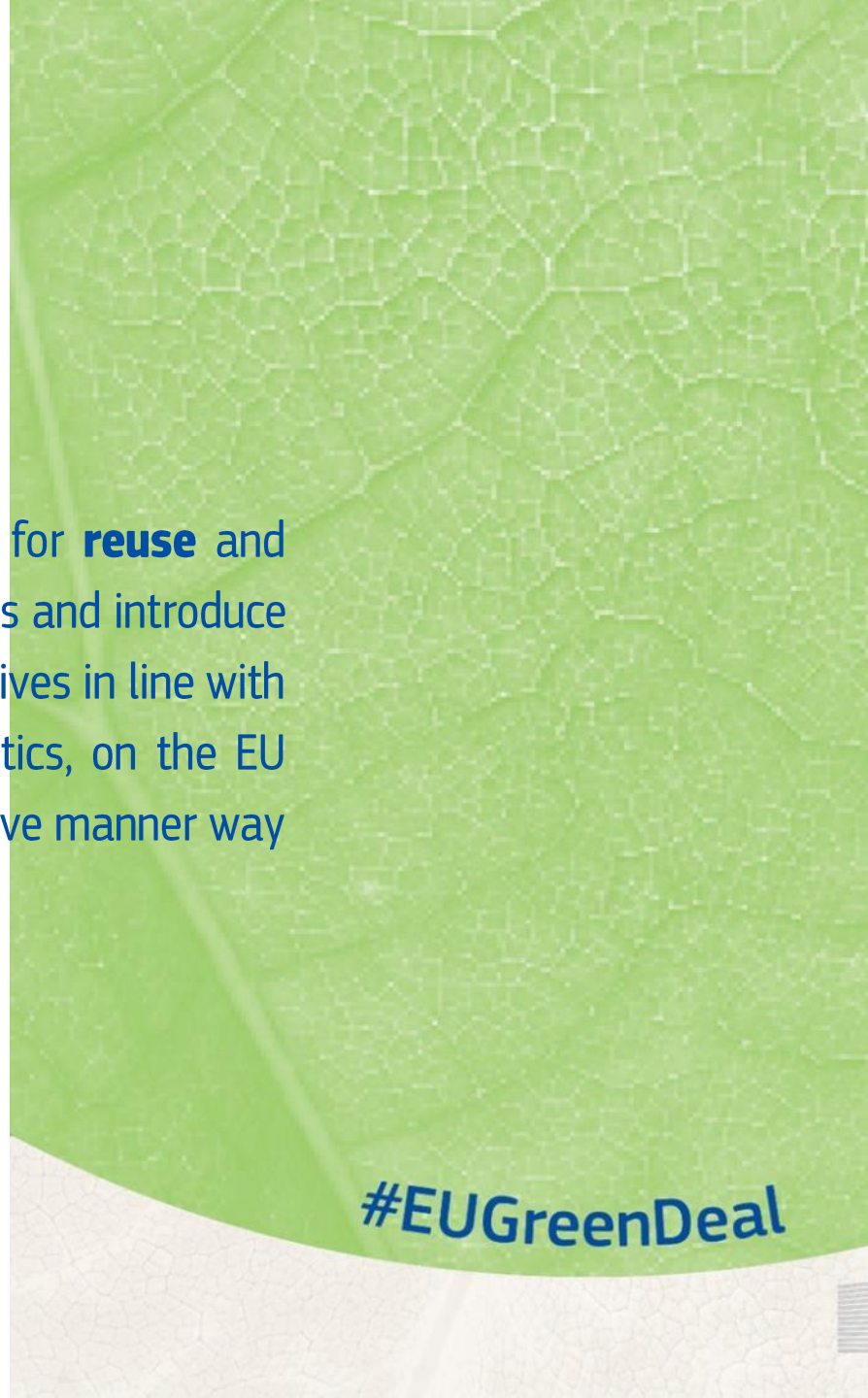
Focus on:

- **GHG emissions** of biobased vs fossil-based plastics
- **Biodegradable & recyclable** biobased plastics
- **Biodegradation** processes:
  - Timeframe, transfer to other media, long term effects
  - Claims & littering?

