

# PlasticsEurope Annual Review 2017-2018



The PlasticsEurope Annual Review 2017-2018 covers the period from January 2017 to April 2018.

PlasticsEurope is one of the leading European trade associations with centres in Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Milan and Paris. We are networking with European and national plastics associations and have more than 100 member companies, producing over 90% of all polymers across the EU28 member states plus Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.5 million people are working in approximately 60,000 companies (mainly small and medium sized companies in the converting sector) to create a turnover above 350 bn EUR per year. The plastics industry includes polymer producers - represented by PlasticsEurope, converters - represented by EuPC - and machine manufacturers - represented by EUROMAP. For further info see the web links: [www.plasticseurope.org](http://www.plasticseurope.org), [www.plasticsconverters.eu](http://www.plasticsconverters.eu), [www.euromap.org](http://www.euromap.org)

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# Foreword



If plastics did not exist, modern life would need to invent them to ensure a sustainable future.

The reason plastics are a preferred material in so many different areas is that they combine high performance with an efficient use of resources.

- From a purely economic point of view – plastics save costs.
- In terms of versatility and capacity for innovation – plastics are best placed to respond to a wide range of emerging technological needs.
- And from a sustainability perspective, plastics applications provide significant environmental benefits in a variety of different sectors, such as packaging, automotive, electrical/electronics, building and construction, household, leisure and sports, and agriculture.

But, with these many benefits come challenges. And with these challenges come responsibilities for us the plastics industry – from ensuring reliable use of our products to driving innovative solutions for plastics waste.

PlasticsEurope's fundamental role is to promote the sustainable use of plastics on behalf of our members. In doing so, we work together with different stakeholders to identify how plastics can best respond to major societal and policy challenges.

This Annual Review provides a short overview of some of PlasticsEurope's most important activities in the past year – both at EU level and through our network of regional offices. The highlight of this report is of course 'Plastics 2030', our Voluntary Commitment to increase recycling of plastics packaging by 2030, which we published on 16 January 2018. The report also includes the latest developments on marine litter prevention and youth education, and different examples of stakeholder partnerships we are involved in.

Looking forward, PlasticsEurope is committed to building on these collaborations and delivering real impact for our members, the wider plastics value chain, and European society as a whole.

**Karl-H. Foerster**

*Executive Director of PlasticsEurope*



**Daniele Ferrari**, CEO of Versalis (Eni), was elected President of PlasticsEurope on 1 June 2017 at PlasticsEurope General Assembly meeting held in Madrid. He succeeded Patrick Thomas, CEO of Covestro, who had held this office since 2011.

*"I am very excited to take on this new responsibility and to continue the path Patrick Thomas has established in these past six years. Our industry needs to further develop partnerships based on a constructive and solution-oriented approach if we are serious about creating solutions for the world's challenges, we need an open-minded industry that acts together with NGOs, the value chain and general public, because we do and we will need plastics to be part of the solution".*

# Key facts and figures

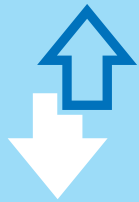
Plastics make a hugely positive contribution to the European economy



Over **1.5 million** people in Europe are directly employed by the plastics industry



Close to **60,000** companies operate in the European plastics industry, most of them SMEs

