Basic information

2023/0373(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution **Subject** 3.40.01 Chemical industry, fertilizers, plastics 3.70.05 Marine and coastal pollution, pollution from ships, oil pollution 3.70.12 Waste management, domestic waste, packaging, light industrial waste **Legislative priorities** Joint Declaration 2023-24	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Climate and Food Safety	LUENA César (S&D)	12/09/2024
	Shadow rapporteur SOMMEN Liesbet (EPP) BONTE Barbara (PfE) FIOCCHI Pietro (ECR) KARLSBRO Karin (Renew) PAULUS Jutta (Greens/EFA) FARANTOURIS Nikolas (The Left)	

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	ALBUQUERQUE João (S&D)	27/11/2023

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy (Associated committee)	SPYRAKI Maria (EPP)	04/12/2023
TRAN Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union	
European Commission	Commission DG: Environment — Commissioner: SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus
European Economic and Social Committee	
European Committee of the Regions	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/10/2023	Legislative proposal published	COM(2023)0645	Summary
23/11/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
14/12/2023	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
19/03/2024	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
22/03/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0148/2024	
22/04/2024	Debate in Parliament		
23/04/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0307/2024	Summary
23/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/11/2024	Resumption of business from the previous parliamentary term		
16/01/2025	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations after 1st reading in Parliament		
20/01/2025	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 73)		
13/05/2025	Approval in committee of the text agreed at early 2nd reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE773.383	
02/10/2025	Council position published	09047/1/2025	
09/10/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
20/10/2025	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
20/10/2025	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A10-0203/2025	
23/10/2025	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T10-0252/2025	Summary
23/10/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/11/2025	Final act signed		
26/11/2025	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/0373(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57_o Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 192-p1
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/10/00951

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE757.117	06/12/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE758.000	17/01/2024	
Committee opinion	ITRE	PE758.781	21/02/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0148/2024	22/03/2024	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0307/2024	23/04/2024	Summary
Committee letter confirming interinstitutional agreement		PE773.383	14/05/2025	
Committee draft report		PE778.296	14/10/2025	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A10-0203/2025	20/10/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T10-0252/2025	23/10/2025	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	09047/1/2025	02/10/2025	
Draft final act	00042/2025/LEX	07/11/2025	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2023)0645	16/10/2023	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2023)0346	16/10/2023	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0330	16/10/2023	

Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0332	16/10/2023	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0333	16/10/2023	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)394	08/08/2024	
Commission communication on Council's position	COM(2025)0567	23/09/2025	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	CZ_CHAMBER	COM(2023)0645	09/02/2024	
Reasoned opinion	IT_CHAMBER	PE759.653	11/03/2024	
Contribution	DE_BUNDESRAT	COM(2023)0645	15/05/2024	
Contribution	FR_ASSEMBLY	COM(2023)0645	07/05/2025	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES4923/2023	14/02/2024	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR5588/2023	18/04/2024	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
EP Research Service	Briefing	19/04/2024
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	01/10/2025	FEPORT Port of Rotterdam DUCOR
PAULUS Jutta	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	18/09/2025	Rethink Plastic Alliance
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	08/04/2025	Polish presidency of the Council of the European Union
				Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for environment, water resilience and a

LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	01/04/2025	competitive circular economy
SOMMEN Liesbet	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	26/03/2025	Pools Voorzitterschap EU
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	26/03/2025	Permanent representation of Poland to the EU
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	25/03/2025	European Community Shipowners' Associations World Shipping Council
KARLSBRO Karin	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	25/03/2025	World Ocean Council
PAULUS Jutta	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	24/03/2025	Environmental Investigation Agency Fidra SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
SOMMEN Liesbet	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	12/03/2025	Europese Commissie
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	07/03/2025	American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	06/03/2025	World Shipping Council
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	05/03/2025	ECSA - European Community Shipowners' Associations
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	27/02/2025	Danish Shipping
BONTE Barbara	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	25/02/2025	Euric
KARLSBRO Karin	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	20/02/2025	Plastics Recyclers Europe
KARLSBRO Karin	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/02/2025	SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE Seas At Risk
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	12/02/2025	Plastics Recyclers Europe
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	10/02/2025	Permanent Representation of France to the EU
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	07/02/2025	EsPlasticos
SOMMEN Liesbet	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	05/02/2025	AmCham EU
SOMMEN Liesbet	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	05/02/2025	The Pew Charitable Trusts
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	03/02/2025	The Pew Charitable Trusts
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	27/01/2025	CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	22/01/2025	Environmental Investigation Agency SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE Seas At Risk
SOMMEN Liesbet	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	22/01/2025	Permanente Vertegenwoordiging Cyprus
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	21/01/2025	Representación Permanente de España ante la Unión Europea
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	17/01/2025	EUPC - European Plastics Converters
KARLSBRO Karin	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/01/2025	European Plastics Converters Association
SOMMEN Liesbet	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/01/2025	European Plastics Converters Association
SOMMEN Liesbet	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/01/2025	Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU
KARLSBRO Karin	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/12/2024	American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union

