

Dynamix – Pollfree Policy Platform

Brussels 13 April 2015

Circular Economy in France and expectations about the EU package

**General Directorate for sustainable development
French Ministry for Environment, SD and energy**



Crédit photo : Arnaud Bouissou/MEDDE

Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Outline

1. The transition towards a circular economy in France : main policy initiatives since 2013
2. French expectations towards the revised EU package



Bill on energy transition for green growth

2013 national stakeholder environmental conference led to the insertion of a chapter on circular economy “**combat waste and promote a circular economy : from design of products to their recycling**”

- Definition of what the transition towards a circular economy is
- Introduction of a resource hierarchy (responsible and careful consumption of natural resources, use of recycled or renewable materials, use of recyclable materials, use of other materials)
- Objective of progressive decoupling between economic growth and use of non renewable resources
- New waste prevention and management targets and measures
 - reduction of the production of household waste by 10% per capita between 2010 and 2020
 - decoupling between added value and waste production from economic activities
 - increase the recycling rate for non mineral non hazardous waste to 55% by 2020 and 60% by 2025
 - recover energy only from non-reusable/non-recyclable waste



Bill (continued) and other measures

- - 50% of landfilled waste by 2025
- extend plastic waste (eg single use cutlery) sorting, improve biowaste sorting
- extension of EPR, take back and « pay as you throw » schemes
- etc.

– **Other measure: Triman logo for recyclable products**



– **Product lifetime and planned obsolescence:**

Consumption law (17-03-2014)

- French companies have to inform consumers how long spare parts for the product will be available
- extension of legal guarantees from 6 months to 2 years

Bill on energy transition for green growth

- ban on single-use, non recyclable plastic bags
- experiments on the display of product lifetime
- Introduction of a definition of planned obsolescence and possible legal sanctions



Stakeholder involvement

- Yearly national **environmental conferences**
- **National Council of Industry**: sector roadmaps (industry strategic committees):
 - « green sectors » (energy efficiency, water, waste recovery etc.)
 - integrate resource efficiency in other sectors
- **National industrial plans** (industrial development and innovation)
- **Programme of investments for the future** (research and innovation)
- **Competitiveness clusters** (territorial)
- **Local authorities**
 - key role in resource efficiency (water / waste management)
 - regional circular economy strategies
- **Consumers and industry**
 - national initiative on consumer product environmental footprint labelling (based on LCA)



2. French expectations towards the revised EU package

- France **regrets** that the first “circular economy” package has been axed
- New package → **opportunity to expand the scope and ambition** and to **integrate a resource productivity objective**

Our propositions

- **Integrate a resource productivity non binding target (EREP GDP / RMC indicator) in the new CE package (to be monitored by the European Semester)**
- **A legislative proposal related to «sustainable production and consumption»:**
 - allow a better coordination between the **policies on waste and on SCP**
 - enable to close the loop of the “circular economy” by creating a **true EU market dynamics for recycled products and materials**
 - **a non-discrimination of recycled materials and products**
 - requirements for **public procurement** to drive the demand for sustainable products (and notably criteria on the incorporation of recycled materials)
 - **extend the lifetime of products** (eg display of the product lifetime, display of the time availability of spare parts, promotion of the repair sector, actions on planned obsolescence, promotion of longer warranties, promotion of eco-design fostering the extension of product lifetime etc.)
 - **Combat food waste**



French expectations towards the revised EU package

- **Amending the ecodesign directive:** the ecodesign directive should incorporate a dimension focusing more on "circular economy" in order to define, where possible, minimum requirements related to resource efficiency and the circular economy (integration of recycled materials, recyclability, reparability, product lifetime..).
- **Extending the scope of the waste framework directive (WFD) to facilitate "circular economy":**
 - fully take into consideration the concept of "circular economy", and the promotion of industrial ecology
 - present waste policy as a pillar of "circular economy" policy
 - cover all types of waste (including industrial)
 - harmonise issues of waste status and end of waste status
- **Further develop the life cycle approach in product policies,** including the definition of harmonized methodologies for assessing the environmental performance of products. France supports the Commission's pilot on **product environmental footprint (PEF)** and its communication.



French expectations towards the revised EU package

- **Strengthen provisions on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
 - France welcomes the proposal of the Commission aiming at harmonizing the provisions related to EPR especially by clarifying their scope and objectives and by defining common definitions and principles and minimum requirements for their implementation
 - France generally in favour of proposed Annex VII

- **Waste prevention**

Prevention is at the top of the waste hierarchy. It is therefore quite normal to require Member States to implement preventive measures. However, France is not convinced of the relevance of an annual reporting (the effectiveness of preventive measures can only be measured over time).



Thank you for your attention