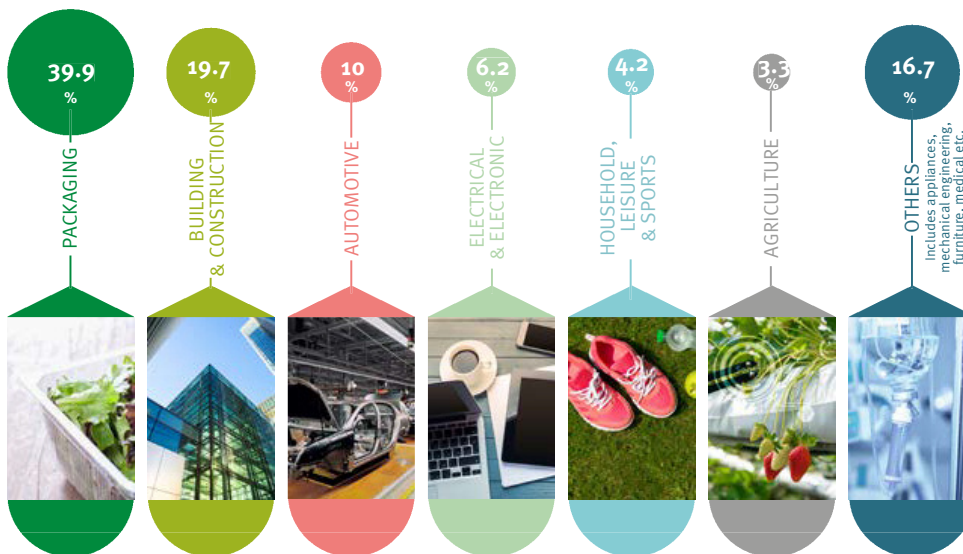


A positive trade balance of close to **15 billion** Euros



A turnover close to **350 billion** Euros

They are used for a wide range of applications



Distribution of European (EU28+NO/CH) plastics converter demand by segment in 2016

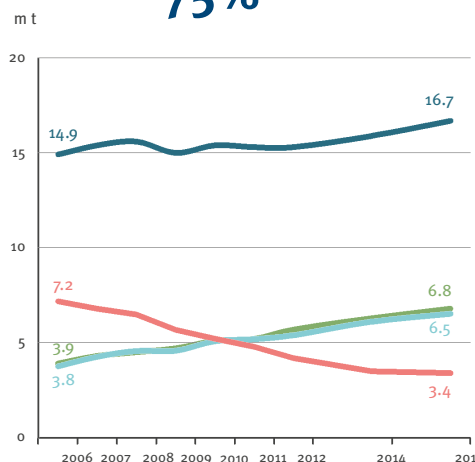
Source: PlasticsEurope Market Research Group and Conversio Market & Strategy GmbH

And they make a big contribution to a more sustainable future

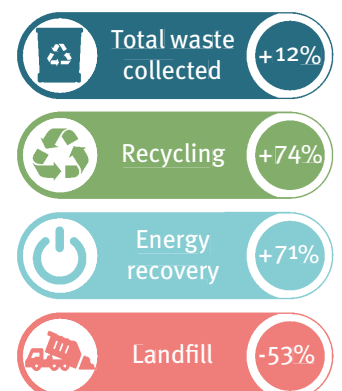


In 2016, more than **8.4 million** tonnes of plastic waste were collected to be recycled inside or outside the EU

In ten years, plastic packaging recycling has increased by almost **75%**



2006-2016 evolution of plastic PACKAGING waste treatment (EU28+NO/CH)



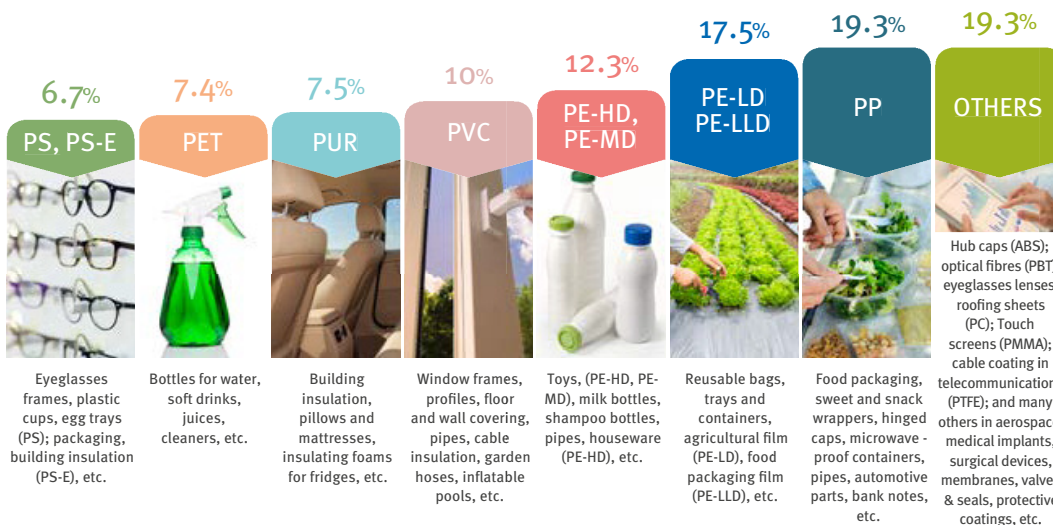
Source: Conversio Market & Strategy GmbH

# Plastics: part of our world

Plastics are a family of hundreds of different materials with a wide variety of properties

Plastics is the term commonly used to describe a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic materials that are used in a huge and growing range of applications. Plastics are not just one material, but instead are a whole family of hundreds of different materials, designed to meet the needs of each single application in the most efficient way possible.

Plastics are extremely versatile materials – ideal for a wide range of consumer and industrial applications



European plastics converter demand by polymer types in 2016

Source: PlasticsEurope Market Research Group and Conversio Market & Strategy GmbH

## DID YOU KNOW?

The term “plastic” is derived from the Greek word “plastikos”, meaning fit for moulding. This refers to the material’s malleability, or plasticity during manufacture, which allows it to be cast, pressed, or extruded into a variety of shapes – such as films, fibres, plates, tubes, bottles, boxes, and much more.

We use plastic products to help make our lives cleaner, easier, safer and more enjoyable. We find plastics in the clothes we wear, the houses we live in, and the cars we travel in. The toys we play with, the televisions we watch, the computers we use and the DVDs we watch all contain plastics. Here are just some of the uses of different types of plastics.



About PlasticsEurope: representing plastics manufacturers and their role in the broader European plastics industry



PlasticsEurope is a leading pan-European association and represents plastics manufacturers active in the European plastics industry. We encourage all plastics manufacturers involved in the plastics industry in Europe to join PlasticsEurope.

In addition to the plastics manufacturers, represented by PlasticsEurope, the plastics industry includes converters, represented by European Plastics Converters (EuPC), recyclers, represented by European Plastics Recyclers (PRE), and machine manufacturers, represented by European Plastics and Rubber Machinery (EUROMAP).





## CONTRIBUTING TO A RESOURCE EFFICIENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**At the heart of PlasticsEurope's work is the belief that the unique characteristics of plastics mean they have a major role to play on the road to a more sustainable and resource-efficient future.**

Lightweight, versatile and durable plastics provide sustainable solutions for a wide range of uses. They increase the longevity and efficiency of resources used in sectors such as food, construction, transport and energy, among many others. Plastics contribute to more efficient use of energy and lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over their life cycle due to their unique properties, meaning that they can greatly enhance resource efficiency.

However, first and foremost, waste containing plastics must be recovered to avoid it unnecessarily ending up in landfill or, worse still, littering the environment.

PlasticsEurope's objective is to contribute to the goal of reaching zero plastics to landfill. This can be achieved by thinking about the entire life cycle of plastics and emphasising circular economy solutions. It requires collaborative and concerted efforts, by all stakeholders, to improve waste collection, pre-treatment, sorting, recycling and energy recovery.

## Policies for plastics in a circular economy

PlasticsEurope engages constructively with decision-makers at international, European, national and local level to contribute to policies that enable plastics to fulfil their potential in a circular economy.

The European Commission's Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, presented by the European Commission in January 2018, is an ambitious effort to "make recycling profitable for business, curb plastic waste, stop littering at sea, drive investment and innovation, and spur change around the world."

As initial input to the development of this strategy, PlasticsEurope published

a position paper in 2017, outlining the work of industry in addressing different issues related to the production, consumption and end-of-life management of plastics.

This work led to the development, in January 2018, of the Plastics 2030 Voluntary Commitment. The Commitment sets out a series of ambitious targets to meet by 2030 and outlines future initiatives that will be undertaken by the industry in partnership with others. It focuses on three key areas: increasing re-use and recycling, preventing plastics leakage into the environment, and accelerating resource efficiency (see box).

