



Press Release

Berlin/Frankfurt am Main, 28 October 2021

Position paper published

Plastics on track towards circular economy and climate protection

The German plastics and recycling industry has published its joint position on circular economy and climate protection. In doing so, the representatives of the plastics value chain are clearly pointing the way towards constructive cooperation. Their declared objective is a functioning circular economy for plastics, in order to derive additional benefit from the advantages of the material. It is a fact that plastics already make a fundamental contribution to climate protection, and a greater utilisation of used plastics would further improve the CO₂ balance. However, the positions and proposed measures are also an appeal to politicians and the general public to actively assume shared responsibility for greater resource conservation and climate protection, and to seize the associated opportunities in a determined manner.

The position statement is backed by the Plastics Europe Deutschland, GKV Gesamtverband Kunststoffverarbeitende Industrie (Central Federation of the Plastics Processing Industries), VDMA Plastic and Rubber Machinery Association and the organisations of the waste disposal and recycling industry BDE and bvse. They are the key players and represent a variety of complementary tasks and options that contribute to efficiently and sustainably closing the carbon cycle in plastics.

The transformation of the industry is already in full swing

The shift towards the circular economy is changing the way plastic products will be manufactured, used and recycled in the future. At the same time, it offers great opportunities for sustainable growth and economic activity within the industry. An important prerequisite is that the products' end-of-life must already be considered in the development and production stages; recyclability and the use of recycled materials are essential conditions for circular

progress. In order for the underlying change to succeed, a clear commitment to new technologies, more openness to innovation, plus a legal environment in which investments can be made safely and quickly are required at German and European levels. This change must be shaped now, as the five participating associations have communicated in their position statement.

Set of measures for a more circular economy

The position statement contains detailed proposals concerning those areas where changes are required to provide the necessary impetus for a more circular economy. In addition to recycle-friendly product design, the handling of exports of used plastics, or the EU-wide end to plastic landfills and the expansion of disposal and recycling structures, the market conditions for the implementation of recyclates need to be improved. This necessitates a clear political roadmap and a relevant legal framework.

The associations also see their position and proposals as a very good starting point for dialogue with other partners from the plastics industry, but also with representatives from the political, scientific and the civil realm; after all, these are also key players on the road to circular economy.

Contact:

PlasticsEurope Deutschland e.V.

Sven Weihe

Phone: +49 (0) 69 - 2556 1307

E-Mail: sven.weihe@plasticseurope.org

www.plasticseurope.org

Solidarity of the plastics and recycling industry

The associations of the plastics industry, the GKV Gesamtverband Kunststoffverarbeitende Industrie (General Association of the Plastics Processing Industry) and its supporting associations, PlasticsEurope Deutschland and the VDMA Plastics and Rubber Machinery Association, as well as the organizations of the waste disposal and recycling industry, BDE and bvse, are positioning themselves jointly towards more circular economy and climate protection. They represent the key players in closing the loop on plastics.

With the joint position paper in favour of a circular economy and climate protection, the associations of plastic manufacturers, the plastic processing industry and plastic machinery manufacturing, the waste disposal industry and plastic recycling are strengthening their cooperation to collate their expertise. Together, the associations are looking forward to promote an open exchange and dialogue on innovation and sustainable development of the plastics industry towards a circular economy. With annual sales of over 100 billion euros, a high export share and its innovative strength, the plastics industry, with its increasingly sustainable orientation, is world leader in the field of high-tech applications.

GKV

With an annual turnover of 61.5 billion euros, GKV is the leading organisation of the German plastics processing industry. As its umbrella organisation, it pools the common interests of its member associations AVK (reinforced plastics), FSK (foamed plastics and polyurethanes), IK (plastic packaging), proK (semi-finished products and consumer products made of plastics) and TecPart (technical plastic products).

VDMA Kunststoff- und Gummimaschinen

The VDMA trade association is the conglomeration of more than 200 European plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers.

Plastics Europe

Plastics Europe Germany represents the interests of plastic-producing companies, is closely linked to the VCI as a trade association, as well as being part of the pan-European Plastics Europe association, with offices in several major European economic centres.

BDE

The BDE Bundesverband der Deutschen Entsorgungs-, Wasser- und Rohstoffwirtschaft (Federal Association of the German Waste Management, Water and Raw Materials Industry) is Europe's largest association of companies within the private circular economy.

bvse

The bvse Bundesverband Sekundärrohstoffe und Entsorgung e.V. (Federal Association for Secondary Raw Materials and Waste Disposal) represents around 980 medium-sized companies in the secondary raw materials, recycling and waste disposal industry, and is part of the European Recycling Industry Council (EuRIC) at European level.