

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

N° 04/24 – July 2024

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Created for:



Created by:



# Contents

<b>INTERNAL MARKET</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Digital Policy.....	3
Cyber Resilience Act .....	3
Digital Policy.....	4
Machinery Directive.....	4
Electromagnetic fields .....	5
Standardisation Policy .....	6
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Circular Economy Policy.....	7
Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation .....	7
Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR).....	8
Empowering consumers for the green transition .....	8
Common rules promoting the repair of goods (right to repair) .....	8
Substantiating environmental claims.....	9
REACH.....	9
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) .....	10
EU Ecolabel.....	10
<b>ENERGY</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Energy Infrastructure.....	12
Offshore Renewable Energy .....	12
Smart Grids .....	12
<b>DECARBONISATION &amp; CLIMATE CHANGE</b> .....	<b>13</b>
National Energy and Climate Plans .....	13
Sustainable finance.....	13
Emission Trading System Directive .....	14
<b>PUBLICATIONS &amp; EVENTS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
PUBLICATIONS .....	15
EVENTS.....	16

# INTERNAL MARKET

## Digital Policy

### Cyber Resilience Act

Following the European Parliament vote on the [Cyber Resilience Act \(CRA\) text](#) in March, the 'corrigendum procedure' for the finalisation of the legal linguistic aspects was initiated and is still ongoing. The revised text will appear again on the agenda of the European Parliament plenary meeting to formally approve the inclusion of any final technical changes. The formal adoption of the CRA by the Council will follow and is expected to take place at the beginning of the next mandate. After the final adoption, the regulation will be published in the EU Official Journal.

In the meantime, the European Commission is organising some initial virtual consultations to gather preliminary input from manufacturers on important and critical products in the context of the implementation of the Cyber Resilience Act. These are only informal consultations, without prejudice to the formal consultations that will follow.



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# Issues of General Interest

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## Digital Policy

### Network Information and Security Directive (NIS 2)

In April, the European Commission announced the upcoming publication of a NIS 2 Implementing Act by 17 October 2024. In advance of this, on 27 June the Commission initiated a public consultation on the subject of “Cybersecurity risk management and reporting obligations for digital infrastructure, providers and ICT service managers”. This consultation, which is scheduled to run for four weeks, will remain open until 25 July 2024. The objective of this consultation is to gather feedback that will be considered for the finalisation of the implementing act for NIS2 regarding the risk-management measures and incident-reporting obligations.



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## Machinery Directive

The European Commission is in the process of preparing an Implementing Regulation, which includes a harmonised template on accident data, allowing an assessment of whether Annex I related to machinery of higher risk should be amended or not. This could entail adding or removing machinery categories from Annex I. The aim is to finalise this process by July 2024.

Regarding the future Machinery Regulation Guide, the work will not start during the summer, but the Commission is already planning to resume the set-up of a new ‘Editorial Group’ consisting of various experts from industry and the Member States, which was the previous group that dealt with the Machinery Directive Guide update. It is also the intention that the Chair of the Administrative Cooperation Group (AdCo) on machinery will be part of the group.

As for the Standardisation Request, the Commission is in regular contact with CEN CENELEC and hopes that it will be adopted in September 2024.



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## Outdoor Noise Directive (OND)

On 11 July a European Commission Noise Expert Group meeting took place. The Commission communicated that a first draft of the guidelines for the application of the Outdoor Noise Directive will be provided by the end of the summer.

On a different note, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have endorsed the Commission's proposal for a Directive on the rationalisation of certain reporting requirements, which would eliminate Article 16 of the Outdoor Noise Directive. This proposal aims to remove unnecessary reporting obligations and the legal act will be adopted by the end of the year. These changes will become part of the OND guidelines after the proposal is published.



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## Electromagnetic fields

On 4 June, the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) held a meeting to finalise their technical advice on a Council Recommendation regarding electromagnetic fields (EMF) exposure, covering 0Hz to 300 GHz. Two additional meetings are planned to complete the advice.

SCHEER also discussed the update of the guidelines on the use of phthalates in medical devices (MD). On 17 June, SCHEER published an [expert opinion](#) on the benefit-risk assessment of the presence of phthalates in certain MD and responded to relevant comments received. During the meeting, SCHEER also addressed the 'Weight of Evidence – Memorandum 2024', an opinion on brain stimulators and on FORENV cycle VI, as well as factsheets for adoption on EMF I and EMF II.

