

CONTENT

On 19 October 2020, the European Commission published its work programme for 2021. In the annexes accompanying the work programme, the Commission indicates that it would propose, as part of the European Green Deal and the new Circular Economy Action Plan, a revision of Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste. The initiative will reinforce the essential requirements for packaging to ensure their reuse and recycling, uptake of recycled content and improve their enforceability. It will also envisage measures to tackle over-packaging and to reduce packaging waste. An impact assessment is foreseen.

The revision was announced for the fourth quarter of 2021. According to the provisional agenda of the College of Commissioners, it is currently expected on 20 July 2022.

In its resolution of 10 February 2021 on the New Circular Economy Action Plan, the European Parliament reiterated the objective to make all packaging reusable or recyclable in an economically viable way by 2030 and called on the Commission to present a legislative proposal without delay, including waste reduction measures and targets and ambitious essential requirements in the Packaging Waste Directive to reduce excessive packaging, also in e-commerce, improve recyclability and minimise the complexity of packaging, increase recycled content, phase out hazardous and harmful substances, and promote reuse. It underlined that food safety or hygiene standards must not be compromised.

References

- European Commission, [Inception impact assessment on Review of the requirements for packaging and other measures to prevent packaging waste](#), 11 June 2020
- European Commission, [Commission work programme 2021. A Union of vitality in a world of fragility](#), COM(2020) 690 final, with [Annexes](#)
- European Commission, [A New Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner and More Competitive Europe](#), COM(2020)98
- European Commission, [Communication on the European Green Deal](#), COM(2019) 640
- [European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste](#)
- European Parliament, [Resolution of 10 February 2021 on the New Circular Economy Action Plan](#), 2020/2077(INI)

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Visit the European Parliament homepage on [circular economy](#).

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