

**Question for written answer E-005442/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Increasing the circular material use rate

According to Eurostat, the EU average circular material use rate in 2020 was 12.8%.

There are significant differences between sectors, with the highest rates of recycling seen for metals (25%) and non-metallic minerals including glass (16%).

There are also huge gaps between Member States, from 31% in the Netherlands, 23% in Belgium and 22% in France, down to 1% in Romania and 2% in Portugal and Ireland.

Finally, but no less importantly, I note the slow growth in the European circularity rate, which has increased by only 0.8% since 2019. Progress has been stable for the last 15 years, but is insufficient in view of the EU's climate ambitions. To reach the proposed targets, it is essential that we economise and reuse our primary materials.

Does the European Commission envisage an urgent and substantial boost in the circular use of primary materials at EU level, and particularly in those Member States and sectors that are still in the early stages of this process?