Additionally, DG SANTE opened a public consultation: a call for external experts for the SCHEER Working Group on risks for health associated with the use of brain stimulators not having an intended medical purpose as described in group 6 of Annex XVI to Regulation (EU) 2017/745. The deadline for feedback is **31 August 2024**.



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# Standardisation Policy

The European Commission has launched the long-awaited public consultation on the evaluation of the Standardisation Regulation 1025/2012. The main purpose of this evaluation is to assess the performance of the Standardisation Regulation and its capacity to adapt to a rapidly evolving landscape in technical standardisation, as well as to support EU strategic goals. Additionally, the Regulation will be evaluated against specific criteria such as effectiveness, efficiency, impact, relevance, EU added value, and alignment with EU policies and instruments. The deadline to respond to this consultation is 25 July. Moreover, a targeted survey as part of the evaluation of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012, has been shared with the Industry associations and companies by Intellera Consulting.

The primary objective of this targeted survey is to gather feedback from specific categories of stakeholders. Questions are therefore focused on the provision of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012 which might have generated benefits or costs for Industry associations. This will allow the evaluators and the European Commission to assess the implementation of the Regulation considering the opinion of different categories of stakeholders affected. The intended deadline to provide feedback is 2 August.



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# ENVIRONMENT

## Circular Economy Policy

### Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

On 28 June 2024, the Regulation establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for sustainable products “Ecodesign Regulation” (ESPR) was [published in the Official Journal of the EU](#). It enters into force 20 days thereafter and applies from 24 months after the entry into force, on 18 July 2026.

The Regulation updates and repeals the 2009 Ecodesign Directive and sets up a framework for ecodesign requirements, based on a product-by-product regulatory approach and regulated via Delegated Acts. These could concern performance requirements (e.g. reparability and durability) and/or information requirements (e.g. environmental footprint and presence of substances of concern), or even “horizontal requirements” in the case of products with similarities. Another key element of the Regulation is the introduction of the Digital Product Passport (DPP), a digital tool to simplify access to product-specific information that will be regulated via a Delegated Act. Additional provisions concern the introduction of rules on mandatory green public procurement, prohibition of destruction of unsold goods, and limitation of products’ premature obsolescence. Exemptions and derogations might apply.

As the law has been finalised, the European Commission is now working on its implementation. The EU Executive is currently involved in the [first working plan](#) defining the ecodesign performance criteria applicable to iron, steel, aluminium, and textiles. The process is taking place within the Ecodesign Forum, a stakeholders' Expert Group of the Commission responsible for drafting the working plans, producing the Delegated Acts establishing ecodesign requirements, and discussing a number of vertical energy labelling regulations, replacing the [Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Consultation Forum](#). The first stakeholder meeting on the ESPR Preparatory Study on Iron and Steel Products took place on 25 June 2024. The call for membership of the Ecodesign Forum is expected to be launched after the summer break.

## Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

The legislative process on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) is soon to conclude. The trilogue agreement struck on 4 March 2024 was [adopted](#) by the European Parliament plenary on 24 April, while at Council level the COREPER [endorsed](#) the agreement on 15 March. The file now has to be formally adopted by a Council configuration before being published in the Official Journal.

The adopted text includes sustainability requirements – notably on packaging reduction targets, recycling and reuse targets for specific product groups and materials, including for transport and sales packaging, and grouped packaging. Currently, cardboard packaging in transport has been exempted from these requirements. Derogations and exemptions on reuse and recycling obligations will be implemented through secondary legislation or at Member State level.

## Empowering consumers for the green transition

After the European Parliament and Council of the EU formally endorsed the agreed upon text on the initiative, the respective directive was [published](#) in the Official Journal of the European Union on 6 March 2024.

It will enter into force on 26 March 2024, on the 20th day following its publication.

## Common rules promoting the repair of goods (right to repair)

On 10 July 2024, the Directive on promoting the “right to repair” was published in the Official Journal of the EU and will enter into force 20 days thereafter. The transposition deadline for Member States is set for 31 July 2026.

The Directive lays down common rules strengthening the provisions related to the repair of goods and applies to the repair of products purchased by consumers in the event that a defect occurs outside the liability of the seller pursuant to the [Sale of Goods Directive](#). The scope of the “right to repair” rules applying to manufacturers includes the products individually regulated by the Ecodesign Directive framework and listed in Annex II. The European Commission can amend the list of product lots in the Annex by Delegated Acts.

In addition, companies will be required to favour repairs over replacements of broken devices during the two year EU legal guarantee period, if consumers request it. This guarantee period can be voluntarily extended by one year by Member States for consumers’ repaired goods. Manufacturers are obliged to provide information



concerning spare parts on their websites, such as indicative prices. Repairers can voluntarily opt for a standardised, free-of-charge European Repair Information Form. When opted for, it must comply with the requirements set out in Annex I.