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

"measures to **reduce** packaging and **packaging waste**, drive design for **reuse** and **recyclability** of packaging, reduce the complexity of packaging materials and introduce requirements for **recycled content in plastic packaging**. Further, it strives in line with the European Strategy for Plastics that "**all packaging**, including plastics, on the EU market is **reusable or recyclable** in an economically viable, cost-effective manner way by 2030"

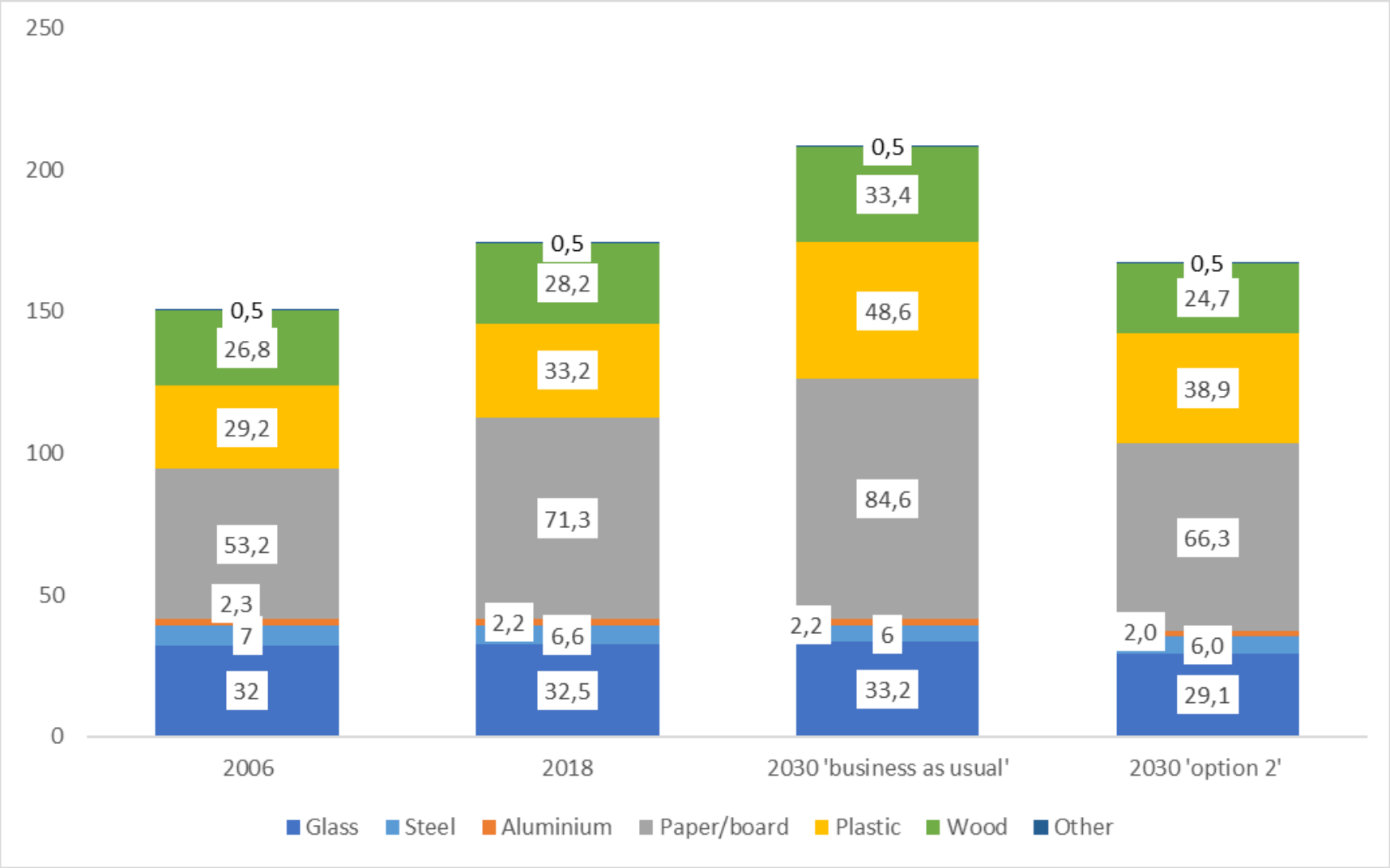
Communication on the Circular Economy Action Plan, delivering on the European Green Deal (COM/2019/640 final)



Problem areas for packaging

High and growing levels of packaging waste
High levels of avoidable packaging
Increase in the proportion of single-use packaging
Barriers to packaging circularity
Increased use of packaging design features that inhibit recycling
Cross-contamination of conventional and compostable recycling streams
Presence of hazardous substances
Waste management and reuse are not cost efficient
Inconsistent and confusing labelling
Downcycling
Low levels of recycled content in plastic packaging

Waste generation, kg per capita



European Commission

Regulation with internal market legal basis

- **Directive** 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste
  - Article 114 TFEU
  - Unenforceable and weakly formulated essential requirements
  - Obligations on the MS have lead to market failures
  - Early Warning Report
- **Regulation** on packaging and packaging waste
  - Article 114 TFEU: no change
  - Modernise and reinforce requirements
  - Detailed and directly applicable requirements on packaging and on economic operators
  - Minimum requirements on extended producer responsibility as well as rules on collection and targets for reuse and recycling
  - Avoid issues due to delayed or incorrect transpositions by the MS

Core measures on prevention and re-use

- Target of 5% reduction of packaging waste by 2030 compared to the baseline of 2018 (10% by 2035 and 15% by 2040)
- put on Member States & complemented by other measures:

Waste Prevention

- Requirement to minimise packaging volume and weight
- Limiting void space:
  - In sales packaging (obligation of manufacturer)
  - In grouped, transport and e-commerce packaging (obligation of economic operators supplying goods using such packaging)
- Avoiding unnecessary packaging

Re-use

- Addressing reusable packaging formats and reuse systems
- **Sector specific re-use targets on economic operators; exemptions based on:**
  - Micro-company status
  - sales area and
  - amount of packaging placed on the market

Full recyclability of packaging by 2030 (1/2)

- All packaging items have to undergo a recyclability assessment procedure for the category to which it belongs, to assure they meet the **design for recycling (DfR)** criteria established in a Delegated Act. The recycling performance in practice is verified by means of a methodology developed subsequently to the DfR criteria. Packaging is assigned a grade from A to E.
- As from 2030 only packaging scoring grades A-D can be placed on the market.
- Exception for innovative packaging (max 5 years), for certain packaging of pharmaceuticals and medical devices (max. up to 2035)
- EPR fees to be based on the performance grades A to D

