

Brussels, 7 September 2026

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Rue de la Loi 200, 1049, Brussels, Belgium

Cc:

Ms. Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition

Mr. Stéphane Séjourné, Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy

Ms. Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

Subject: Sector renews six strategic recommendations to strengthen competitiveness, circularity and investment

Dear President von der Leyen,

One year ago, 34 leading organisations across the European plastics value chain jointly put forward a set of strategic recommendations for a resilient and circular plastics value chain in Europe¹. **Today, the signatories reaffirm their continued relevance and urgency.** With the upcoming Circular Economy Act approaching, these recommendations provide a clear and actionable roadmap to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and circularity of Europe's plastics ecosystem.

Over the past year, the challenges facing the plastics industry have further intensified. Between 2023 and the second quarter of 2026, plastics recycling companies representing around 1.1 million tonnes of capacity were forced to close due to unsustainable market conditions². At the same time, European plastics production remained stagnant at 54.6 million tonnes in 2024³, while Europe's share of global production fell from 25% in 2006 to 12% in 2024⁴ and is expected to decline further to 7% by 2034⁵. Persistently high energy costs continue to place European operators at a structural disadvantage, weakening investment, innovation and long-term competitiveness.

Against this backdrop, the signatories call for targeted and coordinated EU action built around six strategic priorities:

- **Restore fair competition & promote circular plastics made in Europe⁶**
- **Cut energy costs & support circular plastics to compete globally**
- **End loopholes in verification & enforcement**
- **Implement & enforce EU law**
- **Catalyse innovation & private investment**
- **Enhance EPR for a fair circular market**

The complete set of recommendations is available [here](#).

¹ *Strategic Recommendations for a Resilient and Circular Plastic Value Chain in Europe*, 2025.

² Plastics Recyclers Europe (EU-27+3)

³ Plastics Europe (EU-27+3)

⁴ Plastics Europe (EU-27+3)

⁵ Plastics Recyclers Europe forecast (EU-27+3)

⁶ For the purpose of this statement, Europe refers to the EU-27, the UK and EFTA.

The European Commission's Communication "*Accelerating Europe's transition to a circular economy: a pilot for boosting the circularity of plastics*"⁷ marked an important step towards recognising the challenges facing the plastics value chain. Since its publication, developments have taken place in several areas, including work on EU-wide End-of-Waste (EoW) criteria, the relaunch of the Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA), and discussions on CN codes. However, low-priced imports of both recyclates and products (semi-finished and finished), high energy costs, legal uncertainty, administrative burdens and regulatory fragmentation continue to hinder Europe's ability to compete and invest.

The forthcoming Circular Economy Act therefore represents a crucial opportunity to translate ambition into action. By creating the conditions for investment, innovation and fair competition, it can help secure a thriving circular plastics value chain and reinforce Europe's industrial leadership.

The window for action is rapidly narrowing. The signatories urge the EU institutions to seize this opportunity and deliver measures that strengthen Europe's industrial base, accelerate the circular transition and unlock sustainable growth. A competitive and resilient plastics value chain is not only essential for the sector itself, but also a prerequisite for Europe's broader ambitions on competitiveness, strategic autonomy and circularity.

Yours sincerely,

⁷ [*Communication on Accelerating Europe's transition to a circular economy: boosting the circularity of plastics*](#), 2025.

Co-signatories

European organisations



National organisations