## Substantiating environmental claims

Negotiations on the "Green Claims Directive", are progressing. The European Parliament [adopted its position in plenary](#) on 12 March 2024. The Parliament agreed to tighten the verification requirements on new environmental marketing claims, while simpler types of claims should benefit from faster verification. Lawmakers also introduced more severe penalties for businesses breaking the rules. In addition, the Council adopted its [General Approach](#) on 17 June. Amongst other things, the text differentiates between explicit environmental claims and environmental labels, outlining specific obligations and requirements for each, and introduces a simplified procedure to exempt certain explicit claims from third party verification. The EU Ecolabel is exempt from this legislation because it is already covered by EU law and therefore considered a safe labelling scheme for industries to invest in.

The Directive proposal will be discussed in the context of the interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues), set to begin once the new Parliament and Commission have been officially established.



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## Issues of General Interest

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### REACH

On 8 May, ECHA announced that it will issue a restriction proposal on certain chromium (VI) substances, in line with the framework of the REACH Regulation. This would update and complement the previous proposal from September 2023 by extending the potential restriction to at least 12 substances. The [feedback period](#) runs from 5 June to 15 August 2024. Publication of ECHA's restriction proposal is scheduled for 11 April 2025.

On 16 May, the Commission adopted a [Regulation](#) to restrict the placing on the market of siloxanes D<sub>4</sub>, D<sub>5</sub> and D<sub>6</sub> over certain concentrations. These substances are

used in the production of silicon substances, as a monomer in polymerisation, in waxes, for adhesion, sealing, gluing, casting, coating, and treatment of surfaces. The restriction will apply as of 6 June 2026. However, it will allow for industrial derogations.

## Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

The restriction process on PFAS substances is progressing at a slow pace. The two ECHA's scientific committees (Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) and Socio-Economic Committee (SEAC)) held plenary meetings on 3-6 June, in which they discussed the sector identified under the denomination "Metal plating and manufacture of metal products". The applications covered include hard chrome plating and other types of chrome plating, decorative chrome plating, plating with other metals such as nickel, and plating on metal and on plastics. On the manufacturing of metal products, the Committees reportedly discussed metal coating, razor blade coating, and solvents for metal cleaning. According to the [minutes](#), the Committees agreed on sector-specific aspects such as emissions, alternative risks, risk reduction, and sector-use specific derogations.

A calendar for the next meetings was also announced. The Committees confirmed that September meetings will cover textiles, upholstery, leather, apparel, carpets (TULAC), food contact materials and packaging, and petroleum and mining ([agenda](#)). It was tentatively established that further meetings in December 2024 will deal with the sectors of fluorinated gases, transport and construction products.

In parallel, the five Member States that submitted the restriction dossier to ECHA are currently reviewing their original restriction proposal in light of the consultation's comments. ECHA Committees' opinions – which are now foreseen for the first quarter of 2026 – will reflect the updated report.



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## EU Ecolabel

On 18 April, the European Commission Expert Group "EU Ecolabelling Board" (EUEB) held a meeting to assess the state of play of Ecolabelling policy and future developments.

The Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) stated that it is updating the strategic EU Ecolabel Workplan for the period of 2025-2029, a draft of which will be

shared with EUEB members ahead of the next Experts meeting on 26-28 November 2024.

DG ENV and contractors presented the results of the assessment from the Commission and EUEB on the implementation of the strategic EU Ecolabel workplan 2020-2024 as well as the activities of the EU Ecolabel Communication Task Force. The priorities under the Commission's EU Ecolabel Communication Plan for 2024 were presented, with two strategic priorities: increasing the Ecolabel recognition and trust by 2.5% and EU Ecolabel uptake by 5% in 2024. In addition, the Commission gave an overview of the latest trends on EU label licenses, highlighting that the number of products and companies awarded the label increased in first quarter of 2024.

In parallel, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is conducting a [revision of the Ecolabel criteria](#) for a number of products: paints and varnishes, textiles, detergents, paper and lubricants.

Additionally, in June JRC [issued](#) a background report outlining Green Public Procurement (GPP) recommendations concerning the EU Ecolabel. The report states that GPP is an effective strategy for achieving environmental goals by integrating green criteria into public sector purchasing contracts. The EU Ecolabel policy offers environmental standards for green product claims, while the EU GPP policy guides customers on what information to request. As a result, this report seeks to integrate the supply-side EU Ecolabel policy with the demand-side EU GPP policy to identify potential synergies. Its goal is to offer guidance to authorities on utilising ecolabels, especially the EU Ecolabel, in the procurement process.