### PLASTICS 2030 VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT



#### • Increase Re-use and Recycling Targets

*The European plastics manufacturers are committed to ensuring high rates of re-use and recycling with the ambition to reach 60% for plastics packaging by 2030. This will contribute to our headline goal of 100% re-use, recycling and/or recovery of all plastics packaging in the EU-28, Norway and Switzerland by 2040. To deliver on these ambitious goals, PlasticsEurope will strengthen its efforts and collaboration along the value chain and with public authorities. This will build on the work to date, of three material specific European platforms – Vinyl Circular Solutions (VCS), Polyolefin Circular Economy Platform (PCEP) and Styrenics Circular Solutions (SCS)– to accelerate innovation towards more efficient chemical and mechanical recycling.*

#### • Preventing Plastics Leakage into the Environment

*Another important pillar of Plastics 2030 is activities aimed at preventing plastics leakage into the environment. PlasticsEurope will continue setting up educational projects across Member States to increase awareness on sustainable consumer behaviour. It will strengthen the existing industry programme to prevent pellet loss (Operation Clean Sweep®) by bringing in the entire value chain, including transport and logistics. Lastly, PlasticsEurope will launch new research activities to complete knowledge gaps on the most common plastics items littered in the marine environment, with a view to identifying tailored solutions to different issues.*

#### • Accelerating Resource Efficiency

*PlasticsEurope will complement these efforts with other actions aimed at enhancing plastics' resource efficiency and accelerating innovation for circularity. This will involve: 1) Further research into alternative feedstocks; 2) more frequent updates of product Life Cycle Inventories and Environmental Product Declarations; 3) the publication of extended waste data; 4) new eco-design guidelines for plastics packaging; and 5) standardisation of industrial best practices and methodologies.*

*Progress will be monitored by an independent committee, made of representatives of academia, the European Commission, the European Parliament, civil society and PlasticsEurope. As of 2019, an annual progress report will also be published.*

## EU Circular Economy Package

In parallel, PlasticsEurope has been working closely with European policy makers on the EU Circular Economy Package. The Package includes the revision of several pieces of legislation that are of high importance to the plastics industry, including: 1) the Waste Framework Directive; 2) the Landfill Directive; and 3) the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive.

PlasticsEurope has engaged with a wide range of stakeholders involved in the review to promote our position around zero plastics to landfill, and call for the mandatory separate collection of all packaging from residual waste.



As part of its work on resource efficiency and the circular economy, the association has been active not only at EU level, but also across its European regional offices.



In Spain, PlasticsEurope Iberica, along with 55 other stakeholders, signed the “Pact for a circular economy: the commitment of economic and social agents 2018-2020”. The Pact was launched in the presence of EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella and Spanish Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment, Isabel García Tejerina.



PlasticsEurope UK and the British Plastics Federation have been implementing the Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan (PIRAP). Working together across the entire value chain, the objective of the action plan is to maximise the recycling of plastics packaging. In 2017, activities explored how to improve practices in areas such as bottle recycling, design for recyclability and end markets.

PlasticsEurope UK has also been working closely with the organisation Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS). We now sit on the steering group of ZWS Project Beacon, an Ellen McArthur Foundation Lodestar Project. The steering group is focused on developing a demonstrator site for advanced recycling technologies.



In France, the West Region office has been closely involved throughout 2017/18 in the French 2ACR association. This brings together stakeholders from across the value chain to ensure waste recovery an opportunity for economic and industrial development in France. Work in France also included participation in all plastics-related discussions with French authorities and other stakeholders to prepare the national





*Signing the Pact for a circular economy in Spain, along with EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella and Spanish Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment, Isabel García Tejerina.*

circular economy roadmap, which was published on 23 April 2018.



PlasticsEurope has also been an active and visible member of the Dutch circular economy CE-Transition Team. The Transition Team defined a 'Transition Agenda' for a plastics circular economy. This work also saw the development of a sustainability plan on plastics packaging, together with the Dutch Converters' Association (NRK), which will form the basis for a detailed action plan for the year 2018.



PlasticsEurope Italia set up a Working Group on the End of Life of Polystyrene (compact and expandable polystyrene) together with AIPE (Italian Association for Expandable Polystyrene), Corepla (National Consortium for the collection, recycling and recovery of plastics packaging) and ECODOM (Italian Consortium for the recycling of Waste Electrical and Electronic (WEEE)) with the

objective of implementing a proper waste management system focused on the recycling of polystyrene products at end of life.



In the Central Region, long-established partnerships have also been expanded across the plastics value chain. PlasticsEurope has joined up its work with plastics converters and plastics machinery organisations, as well as with plastics recyclers such as Bundesverband Sekundärrohstoffe und Entsorgung (BVSE). PlasticsEurope has also played a stronger, constructive role in close cooperation with the German Federal Association of Waste Removal Industry, Water and Raw Material Management (BDE). This work has led to projects such as the adoption of a joint position on interface chemicals and waste, a joint project on REACH and recycling, and collaboration on standardisation.

