



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2013/2113(INI)

26.11.2013

COMPROMISE AMENDMENTS

1 - 14

Draft report
Vittorio Prodi
(PE516.911v01-00)

on a European strategy on plastic waste in the environment
(2013/2113(INI))

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PE524.604v02-00

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United in diversity

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Amendment 1S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 42-52, AMs 15, 22 (first part), AM 54

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Welcomes the Commission's Green Paper and recognises the need for specific EU legislation on plastic waste, as well as more rigorous implementation of the existing legislation concerning waste;

Amendment

1. Welcomes the Commission's Green Paper and recognises the need for specific **measures** on plastic waste **in EU legislation**, as well as more **uniform, consistent and rigorous implementation and enforcement** of the existing legislation concerning waste, **specifically with regards to the waste hierarchy: prevention, re-use, recycling, and recovery, and in particular in those Member States which are not yet achieving the existing objectives and targets.**

Or. en

Amendment 2

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 57-61, as well as AMs 56 (sentences 1-2), 62/63 (sentences 1-3), 65 (first part)

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Stresses that in order to make the EC approach to waste streams more consistent within the framework of the ongoing legislative 'fitness check' and given that some 40 % of plastic waste derives from packaging while the packaging directive is the only one with a specific target for plastic waste collection, it is necessary as a matter of urgency to revise that directive by separating the waste norms pertaining to the environmental sphere from the product rules and standards as such that fall under the umbrella of industrial or trade

Amendment

2. Stresses that in order to make the EC approach to waste streams **and the circular economy** more consistent within the framework of the ongoing legislative 'fitness check' and given that some 40 % of plastic waste derives from packaging **and mostly from single-use products** while the packaging directive is the only one with a specific target for plastic waste collection, it is necessary as a matter of urgency to revise that directive **and propose plastic waste norms that go beyond** product rules and standards; **points**

legislation;

out that to achieve this, and when drawing up future proposals, the Commission ought to bear in mind the fact that plastic waste is not a homogeneous material, and that plastic waste streams are made up a number of materials, additives and plastic compounds of different types that need to be processed in different ways; notes however that, although plastic packaging helps to maintain the quality and extend the shelf life of products, it is not always necessary for product conservation;

Or. en

Amendment 3

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 67-79, as well as AMs 53, 62/63, 64

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Stresses that the EU legislation on plastic waste should define: specific targets for collection and sorting and mandatory criteria for recyclability (clarifying the distinctions between mechanical/organic recycling and recovery/incineration; the aim should be a target of at least 75 % of recycled plastic by 2020); specific labelling of materials in order to inform consumers concerning their mechanical or organic recyclability; and, finally, criteria for the replacement of single-use and short-lived plastic products by reusable and more durable materials;

Amendment

3. Stresses that the EU legislation on plastic waste *should aim first at the reduction of plastic waste and therefore should be revised in order to include:*

- specific **binding** targets for collection, sorting (*that could reach the ambitious level of 80%*) and recycling of the various plastic waste streams (for example **WEEE, end-of-life-vehicles, packaging, agricultural, building etc.**) and mandatory criteria for recyclability (clarifying the distinctions between mechanical/organic recycling and recovery/incineration; the aim should be a **progressive and ambitious** target of recycled plastic **free from hazardous additives that are no longer allowed to be used in new products to be reached by 2020. Considers that some Member States will require transitional periods in which to meet the objectives set**

at European level;

- the EU wide harmonisation of criteria for collection, sorting and general waste management to create a level playing field in accordance with the waste hierarchy, including the removal of technical, regulatory, administrative and financial barriers to recycling;

- specific labelling of materials in order to inform consumers concerning mechanical or organic recyclability *of products;*
together with indications for consumers on how to increase sorting and recycling;
and

- criteria for the replacement of single-use and short-lived plastic products by reusable and more durable materials.

Or. en

Amendment 4a
EPP, ALDE, ECR

Consolidated amendment replacing Amendments 83-96, as well as AMs 80, 97, 98, 141 and CONS 4b

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Agrees that plastic waste should be treated as a valuable resource by promoting its reuse, recycling, and recovery; believes that in any case landfilling should be banned by 2020, without, however, incentivising as a result the energy recovery option over recycling; considers that, alongside the targets mentioned above for recycling, it is therefore advisable to introduce appropriate sanctions for incineration of recyclable and biodegradable plastics, in order to level the playing field for different plastic types;

