



STATEMENT

Tuesday, 16 January 2018

FoodDrinkEurope Statement on the EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy

FoodDrinkEurope welcomes today's publication of the European Commission's Circular Economy 2018 package and supports the Commission in continuing to promote a circular and sustainable economy.

Within this package, FoodDrinkEurope takes note of the ambitions and wide scope of the published European Commission Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. Europe's food and drink manufacturers acknowledge the great environmental challenge that is linked to the current plastics model. With this in mind, FoodDrinkEurope members are integrating into their operations the continuous improvement of the environmental performance and resource efficiency of food and drink products along their life cycle, including any associated packaging materials¹.

A key priority for FoodDrinkEurope is that the strategy improves performance at the end of the packaging value chain. FoodDrinkEurope would like to see policies that aim to increase recycling responsiveness following developments in material design, including the latest sorting and recycling technologies. In this context, funding and innovation incentives are necessary to foster recyclers' increased performance.

It is worth remembering that not all plastic materials are suitable to come in contact with food, according to EU legislation. Additionally, when defining product design, packaging for food and drink products must prioritise safety and quality, as well as avoid food waste. FoodDrinkEurope trusts these conditions will be taken into account when implementing the actions foreseen in the plastics strategy.

Europe's food and drink sector remains committed to supporting the European Commission towards a circular economy model, stepping up efforts to improve plastics use, as well as maximising the use of available resources. FoodDrinkEurope's members are striving to improve waste management practices at every stage along the food supply chain, always prioritising and ensuring food safety.

Note to the editors:

FoodDrinkEurope is the organisation of Europe's food and drink industry, the largest manufacturing sector and leading employer in the EU and a key contributor to its economy (289 000 companies, 99% SMEs, 4.2 million employees).

¹ The choice and design of packaging contribute to the overall resource efficiency of the product, thereby improving its overall environmental footprint.



To find more about FoodDrinkEurope's contribution to the Circular Economy visit the following links:

<http://circulareconomy.fooddrinkeurope.eu/>

<http://sdg.fooddrinkeurope.eu>

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