## Awareness raising

PlasticsEurope has been particularly involved in awareness raising activities, in relation to EU policy developments. The association ran a successful social media campaign using the hashtag [#plasticsstrategy](#) from September to November 2017. The campaign became the top trending topic on Twitter in Belgium, and secured almost one million impressions on Twitter and LinkedIn combined.

Another example of effective communications work carried out in the past year, comes from the Iberica regional office. The office featured prominently in regional media, promoting zero plastics to landfill and plastics' role in the circular economy. Among the outcomes was an article “Closing the circles of plastics, we save and create resources” in ABC (one of the main national newspapers in Spain). The regional office is also working on a joint awareness campaign with sector partners titled “Do not blame plastic!”, to raise public awareness of the importance of proper waste management.

*Article on the resource efficiency of plastics published on ABC's website (Spanish newspaper)*



## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AT IDENTIPLAST 2017

*For 20 years, PlasticsEurope has organised IdentiPlast, the international conference for learning about the latest engineering technologies for plastics waste management, exchanging best practices, sharing knowledge and networking. IdentiPlast 2017 took place in Vienna, and brought together around 300 experts from European municipalities, local authorities, policy and decision makers, waste management organisations, NGOs, plastics value chain, academia and research institutes. Participants focused on the challenges presented by the Circular Economy to 'new' European Member States and other countries in the process of modernising their waste management infrastructure. The conference showcased a broad range of ideas and discussions on how these countries can benefit from the innovations in Europe and in other parts of the world (particularly in US, Japan and Turkey). The next edition of IdentiPlast will be held in London on 7 & 8 March 2019.*



# IdentiPlast® 2017







## Data and insights

Every year, PlasticsEurope publishes “Plastics – The Facts”, an update on key facts about the plastics industry in Europe. It presents and analyses data related to the production, demand and waste management of plastics across all EU Member States. The report offers an insight into the industry’s contribution to European economic growth and sustainability throughout the life cycle of the material as well as into the positive evolution of plastics waste management in the various European countries.

In addition to this data, PlasticsEurope’s regional offices have worked to develop useful national insights on plastics. For instance, PlasticsEurope UK collaborated with Recoup, a British charity organisation on a study of consumer attitudes to recycling, with a particular focus on plastics. This was important because of the critical role that consumers play in the success of any recycling system. The main conclusion of the study was that consumers in all countries are strongly in favour of recycling, but many are uncertain about what plastics are recyclable in practice under current collection systems. This lack of clarity continues to be a key barrier to any increase in recycling.







