

EU legislators are making steady progress towards finalising the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation. A significant breakthrough occurred on 4 March 2024, when a political agreement on the proposal was achieved. The agreement was then formally endorsed by the EU27 ambassadors on 15 March, followed by approval from the EU Parliament’s Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on 19 March. However, additional steps are needed for the text to become formally adopted, published and enacted as a binding EU law. Further votes in the EU Parliament and the Council are required to move the process forward. For the time being, a vote on the file in the plenary session of the EU Parliament is scheduled to take place on 24 April 2024, while the timeline in the Council has not been confirmed.

Below, we present an overview of key selected elements of the agreement reached:




Recycled Content – as of 1 January 2030*

- According to the agreement, plastic parts of packaging will have to adhere to the following minimum percentages of recycled content:

 30% for PET-based contact-sensitive packaging	 10% for non-PET contact-sensitive packaging
 30% for single-use plastic beverage bottles	 35% for other plastic packaging
- The recycled content will have to be sourced from post-consumer plastic waste.
- Recycled content sourced from outside the EU will be subject to further regulatory requirements.**

Recyclability Performance Grades – as of 1 January 2030*

- Each packaging unit will be required to meet the criteria to qualify for recyclability performance grade of at least grade C. The grades will be defined as follows:

 Grade A At least 95% of the packaging by weight is recyclable.	 Grade B At least 80% of the packaging by weight is recyclable.	 Grade C At least 70% of the packaging by weight is recyclable.
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- The EU Commission will establish these recycling performance grades through secondary legislation, which will be adopted no later than 1 January 2028.

*Might be postponed if secondary legislation is not adopted on time.

Restricted Packaging Formats – as of 1 January 2030

- **The following single-use plastic packaging** formats will be banned from the EU market starting as of 2030:



Sachets, tubs, trays and boxes used for condiments, preserves, **sauces, coffee creamer, sugar** and seasoning in the HORECA sector (**hotels, restaurants, catering**), except for take-away.



Shampoo bottles, hand and body lotion bottles, and sachets around bar soap for cosmetics, **hygiene and toiletry products used in the accommodation sector**.



Nets, bags, trays and containers **for less than 1.5 kg of prepacked fresh fruit and vegetables** (national exemptions might apply).

Reusable Packaging – as of 1 January 2030



Businesses will have to ensure that **minimum of 40% of their transport packaging**, encompassing various types, like pallets, foldable plastic boxes, trays and more, is reusable within a reuse system.

- **However, transportation within the same company or linked enterprises, as well as within the same EU country, will require use of 100% reusable transport packaging.**
- Transport packaging in the form of cardboard boxes will be exempted from that obligation.



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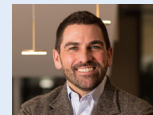
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