# Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) – ECHA's role

Sustainable Food Packaging conference

27 May 2025

Augusto di Bastiano
Risk Management I Unit

Wojtek Koryczan

# Overview

- → Introduction to ECHA
- → Our remit (legislation and new tasks)
- → Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation
- → ECHA’s role and implementation plan
- → Stakeholder engagement

# About us

# Who we are

## OUR PURPOSE

We protect health and the environment through our work for chemical safety

## OUR VISION

Chemical safety through science, collaboration and knowledge



ECHA
EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

# Our mandate

**Implement** EU chemicals laws and policy through technical, scientific, and administrative tasks

Provide independent, high-quality **scientific opinions** and **decisions** to serve as basis for EU measures

**Collaborate** with EU institutions, EU countries' authorities, and other bodies

**Support** companies, particularly smaller ones, in fulfilling their duties

Ensure stakeholders get relevant, reliable and objective **information**

# Our tasks

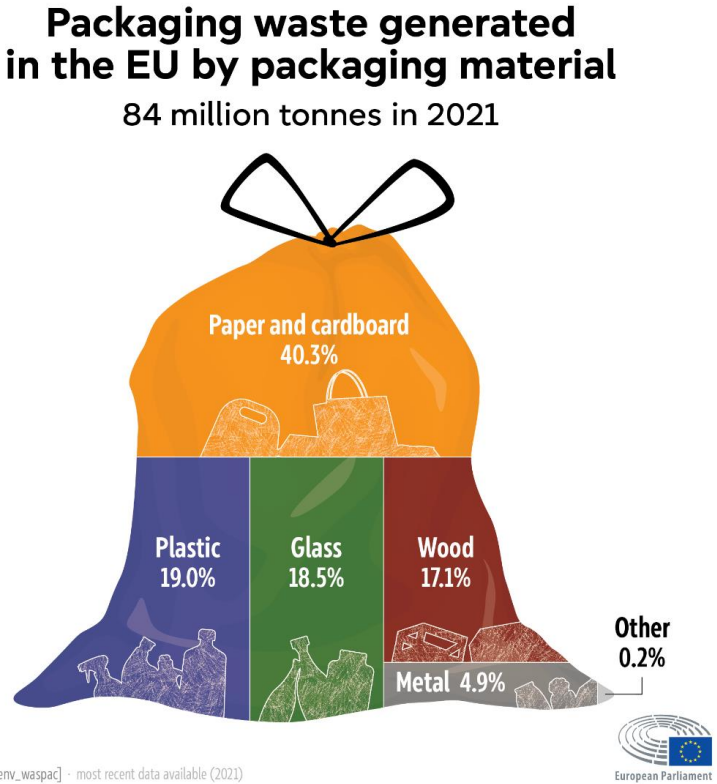
## Legislation

- REACH – Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction
- Classification, Labelling, Packaging
- Biocidal Products
- Prior Informed Consent
- Persistent organic pollutants
- Waste framework
- Drinking water
- Environmental action programme
- Cross-border health threats
- Batteries
- Industrial emissions
- Packaging and packaging waste

# Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

# Background

- → 40% plastics and 50% paper used in the EU is used for packaging
- → Circular economy and sustainability
- → Whole life cycle of packaging
- → Reducing impacts on the environment and human health






ECHA EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

# Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

→ PPWR entered into force on 11 February 2025 (replaced the PPWD)

→ Whole life cycle of packaging

→ Requirements for
- Packaging design
- Packaging waste management

→ Goal: all packaging reusable or recyclable by 2030

# Key requirements

- **Restrictions** on certain single-use plastics – some pre-packed fruit and vegetables, and individual portions of condiments, sauces, and sugar in hotels, bars and restaurants.
- Minimising **weight and volume** of packaging and avoiding **unnecessary** packaging
- 2030 and 2040 targets for a **minimum percentage of recycled** content in packaging
- A requirement for **take-away businesses** to offer customers the option to bring their own containers at no extra cost.
- Minimising **substances of concern**, including **restrictions** on packaging containing per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) if they exceed certain thresholds.

# Substances of concern

Defined* in Article 2(27) of the ESPR**

(a) has been identified as a Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) (Article 57 of REACH) and added to the Candidate List

(b) is classified (harmonised classification for chronic effects) according to CLP

(c) is a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs Regulation); or

(d) negatively affects the reuse and recycling of materials in the product in which it is present

* Please refer to the legal text

** Regulation (EU) 2024/1781: Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation

# Requirements for substances of concern in packaging (Article 5)

→ Main aim: minimise the presence and concentration of substances of concern in packaging

→ ECHA to support the European Commission in preparing a report on SoC in packaging
- Substances that impact chemical safety
- Negatively affect the re-use and recycling

→ Indication on follow-up measures
- REACH restrictions
- restrictions under the design for recycling criteria

→ Member States to supply information on substances negatively affecting the re-use and recycling by Dec 2025