KARLSBRO Karin	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	12/12/2024	The Pew Charitable Trusts
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	11/12/2024	Mr. Arkadiusz Pluciński - Minister-Counsellor
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	02/12/2024	Lubrizol Penta Group
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	27/11/2024	Jessika Roswall: European Commissioner for Environment
KARLSBRO Karin	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	19/11/2024	Plastics Recyclers Europe
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	19/11/2024	European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association - ETRMA
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	19/11/2024	European Waste Management Association - FEAD
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	19/11/2024	American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	14/11/2024	EsPlásticos
KARLSBRO Karin	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/11/2024	FEAD
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	04/11/2024	LyondellBasell Industries N.V.
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	23/10/2024	Plastics Recyclers Europe
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	08/10/2024	ExxonMobil Petroleum & Chemical
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	02/10/2024	Ecologistas en Accion Seas At Risk
LUENA César	Rapporteur	ENVI	30/09/2024	The Pew Charitable Trusts
KELLER Ska	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	11/04/2024	World Shipping Council
KELLER Ska	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	10/04/2024	Rethink Plastic Alliance
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	09/04/2024	Environmental Investigation Agency SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE Seas At Risk
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	08/04/2024	World Shipping Council
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	27/02/2024	ZERO - ASSOCIAÇÃO SISTEMA TERRESTRE SUSTENTÁVEL
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	27/02/2024	Circulo - Associação pela Circularidade de Resíduos Especiais
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	22/02/2024	Sciaena - Ocean # Conservation # Awareness
CLUNE Deirdre	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/02/2024	Plastics Europe
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	15/01/2024	Plastics Recyclers Europe
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	15/01/2024	Minderoo Foundation Limited ATF The Minderoo Foundation Trust
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	12/01/2024	Environmental Investigation Agency
PETER-HANSEN Kira Marie	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ITRE	07/12/2023	Plastics Europe
KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ITRE	07/12/2023	SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE

PETER-HANSEN Kira Marie	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ITRE	06/12/2023	SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	04/12/2023	European Plastics Converters Association
KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ITRE	04/12/2023	Plastics Europe
KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ITRE	04/12/2023	Finnish Environment Ministry
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	01/12/2023	Plastics Europe
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	28/11/2023	SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	28/11/2023	The Pew Charitable Trusts
ALBUQUERQUE João	Rapporteur	ENVI	28/11/2023	Seas At Risk

Other Members

Transparency

Name	Date	Interest representatives
WÖLKEN Tiemo	30/01/2025	The Pew Charitable Trusts
RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS María Soraya	14/02/2024	Ecologistas en Accion Seas At Risk
LUENA César	13/02/2024	Ecologistas en Accion

Final act

Regulation 2025/2365
OJ OJ L 26.11.2025

Preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution

2023/0373(COD) - 23/10/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution **approving** the Council's position at first reading with a view to adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution.

The overall objective of the proposed regulation is to set up obligations for the handling of plastic pellets to prevent losses at all stages of the plastic pellet supply chain, with the aim of achieving zero plastic pellet losses. The obligations focus on prevention of losses or spills, containment and clean-up operations and they apply to economic operators, carriers and sea-going vessels.

Subjects covered and scope of application

The regulation applies to the following natural and legal persons:

- **economic operators** (i) having handled plastic granules within the Union in quantities equal to or exceeding a threshold of five tonnes during the previous calendar year; (ii) operating installations in the Union for the cleaning of tanks and containers of plastic pellets;

- **EU carriers and non-EU carriers** responsible for transporting plastic pellets into the EU; and

- **shippers, operators, agents and masters of seagoing vessels** are concerned when leaving or calling at a port of a Member State.

