



**EEB**

European  
Environmental  
Bureau

# The EU proposition for a microplastics restriction

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# Who we are

- EEB

The EEB is **Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations** – and the only one to work on such a broad range of issues.

Our 171 members from 36 countries have more than 30 million individual supporters.

We have over 40 years of EU environmental policy expertise.

- Rethink Plastic alliance

Rethink Plastic is an **alliance of 10 leading European NGOs**, representing thousands of active groups, supporters and citizens in every EU Member State.

Part of the global Break Free From Plastic movement, consisting of over 2000 groups and millions of citizens worldwide.



# The Restriction process

1. **Scientific phase:** ECHA Proposal, RAC and SEAC Opinion

2. **Political phase:**

- European Commission (EC) proposal, on basis on ECHA Proposal – **upcoming**
- Member States voting on the EC proposal
- Scrutiny of European Parliament (EP) and Council of the EU

3. If agreed, entry into force of the legislation, with transition periods for certain measures

ECHA Opinion → February 2021

Commission proposal → 3 months deadline

Member State vote in committee → No deadline

Scrutiny of EP, Council → Within 3 months



# REACH Restriction on intentionally added microplastics

## PROPOSED RESTRICTION - 3 ELEMENTS



### Prohibition on 'placing on the market'

uses where releases to the environment are inevitable (agriculture, cosmetics, detergents)



### Mandatory 'labelling', IFUD

uses where release can be avoided / minimised; improved instructions for use e.g. paints/coatings



### Mandatory downstream user 'reporting' for derogated uses

Tonnage, identify, function, releases



# Restricting granular infill

At European level: largest contributor for uses and releases to the environment:

- Central estimate: 16 000 t/y to the environment
- Release factor of 16%

Restriction/ban on placing on the market. Either:

- i. EiF + 3 years for granular infill used on synthetic sports surfaces (if 4(h) retained –OPTION A) or,
- ii. EiF + 6 years for granular infill used on synthetic sports surfaces (if 4(h) not retained –OPTION B)]





# Our position

Ban with a 6 years transition period is the best option:

- High impacts on the environment
  - Existence of alternatives
  - Effectivity of a ban
- 
- ✘ • The burdens of risk management measures
  - Not a circular, sustainable use
  - No acceptable amount of leakage in the environment (ECHA)

**1600 t/y loss estimate**





# What we're asking

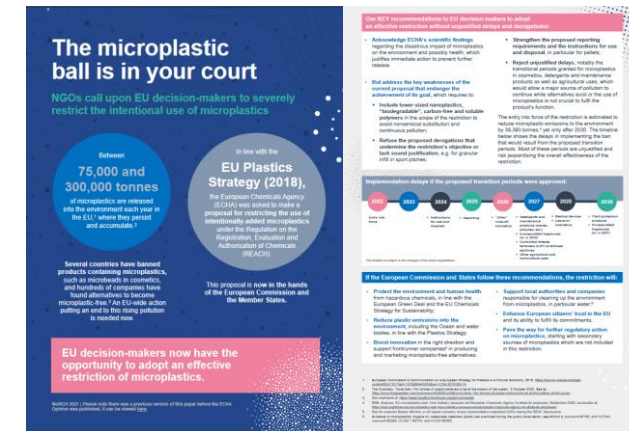
An ambitious restriction proposed by EC and Member States:

- Derogations must not be accepted, except when based on reliable and strong evidence considered by both RAC and SEAC
- Microplastics pose an unacceptable risk to the environment; potential consequences on human health

**March 2021** - ClientEarth and EEB, together with a coalition of NGOs within the RPa, published a report highlighting the NGO's position on the restriction.



[Position Paper](#)



[2-pages Briefing](#)




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**Thanks for listening!**

## Keep in touch

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