Amendment

4. Agrees that plastic waste should be treated as a valuable resource by promoting its reuse, recycling, and recovery **and by enabling the creation of an adequate market environment; calls on the Commission to make proposals by 2014 to phase out the landfilling of any recyclable and recoverable waste** by 2020, without, however, incentivising as a result the energy recovery option over recycling, **and ensuring that environmental efficiency criteria are applied to all options;** considers that, alongside the targets

points out that this would also invert an unsustainable tendency that has until now privileged the use of virgin products over the more expensive recycled ones;

mentioned above for recycling, it is therefore *essential* to introduce appropriate *measures discouraging* incineration of recyclable, *compostable* and biodegradable plastics, in order to *optimise the life cycle of each plastic type while respecting the waste hierarchy*; points out that this would also invert an unsustainable tendency that has until now privileged the use of virgin products over the more expensive recycled ones; *stresses that the recyclability and repairability of products should be taken into account already in the design-phase, therefore calls on the Commission to propose design measures that improve the overall environmental impact of products, preventing excess waste and promote recycling markets; believes that in any case plastic goods should be designed to maximise durability, taking into account the whole life cycle of the product; points out, that in the context of new legislation on plastic waste, the Commission should consider establishing more extensive inspections as regards landfill waste acceptance up to 2020 and stepping up checks on incineration facilities;*

Or. en

Amendment 4b

S&D, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 83-96, as well as AMs 80, 97, 98, 141

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Agrees that plastic waste should be treated as a valuable resource by promoting its reuse, recycling, and recovery; believes that in any case landfilling should be banned by 2020, without, however, incentivising as a result the energy recovery option over recycling; considers

Amendment

4. Agrees that plastic waste should be treated as a valuable resource by promoting its reuse, recycling, and recovery *and by enabling the creation of an adequate market environment; calls on the Commission to make proposals by 2014 to ban landfilling by 2020, without, however,*

that, alongside the targets mentioned above for recycling, it is therefore advisable to introduce appropriate sanctions for incineration of recyclable and biodegradable plastics, in order to level the playing field for different plastic types; points out that this would also invert an unsustainable tendency that has until now privileged the use of virgin products over the more expensive recycled ones;

incentivising as a result the energy recovery option over recycling, ***and ensuring that environmental efficiency criteria are applied to all options;*** considers that, alongside the targets mentioned above for recycling, it is therefore ***essential*** to introduce appropriate ***measures discouraging*** incineration of recyclable, ***compostable*** and biodegradable plastics, in order to ***optimise the life cycle of each plastic type while respecting the waste hierarchy***; points out that this would also invert an unsustainable tendency that has until now privileged the use of virgin products over the more expensive recycled ones; ***stresses that the recyclability and repairability of products should be taken into account already in the design-phase, therefore calls on the Commission to propose eco-design measures that improve the overall environmental impact of products, preventing excess waste and promote recycling markets; believes that in any case plastic goods should be designed to maximise durability, taking into account the whole life cycle of the product; points out, that in the context of new legislation on plastic waste, the Commission should consider establishing more extensive inspections as regards landfill waste acceptance up to 2020 and stepping up checks on incineration facilities;***

Or. en

Amendment 5

S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 99-112, as well as AMs 28, 81, 82, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120 (corresponding part), 133 (corresponding part), 134

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Believes that the most dangerous plastics, those that are the most disruptive to human health and the environment (such as micro- and oxo-biodegradable plastics) and those which contain heavy metals that can also make recycling processes more difficult, should be phased out of the market or banned outright, as soon as possible before 2020; also believes that, as demanded by a majority of European citizens (and consumers), it is finally time to phase out or ban single-use, non-biodegradable and non-compostable plastic products, also before 2020;

Amendment

5. Believes that the most dangerous plastics, those that **by scientific evidence are shown to be** the most disruptive to human health and the environment (such as micro- and oxo-biodegradable plastics) and those which contain heavy metals **and other substances** that can also make recycling processes more difficult, should be phased out of the market or banned outright, as soon as possible before 2020 **to develop a market for reused and recycled materials, and believes that a separate collection of these should be immediately implemented; in this framework the replacement of dangerous plastic materials and additives should be supported, including through the extension of the restricted substances list in RoHS;** also believes that, as demanded by a majority of European citizens (and consumers)¹, single-use, **non-recyclable**, non-biodegradable and non-compostable plastic **bags should be radically reduced and where possible phased out ; and is important to address the challenge of waste prevention through tackling more efficiently overconsumption and irresponsible disposal of single-use products;**

Or. en

Amendment 6

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 121-131, as well as AMs 132, 147, 120 (corresponding part), 133 (corresponding part).

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Highlights that for biodegradable, bio-based and compostable plastics, adequate

Amendment

6. Points out that, in a world in which natural resources, including arable land,

measures should be adopted to promote them, provided their production does not impact negatively on agricultural output for human or animal consumption; also believes that clearer information on their characteristics should be provided to consumers;

are increasingly scarce, sustainability means consuming fewer resources in absolute terms, and not merely replacing one resource with another; Highlights that for biodegradable, bio-based and compostable plastics, adequate measures should be adopted to promote them, provided their production does not impact negatively on agricultural output for human or animal consumption *or on the environment, also stresses the need to build upon European standards already recognised (i.e. CEN 13432) in order to enable a clearer differentiation between degradable, biodegradable and compostable plastic products and enable the provision of* clearer information on their characteristics, *recyclability and potential for re-use* to consumers *as well as to recyclers and waste management operators;*

Or. en

Amendment 7

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 135-143, as well as AMs 65 (second part), 113 (second part), 144 (first part), EMPL 9, EMPL 11, EMPL 6, EMPL 10.

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Calls for more investment in research and technologies aimed at obtaining more sustainable plastics and a better integration of various types in production processes and reprocessing activities, without affecting the quality of materials; considers that new technologies are also needed for enhanced plastic biodegradation processes, waste sorting methods, mechanical recycling, eco-design and smart packaging; believes that to this end, Horizon 2020

Amendment

7. Calls for more **public and private** investment in research and technologies aimed at obtaining more sustainable plastics (*i.e. consuming less raw material while maintaining the same quality, reusability and recyclability*) and a better integration of various types in production processes and reprocessing activities, without affecting the quality of materials; considers that new technologies are also needed for enhanced plastic biodegradation

could offer opportunities to respond to this important societal need and that the advantages would be far-reaching, for both the environment and citizens, from the creation of new economic activities to the reduction of marine litter and health-related risks;

processes, waste sorting methods, ***processing and*** mechanical recycling, ***recovery of plastics from oceans***, eco-design and smart packaging; believes that to this end, Horizon 2020 could offer opportunities to respond to this important societal need and that the advantages would be far-reaching, for both the environment and citizens, from the creation of new economic activities (***for instance high standard sorting done by manpower***) to the reduction of marine litter and health-related risks; ***stresses that this offers young people in particular the opportunity to engage in new fields of activity and thus become integrated into the job market; points out that full implementation of EU waste legislation could save EUR 72 billion a year, increase the annual turnover of the EU waste management and recycling sector by EUR 42 billion and create over 400 000 jobs by 2020; emphasises that other EU funds can also contribute significantly to the development of collection and recycling infrastructure if they are used consistently in accordance with the waste hierarchy in the Framework Directive on Waste;***

Or. en

Amendment 8

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 151-154, as well as AMs 39, 140 (subpara 2), EMPL 8.

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 8

Motion for a resolution

8. Believes that bolder steps must be taken to tackle illegal exports of plastic waste, including stricter enforcement of EU

Amendment

8. Believes that bolder steps must be taken ***by both the Member States and the European Commission*** to tackle illegal

shipment regulations, as well as stricter monitoring and inspections schemes at ports and all waste treatment facilities; notes that the application of the extended producer responsibility principle, as well as consumer awareness, have a role to play in preventing illegal exports; believes furthermore that the EU should promote a coherent waste management approach in all possible international forums, agreements and institutions; also considers it essential to have access to reliable, comparable data on waste streams, flows in and out of Europe, volumes and management systems;

exports *and dumping* of plastic waste, including stricter enforcement of EU shipment regulations, as well as stricter monitoring and inspections schemes at ports and all waste treatment facilities, *targeting suspected illegal transfers and combating the export of waste for reuse (mainly end-of-life vehicles and WEEE), and to ensure that exports only go to facilities that fulfil the requirements of environmentally sound management as laid down in Article 49 of the Waste Shipment Regulation*; notes that the application of the extended producer responsibility principle, as well as consumer awareness, have a role to play in preventing illegal exports *and in a significant reduction of plastic waste in the environment*; believes furthermore that the EU should promote a coherent waste management approach in all possible international forums, agreements and institutions; *stresses that the EU should lead a global initiative to monitor and significantly reduce marine litter in the oceans*; also considers it essential to have access to reliable, comparable data on waste streams, flows in and out of Europe, volumes and management systems;

Or. en

Amendment 9

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 155-160, as well as AMs 66, 146, 162, 163, EMPL 7.

