

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

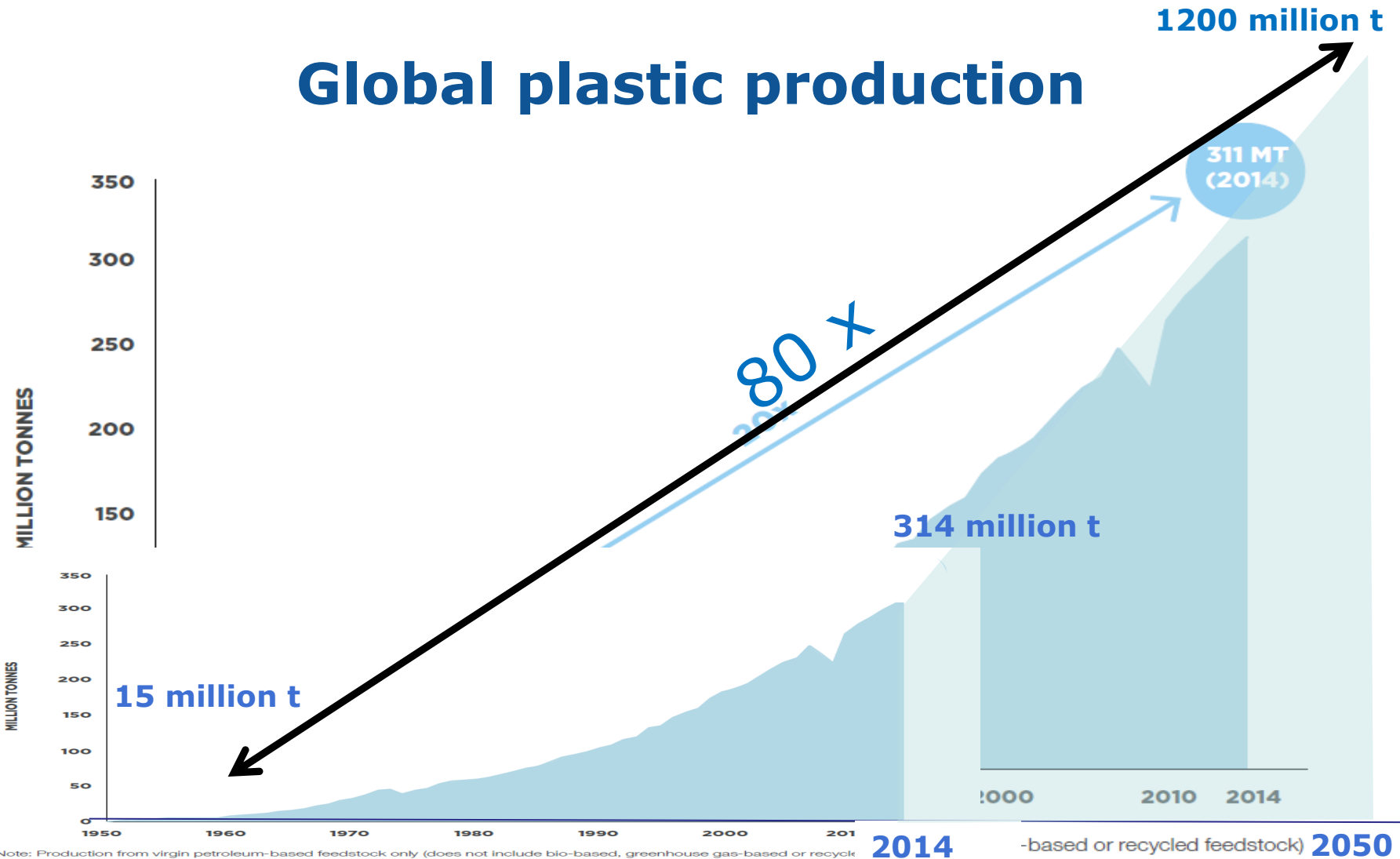
Closing the loop

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A European Strategy for Plastics in the circular economy

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Global plastic production



Note: Production from virgin petroleum-based feedstock only (does not include bio-based, greenhouse gas-based or recycled feedstock).
 Source: PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2013 (2013); PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2015 (2015).
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Circular plastics?



49 million tonnes



31,1% collected for recycling (2016)

+79% in 10 years

A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PLASTICS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY





All plastics packaging reusable or recyclable by 2030

- **Essential requirements** in PPWD, incl. 'eco-modulation' of producers' fees → study launched. Review for end 2020
- **Separate collection & sorting of waste** → Guidelines end 2019
- **Design for circularity** → e.g. in recent decisions ecodesign
- **Recycled content** → **pledging campaign**
- **Quality standards** (sorted & recycled plastics): CEN report

(3)



Pledging Campaign

Aim Plastics Strategy: **10 million tons of recycled plastics** finding their way into new products on the EU market by 2025

Assessment report of the voluntary pledges (March)

70 pledges: Supply side: 11 million tons of recycled plastics

↔ **Demand side: 6.4 million tons expected**

⇒ **Circular Plastics Alliance**

To strengthen the match between supply & demand for recycled plastics

Delivery by September 2019



What can MS / cities do?



- **GPP**: uptake recycled plastics
- **Economic instruments (taxation)**
 - Reuse > recycling > landfilling & incineration
 - Separate collection
- **EPR / deposit**
- **Voluntary commitments**



- **Microplastics pollution:**
 - Intentionally added to products → ECHA report: environmental & health risks justify EU-wide restriction → scientific committees
 - Unintentional release, e.g. tyres, textiles, pellets, coating → Sector discussions ongoing on methodology and actions
 - Evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
- **Regulatory framework for biodegradable plastics:**
 - identifying applications with clear environmental benefit
- **Single use plastics:** → 10 implementing acts, 2 guidelines, 2 standardisation requests in a challenging timeline

Proposal for a Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

Mid-2019: Entry into force

items with available
sustainable alternatives



promote less harmful
alternatives:
market bans

items with no clear alternatives



prevention measures:
design requirements,
consumption reduction,
consumer information



better waste management:
separate collection,
extended producer
responsibility + clean-up



What can MS / cities do?



- **Littering:** awareness raising, fines, beach clean-up
=> upcoming report by EPA network
- **Waste collection** – coordination waste, water, marine
- (Illegal) **Landfills**
- **Monitoring marine litter**
- **EPR:** fishing gear, agricultural plastics, ...
- **DRS:** beverage containers (cf. proposal Directive)
- **GPP:** alternatives to SUP



- **Strategic Research Innovation Agenda for Plastics**
→ report published
- **Support the development of alternative feedstocks: lifecycle assessments** including **biomass**
→ Results expected end 2019
- **Chemical recycling:** promising area

+ MS actions



- **Support for multilateral initiatives on plastics** → UNEA ministerial declaration calls on member states to "significantly reducing single use plastics by 2030"
- **Development in cooperation funding**
- **Basel Convention** → Proposal to better control international trade in plastic waste
- **+ MS actions**



Actions

to encourage the use of recycled plastic

Linear plastic is out **Circular is IN**



Better design

of plastics for less toxicity, more durability and easier recycling



Stronger incentives

to collect, sort and recycle all plastics



More information

to raise awareness and encourage responsible behaviour



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm