

Progetto L2C – Modulo II

Prof. Meleo

Lez. 2.1 - EUROPEAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Topics

- ▶ The European regulatory approach to the circular economy
- ▶ The new European action plan for the circular economy
- ▶ Next Step of the European circular economy policy



Features of the European regulatory approach

- ▶ Integrated
- ▶ Proactive
- ▶ Vertical

Principle of integration

“Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union’s policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development”

Art. 11 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Principle of proactivity

«Union policy on the environment shall aim at a high level of protection taking into account the diversity of situations in the various regions of the Union. It shall be based on the precautionary principle and on the principles that preventive action should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay»

Art. 191, par 2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

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Vertical structure

- Focus on individual issues related to the circular economy
- Use of regulatory instruments that are not always directly applicable
- Need for transposition by individual member states

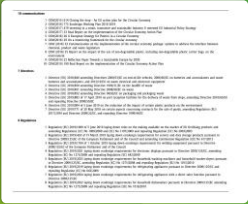


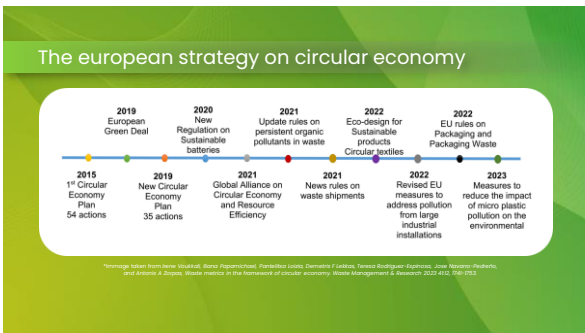
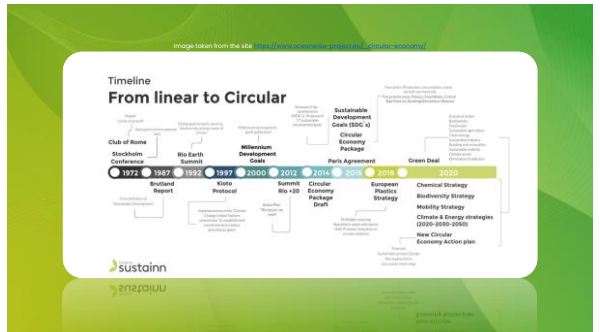
Image taken from Martin Colista Florin, Walter J.J. Vermeulen, Roberto Galancho, Analyzing European Union Circular Economy policies through vertical integration, Sustainability, Production and Consumption, Volume 24, 2024, pages 321-333, ISSN 2021-2464

Review Questions

- What are the main features of the European regulatory approach to the circular economy?
- On what legal basis can the European Union take action on environmental matters ?
- What is the ultimate purpose in adopting legislative and nonlegislative acts at the European level?




THE NEW EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



A New Circular Economy Action Plan

Objectives

- Make sustainable products the norm in the EU
- Empower consumers and public buyers
- Focus on the sectors that use most resources and where the potential for circularity is high such as: electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, textiles, construction and buildings, food, water and nutrients
- Ensure less waste
- Make circularity work for people, regions and cities
- Lead global efforts on circular economy

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Proposed measures

European Commission adopted package of measures proposed in the circular economy action plan:

- Sustainable products initiative, including the proposal for the ecodesign for sustainable products regulation – (COM (2022)142) where 14 eco-design requirements were included that evaluate all phases of the product life cycle
- EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles
- Proposal for a revised construction products regulation

- Proposal for empowering consumers in the green transition
- Proposal for a directive on green claims
- Proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods



Review Questions

- By what act did the European regulatory process on environmental and circularity issues begin ?
- what was the goal pursued by the first action plan on circular economy ?
- What are the main innovations introduced by the new plan adopted in 2020 ?

NEXT STEP OF THE EUROPEAN CIRCULAR ECONOMY POLICY



Next step

In March 2023, presentation of a third package of measures:

- Proposal for a directive on substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims ('green claims directive')
- Proposal for a directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods

- In May 2023, publication of a revised circular economy monitoring framework
- In July 2023, presentation of a proposal for a revision of the Waste Framework Directive, which would make producers responsible for the lifecycle of textile products, promoting the sustainable management of textile waste




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Review Questions

- ▶ Which are the main contents of the EU third package of measures for circular economy?
- ▶ What does the EU Waste Framework Directive introduce in terms of producers' responsibility?



SUMMARY
REVIEW QUESTIONS



- ▶ What are the main features of the European regulatory approach to the circular economy?
- ▶ On what legal basis can the European Union take action on environmental matters?
- ▶ What is the ultimate purpose in adopting legislative and nonlegislative acts at the European level?



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- ▶ what was the goal pursued by the first action plan on circular economy?
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EUROPEAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK
OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY

