Global plastic production

15 million t

314 million t

1200 million t

Note: Production from virgin petroleum-based feedstock only (does not include bio-based, greenhouse gas-based or recycled feedstock).

Circular plastics?

49 million tonnes

- **Packaging**: 39.9%
- **Building and construction**: 19.7%
- **Automotive**: 8.9%
- **Electronics**: 5.8%

31.1% collected for recycling (2016)
+79% in 10 years
A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PLASTICS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Improve the economics and quality of plastics recycling
- Drive investments and innovation towards circular solutions
- Curb plastic waste and littering
- Harness global action
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
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*
Linear plastic is out
Circular is IN

Actions
- to encourage the use of recycled plastic

Better design
- of plastics for less toxicity, more durability and easier recycling

Plastics can be circular too

Stronger incentives
- to collect, sort and recycle all plastics

More information
- to raise awareness and encourage responsible behaviour