Obligations are set for the transport of plastic pellets by sea (in freight containers), including ensuring good quality packaging and providing transport and cargo-related information, following the guidelines of the International Maritime Organisation.

General obligations

Economic operators, EU carriers, and non-EU carriers must ensure that losses are avoided. In the event of losses, they must take immediate action to contain and clean up these losses in accordance with environmentally sustainable practices.

A clear framework sets out obligations for cases of accidental losses focusing on **clean-up operations**. A clear set of measures will be included in a risk management plan, prepared by each installation handling pellets. Such measures would concern, among others, packaging, loading and unloading, staff training, as well as necessary equipment.

Non-EU carriers

To provide for a level playing field between the EU and non-EU carriers and to ensure accountability and transparency for all carriers of plastic pellets, non-EU carriers will have to designate an authorised representative in the EU.

Threshold applicable to companies

The threshold for enterprises, on basis of which certain obligations are determined, is set to **1500 tonnes** of plastic pellets handled. Above this threshold, the certification for small, medium and large enterprises applies. Small enterprises will be subject to a lighter regime – they will have to obtain a certificate at least once and after that can choose between renewed certification or a self-declaration of conformity.

Furthermore, all economic operators will be able to use permits, the Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) or an environmental management system (EMS) to comply with certain obligations under this Regulation.

Preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution

2023/0373(COD) - 16/10/2023 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to prevent microplastic pollution from the unintentional release of plastic pellets.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: plastic pellets are the industrial raw material used for all plastic production. Current practices for handling pellets lead to losses at all supply chain stages, notably production (virgin or recycled), processing, transport and other logistics and waste management operations. Once in the environment, they are almost impossible to capture. Like all microplastics, plastic pellets that escape from industrial installations or during transport are easily transported through the air and by land surface waters and marine currents and can also be found in soil (including agricultural lands).

High volumes of pellets are produced and handled every year, both globally and in the EU (around 57 million tons in the EU in 2021). Estimates show that between 52 140 tonnes and 184 290 tonnes of pellets were lost to the environment in the EU in 2019. This is equivalent to between 2100 and 7300 trucks full of pellets per year.

Plastic pellet losses to the environment are the 3rd source of all unintentional microplastic releases. Preventing microplastic releases from these sources may require major substitutions or changes to product characteristics. In contrast, plastic pellet losses are due to a lack of awareness and poor handling and therefore can be abated by swift measures to prevent such avoidable pollution. This makes plastic pellets a primary candidate for policy intervention.

Moreover, pellets are known to be eaten by a range of marine and coastal species (e.g. sea turtles, seabirds and shellfish). Once ingested, they can cause physical harm or death. Like all microplastics, their potential to act as a carrier for adsorbed toxicants or pathogenic microorganisms is an integral part of the problem.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes this draft Regulation to reduce pellet losses to the environment and would lead to a 54% to 74% decrease compared to the baseline, equivalent to a 6% reduction in the total amount of unintentional microplastic releases. In line with the Commission’s 30% overall reduction target for microplastics released to the environment, it will help preserve ecosystems and biodiversity, decrease potential health impacts and benefit local economic activities. It also has the potential to improve information on the magnitude of pellet losses throughout the pellet supply chain.

More specifically, the proposal:

- applies to economic operators handling plastic pellets in the Union in quantities above **5 tonnes** in the previous calendar year and to EU carriers and non-EU carriers transporting plastic pellets in the Union;

- requires economic operators and EU carriers to inform national competent authorities about their activities involving the handling of plastic pellets;

- requires all economic operators, EU carriers and non-EU carriers to comply with the requirements set out in this Regulation within 18 months of its entry into force and also requires them to perform action in the following priority order: prevention to avoid any spills of pellets from primary containment; containment of spilled pellets to make sure they do not become a loss to the environment, and, as a final option, clean up after a spill or loss event;

- seeks to mitigate impacts on **SMEs** by adding lighter requirements for their installations such as no obligation of third-party certification but self-declaration of conformity, as well as a longer validity of the self-declaration (five years); no obligation to review compliance assessments at formal management meetings; and no obligation to establish an awareness and training programme;