# Partnership work and stakeholder engagement

- → Commission and Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- → Member States
- → Stakeholder mapping
- → Engagement plan
- → Website: Understanding PPWR

# Information gathering: Study report

©Pixabay/kaboompics

- → Desk research
- → Call for Evidence
- → Stakeholder interviews
  - Academia and scientific experts
  - Industry
  - NGOs
  - Waste and recycling

# Information gathering: main hurdles

- → Limited information on substances in packaging available in REACH registrations
- → Information from industry crucial for the assessment of regulatory needs to be correct
- → ECHA has set up a strategy to engage stakeholders in regulatory work

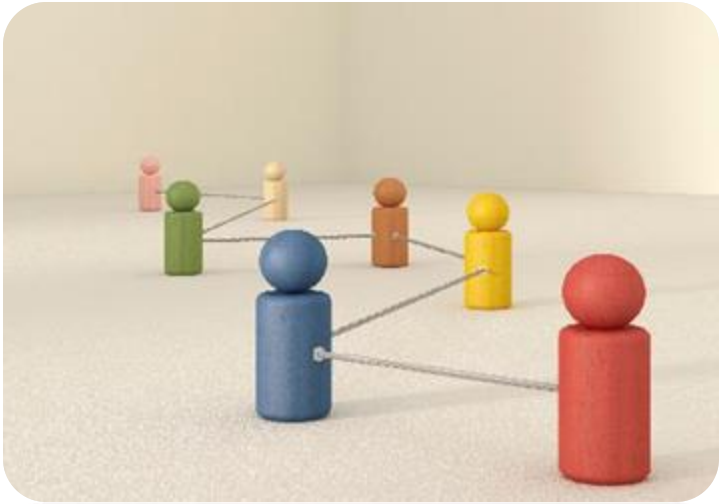
# Work with us

# Stakeholders are vital for us

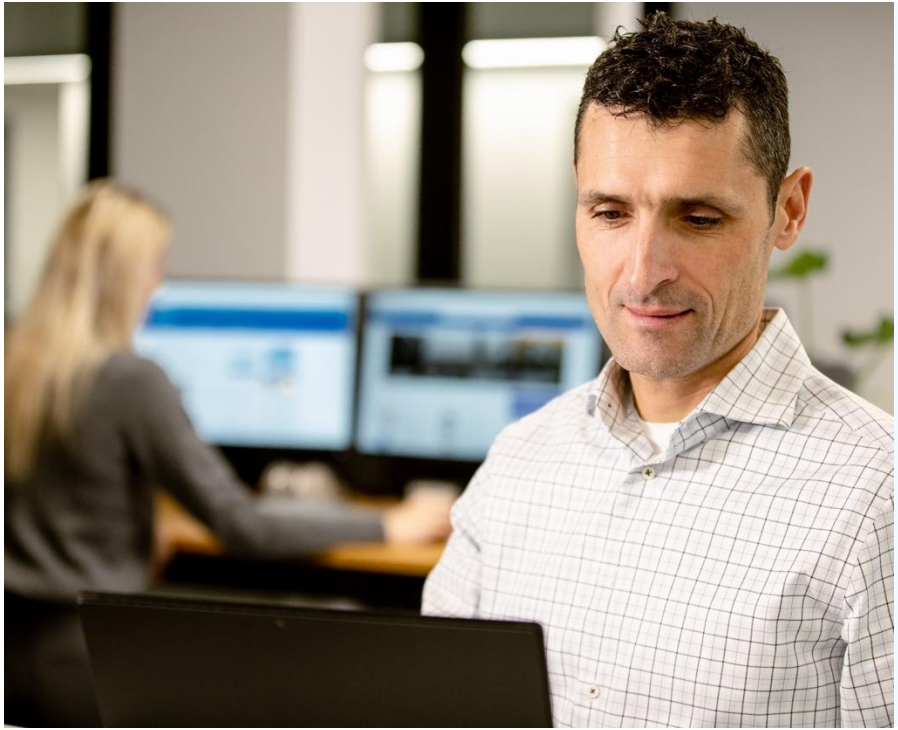
- Enhance mutual understanding
- Give early feedback to improve quality and adapt to changes
- Increase impact
- Build trust

# Engage with us

- Subscribe to news
- Join free events
- Give input in consultations
- Follow substance activities from first plans to final decisions
- Take part in calls for tenders to support our scientific work



# Visit our chemicals database



- ECHA CHEM is the largest chemicals database in the European Union
- Info on 350 000 substances
- Brings you information from REACH registrations and classification and labelling notifications

# Stakeholder input

- → Call for evidence to be launched for the study (Q3 2025)
- → PPWR restrictions: separate call for evidence (2027 at the earliest)

# We want to hear from you

Join our stakeholder list to give input and to stay up to date

# Thank you

echa.europa.eu/understanding-ppwr

## Connect with us

echa.europa.eu/podcasts

European Chemicals Agency

@onehealth_eu

@EU_ECHA

@EUECHA

EUchemicals

@echa.europa.eu

echa.europa.eu/subscribe