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Trusts that European municipalities and local governments will make all possible efforts to motivate citizens to adopt a

Amendment

9. *Believes that the financing of waste recycling infrastructure should take priority over the financing of waste*

circular economy concept with regard to plastic waste, by encouraging effective collecting and recycling schemes and establishing adequate collection points for plastic waste, especially in coastal areas; also believes they could make a major contribution towards harmonising plastic waste management activities throughout Europe by agreeing on common standards and practices;

dumping and incineration, but also, of course, take into account the needs of each individual community; encourages the European municipalities, local governments, the plastic industry, and the recycling and waste management sector to make all possible efforts to motivate and incentivise citizens and businesses to adopt a circular economy concept with regard to plastic waste beginning with a wide debate on planned obsolescence, by promoting easy and effective separation collection, re-use and recycling schemes and establishing adequate collection points for plastic waste, especially in coastal and environmentally vulnerable areas starting as a priority in those territories that the EU Member States have declared to be protected areas and/or national parks; also believes they could make a major contribution towards harmonising plastic waste management activities throughout Europe by agreeing on common standards and practices; calls regional authorities to cooperate on integrated waste management planning where it is both environmentally and financially viable, and to promote in particular the establishment of 'agricultural collection centres' for the plastic waste streams from agriculture (e.g. greenhouse plastics);

Or. en

Amendment 10

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 164-171, as well as AMs 40, 56 (third sentence), 113 (first part), 114, 145, 150, 161.

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Calls for the establishment of a European Day for plastic waste, on which

Amendment

10. *In order to foster awareness raising, calls for concrete actions and campaigns*

citizens could return any volume of plastic waste to predetermined points in return for appropriate monetary compensation, as a means of ensuring the supply of recyclable plastic and increasing public awareness of recycling; considers that this event could also include community beach cleaning activities, as a symbolic contribution to the containment of coastal pollution caused by plastic waste;

*e.g. the establishment of a European Day for plastic waste, on which citizens could return any volume of plastic waste to predetermined points **for example** in return for appropriate monetary compensation, as a means of ensuring the supply of recyclable plastic and increasing public awareness of recycling **and resource efficiency**; considers that this event could also include community cleaning activities (**e.g. beaches**), as a symbolic contribution to the containment of pollution caused by plastic waste, **calls for synergies between this kind of event and the ‘Let’s do it’ campaign, European Waste Reduction Week and the forthcoming ‘Clean-up Day’**; and **welcomes the European Commission's MARELITT pilot project to remove marine litter from Europe's four regional seas and to reduce the environmental, health, economic and social impacts of marine plastic litter; suggests that the Commission steps up its dialogue with third countries, such as those with territorial waters in the Black Sea, to address the problem of marine plastic litter more effectively;***

Or. en

Amendment 11

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 8-13, as well as AMs 14, 19, 24, 29, 41.

Motion for a resolution

Recital B

Motion for a resolution

B. whereas plastic waste can persist in the environment for hundreds of years, provoking toxic reactions and releasing endocrine disrupters, carcinogenic elements and persistent organic pollutants into ecosystems;

Amendment

B. whereas plastic materials variety and use are growing, leading to larger volumes of waste and increasing combination with other materials and compounds; considering that plastic accumulates in large quantities (80MT estimated to float in the Atlantic and

Pacific oceans) and persists in the environment for hundreds of years, ***killing marine life***, provoking toxic reactions and releasing endocrine disrupters, ***substances that are*** carcinogenic, ***mutagenic or toxic to reproduction***, ***nanoparticles***, and persistent organic pollutants into ecosystems ***and hence the food chain; and considering that in 2010 alone, 95.5 billion plastic bags were placed on the EU market, the majority of which were intended to be used only once while they are restricted or banned in many countries;***

Or. en

Amendment 12

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 16-18, as well as AM 25.

Motion for a resolution

Recital C

Motion for a resolution

C. whereas poor implementation and enforcement of EU waste legislation, illegal dumping and improper transport of plastic waste have led to significant damage to the environment and marine life, and to increases in the export of waste, resulting in loss of materials and employment in the EU;

Amendment

C. whereas poor implementation and enforcement of EU waste legislation ***by Member States, lack of relevant targets and price mechanisms, insufficient internal demand for recycled materials,*** illegal dumping, ***illegal exports*** and improper ***storage, processing and transport*** of plastic waste, have led to significant ***global damage to human health*** and the environment ***including*** marine life, and to increases in the export of waste, resulting in the loss of materials and employment in the EU,

Or. en

Amendment 13

S&D, EPP, ALDE, Greens/EFA, ECR, GUE/NGL

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 30-36, as well as AMs 37, 38, EMPL 3.

Motion for a resolution

Recital E

Motion for a resolution

E. whereas the EU could benefit in terms of job creation and growth from a robust effort to move towards a balanced, cradle-to-cradle circular economy, based on the concept of waste as a resource;

Amendment

E. whereas the EU could benefit in terms of job creation and growth from a robust effort to move ***through increased recycling*** towards a balanced, ***resource-efficient, non-toxic***, cradle-to-cradle circular economy, based on the concept of ***non-hazardous*** waste as a ***source of raw material***; ***considering that the economic potential for recycling of plastic waste is currently much higher than the 33% achieved with regard to plastic packaging waste and the 25% achieved with regard to total plastic waste, and that high recycling rates can help when there is a shortage of raw materials***;

Or. en