- requires that economic operators that are medium-sized enterprises running installations handling plastic pellets in quantities **above 1000 tonnes per year**, will also be subject to the following lighter requirement: certification with a longer transitional period than for large enterprises before first certification (36 months instead of 24) and a longer validity of the certificate (four years instead of three);

- empowers national authorities to impose on economic operators, EU carriers and non-EU carriers any appropriate follow-up measures in case of severe incidents and accidents;

- lays down measures on compensation aimed at securing that, where damage to health has occurred, fully or partially as a result of a violation of this Regulation, the public concerned is able to claim and obtain compensation for that damage;

- requires the Commission to request European standardisation organisations to establish a standard to **estimate quantities of pellets lost** to the environment.

Preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution

2023/0373(COD) - 23/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 538 votes to 32, with 31 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the proposal as follows:

Subject matter

This Regulation lays down obligations for the handling of plastic pellets at all stages of the supply chain to prevent losses, with the objective of achieving **zero plastic pellet losses**.

'**Plastic pellet**' means a small mass of preformed polymer-containing moulding material, regardless of its shape or form, including powders, cylinders, beads and flakes, to which additives might have been added, that is used as feedstock in plastic product manufacturing and plastic recycling operations. The definition of '**plastic pellet dust'** is introduced.

General obligations

Economic operators, EU carriers and non-EU carriers should ensure that losses are avoided. Members stated that where spills and losses occur, economic operators, EU carriers and non-EU carriers should take immediate action to contain and clean-up those spills and losses.

Economic operators and EU carriers should notify the competent authorities of the Member State in which they are established, of any significant change in their installations and activities related to handling and transport of plastic pellets, including of any closure of an existing installation, as applicable.

Economic operators should **label** all storage and transport containers containing plastic pellets in accordance with Annex IVb to this Regulation.

Obligations relating to the handling of plastic pellets

Economic operators that are **small, medium and large-sized enterprises** operating installations where plastic pellets in quantities below 1 000 tonnes have been handled in the previous calendar year or that are micro enterprises should notify an update of the risk assessment plan for each installation as well as a renewal of the self-declaration of conformity to the competent authority **every 3 years** from the last notification.

Economic operators that are small enterprises operating installations where plastic pellets in quantities above 1 000 tonnes have been handled in the previous calendar year should comply with the obligations, unless they hold a valid certificate issued in accordance with the Regulation.

Certification

By 60 months from the entry into force of this Regulation, economic operators that are small enterprises should demonstrate that each installation where plastic pellets in quantities above 1 000 tonnes have been handled in the previous calendar year is compliant with the requirements set out in Annex I, by obtaining a **certificate** issued by a certifier. That certificate should be valid for **5 years**. Certifiers should carry out spot-checks and inspections of sites, means of transport and immediately surrounding areas to ensure that all measures included in the risk assessment plan carried out in accordance with Annex I are duly implemented.

Compliance and reporting

The Commission should draw up every three years, on the basis of the Member States' reports, a synthesis report on compliance and reporting, setting out the qualitative and quantitative information on the implementation of this Regulation contained in the Member States' reports.

Incidents and accidents

In the event of a loss resulting from an incident or accident and having a significant impact on human health or the environment, economic operators, EU carriers and third country carriers should immediately: (a) inform the competent authority in whose territory the incident or accident occurred, as well as the competent authority of any territory likely to be affected, and indicate the estimated quantities of losses; (b) take measures to contain and clean up such losses, in an environmentally sound manner; (c) take all possible measures to minimise the impact on health or the environment and to prevent further incidents or accidents.

By 12 months from the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission should develop and fund awareness raising and training material, which may take the form of guides and courses, on the sound implementation of the obligations laid down in this Regulation.

Penalties

In the case of an infringement committed by a legal person, the maximum amount of fines should be at least 3% of the economic operator's annual turnover within the Union during the financial year preceding the decision imposing a fine. Projects financed by the revenue generated from penalties may contribute to promoting scientific work to study the impact of plastic pellets on human health and the environment, supporting research and development in the area of plastic pellet pollution, implementing awareness programmes, and financing training programmes specifically designed for micro and small enterprises.

Traceability

No later than 24 months after the entry into force of the Regulation, the Commission should publish a report on the possibility of introducing chemical traceability of plastic pellets.