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# ENERGY

## Issues of General Interest

### Energy Infrastructure

#### Offshore Renewable Energy

On 27 June, the Commission presented a [guidance document \(C/2024/3998\)](#) on collaborative investment frameworks for offshore energy projects at the Copenhagen Forum. This document aims to help EU countries, regulatory authorities and system operators, with discussions on cost-sharing agreements to meet regional offshore renewable targets. The guidelines, part of the TEN-E Regulation and following the EU Action Plan for Grids, emphasise the importance of collaborative investment frameworks to achieve the EU's offshore renewable energy goals.

#### Smart Grids

On 21 June, the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) and the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) published a [guidance paper](#) on electricity transmission and distribution “smart-grid” performance indicators, ahead of the 2024 Energy Infrastructure Forum (Copenhagen Forum). The paper included a set of guiding principles to evaluate the performance and efficiency of European smart grids, which was jointly developed by ACER and CEER. The feedback on the paper is open **until 28 July**. Based on the inputs, they plan to develop concrete smart-grid Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for both transmission and distribution system operators.



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# DECARBONISATION & CLIMATE CHANGE

## National Energy and Climate Plans

At the end of 2023, the Commission issued [recommendations](#) to assist Member States in raising their ambitions in line with EU targets for 2030. The final National Energy Climate Plans had to be submitted **by 30 June 2024**.

On 23 May, the Energy Community [Parliamentary Plenum](#) discussed the advancement of the green transition through the empowerment of national frameworks for the effective implementation of National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). Participants explored how parliaments can play a role in driving these initiatives, focusing on overcoming challenges and exchanging best practices in incentivising reforms and financing the transition.



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## Issues of General Interest

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### Sustainable finance

On 18 June, the three European Supervisory Authorities (the European Banking Authority (EBA), the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOP) and the European Securities and Markets Authorities (ESMA – ESAs)) published a [joint opinion](#) on evaluating the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR). They advocate for a coherent sustainable finance framework that supports both the green transition and improved consumer protection, incorporating insights gained from the SFDR's implementation.



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# Emission Trading System Directive

As part of the 'Fit for 55' package, the Emission Trading System (ETS) Directive has been revised to align it with the new EU target set in the European Climate Law to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030. As a follow-up, the Commission needs to update several regulatory acts, so that the ETS is implemented in a uniform manner across the EU.

- On 29 May, DG GROW published a Conference Paper on carbon intensity and corporate performance: 'A Micro-Level Study of EU ETS Industrial Firms'.
- On 19 June, the Commission Expert Group on Climate Change policy (CCEG) reviewed the comments received, updated the draft, and discussed the final version of the ETS<sub>2</sub> Annual Emission Report template.
- On 24 June, the CCEG discussed the implementation progress of the revision of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) concerning aviation.
- Feedback on a Draft Act: 'Permanent storage of EU ETS emissions through carbon capture and utilisation', was open until 16 July.
- Feedback on a Draft Act: 'Emissions trading system (ETS) Monitoring and Reporting Regulation amendment in response to the ETS revision', is open until 29 July.



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# PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

## PUBLICATIONS

Author	Date	Title
European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the EIC	03.06.2024	<a href="#">Eyes on the Future - Signals from recent reports on emerging technologies and breakthrough innovations to support European Innovation Council strategic intelligence - Volume 1</a>
European Parliament	03.06.2024	<a href="#">Briefing: New European cybersecurity competence centre and network</a>
European Commission (JRC)	20.06.2024	<a href="#">Study to support the monitoring of the Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles</a>
European Commission	08.07.2024	<a href="#">Europe's innovation performance steadily improving but at different speeds</a>

[between Member States](#)

## EVENTS

Date & time	Event	Location
03 September 2024, 14:00-18:00 (CEST)	<a href="#">Human oversight of automated decision-making (IPEN)</a>	Karlstad, Sweden (registration required), and online
01 October 2024, 09:30 - 17:30	<a href="#">2024 ENISA CTI Conference (Brussels)</a>	Brussels, Belgium
24-25 September 2024	<a href="#">European Manufacturing Conference 2024</a>	Brussel, Belgium
11 September 2024	<a href="#">QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES - How can the EU lead in the industries of the future?</a>	Hybrid - Brussels Network Office - International Press Centre 1 Bd Charlemagne // 2nd floor

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