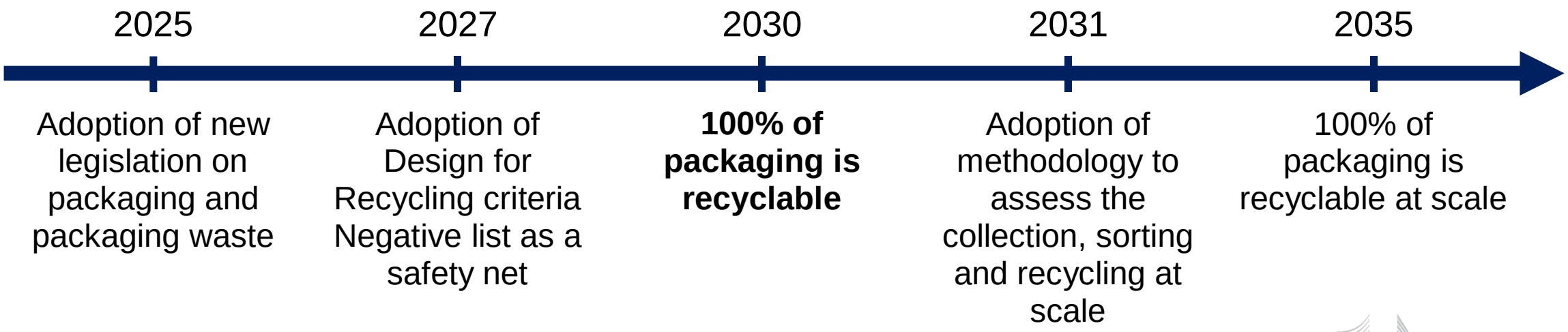
Grade	Score of compliance with DfR criteria of a unit of packaging *
A	95%
B	90%
C	80%
D	70%
E	Less than 70%

* in terms of weight of the unit of packaging

European Commission

Full recyclability of packaging by 2030 (2/2)

- The recycling performance in practice ('at scale') will be verified as of 2035 by means of a methodology to be developed subsequently to the DfR criteria; the delegated act with DfR criteria and performance grades will, where necessary, be amended accordingly;
- As from 2035 only packaging scoring grades A-D (then including) recyclable 'at scale' can be placed on the market.



European Commission

Compostability requirements

- **4 packaging formats** (tea and coffee bags, tea and coffee single-serve systems, fruit and vegetable sticky labels and **very** light plastic carrier bags) must be **compostable** so that this packaging can go together with the product into the biowaste stream.
- All other plastic containing packaging should go into recycling.
- Opening for light plastic carrier bags, a significant market item, to be compostable in Member States where there is the respective infrastructure that they go into composting.

Recycled content targets for packaging containing plastic part

- Ambitious targets for 2030 and 2040 for post-consumer **recycled content in packaging containing plastic part** (not for other packaging materials: glass, metal, paper)
- Requirement with respect to packaging placed on the EU market
- Different targets for different packaging categories:

Targets for recycled content in packaging containing plastic part		
Packaging	**2030**	**2040**
SUP Beverage bottles	30%	65%
Contact sensitive packaging:		50%
PET as major component	30%	
PET is not as major component	10%	
Other plastic packaging	35%	65%

European Commission

Enabling measures: Labelling & Deposit and Return Systems

- EU **harmonised mandatory labelling** of for **products and waste receptacles** to facilitate consumer **sorting**, inspired by Nordic pictogram system
- Harmonised mandatory labelling of **reusable** packaging via QR code
- Harmonised criteria for (voluntary) labelling of **recycled content**
- Abandonment of the current, alphanumeric material-based labelling

- **Minimum requirements** for all **Deposit Return Systems** (DRS)
- Setting up of **mandatory DRS for plastic bottles and metal cans**

Waste Framework Directive revision

- Targeted revision on food waste and used textiles
- Ongoing IA will consider food waste reduction targets – lead by DG SANTE
- OPC closed August 2022
- Commission proposal foreseen for Q2 2023

- **Revision of the Monitoring Framework for the Circular Economy**

Update and to include new indicators

- **Legislative proposal on the 'Right to Repair'**

Incentives and tools to consumers to use goods for a longer time, including by repairing defective goods.

- **Initiative addressing unintentional release of microplastics**

Sources: pellets, tyres, textiles - Additional sources: Paints, geotextiles, detergent capsules

- **Critical Raw Materials Act:**

Increase and diversify critical raw materials supply, strengthen circularity, foster resilience and

Learn more & Keep in touch

Circular economy action plan (europa.eu)

@EU_ENV

@EUEnvironment

EU Environment and Climate

ourplanet_eu

Paola.MIGLIORINI@ec.europa.eu

European Commission

Thank you

© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the CC BY 4.0 license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. Fotolia.com; Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. iStock.com

European Commission