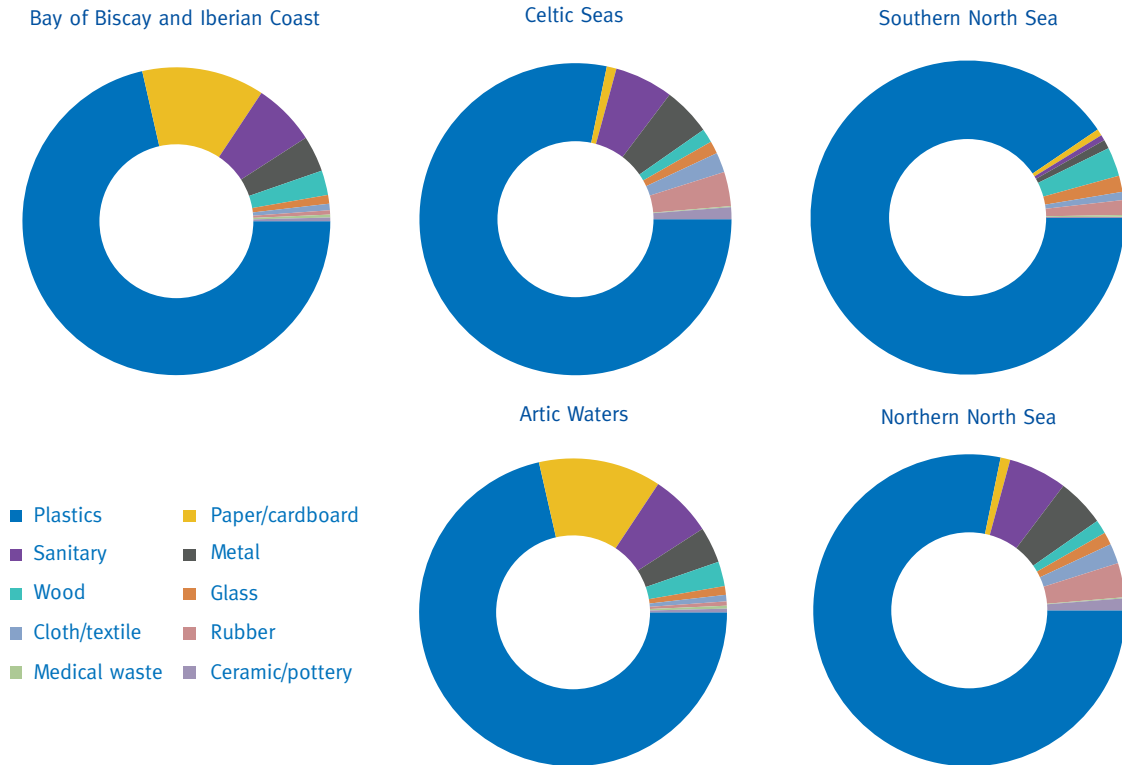
## KEEPING OUR OCEANS CLEAN

**Marine litter is an important issue affecting our world's oceans, seas and rivers, harming wildlife, fisheries and tourism all around the world. Whatever its origin, to find plastics waste in any environment is unacceptable, and PlasticsEurope is committed to driving actions on marine litter, both in Europe and at global level.**

While marine litter consists of all kinds of materials, plastics debris are the major component in Europe, negatively affecting aquatic life, leading to socio-economic costs and representing waste of valuable resources.

The vast majority of the litter found in our seas and oceans has its origins on land. The challenge is that the sources of this problem are numerous and complex and cannot be solved by one stakeholder group alone. Hence the importance of collaborative partnerships to tackle the issue at source.

As the representative of raw materials manufacturers, PlasticsEurope has been leading efforts on pellet losses at the start of the product life cycle.



Source: OSPAR Commission Annual Report 2016-2017 P 17 – Marine litter composition by material

## WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE TALK ABOUT WASTE AND LITTER?

*In simple, unscientific terms, whereas waste refers to products and materials at the end of their first use phase – e.g. the contents of recycling and general waste bins in our homes, litter refers instead to items that are thrown away or discarded and end up, deliberately or not, in improper environments such as in public spaces or in oceans and lakes.*

**80%**

of marine litter is estimated to come from land-based sources, such as poor waste management and sewage overflows.

**70%**

of marine litter, such as glass, metal, and all sorts of marine equipment and other refuse, sinks to the ocean floor. The remainder, typically lightweight materials such as plastics, floats or is suspended.

## Global activities

Marine litter is an environmental challenge where borders are irrelevant. It requires action at local, national, regional and global level. Through PlasticsEurope, the European plastics industry is playing a key role in driving action on marine litter through the World Plastics Council (WPC) – a global forum to promote the sustainable and responsible use of plastics.

PlasticsEurope is also a founding signatory of the 2011 Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter which serves as a framework for Action. Over 350 marine litter projects have been completed, are underway or are being planned in follow up to the Declaration as of January 2018. Projects range in size, focus, and scope, and involve an ever-growing number of partners – from beach protection programmes in Italy to education campaigns such as European Week for Waste Reduction initiative which promotes

the implementation of awareness-raising actions about sustainable resource and waste management.

The association is fully committed to supporting these efforts to tackle marine litter and has a role in a number of different initiatives (see examples below). Over the past year, the WPC has increased its presence at global conferences and intergovernmental forums including participation in the World Ocean Summit and the UN Ocean Conference. The WPC also collaborated in the activities performed by the German G20 Presidency on resource efficiency and marine litter. Thanks to the global activities of PlasticsEurope, Jim Seward (Chairman of the WPC and Vice-President at LyondellBasell) was invited to give an expert speech on behalf of the WPC at the G20 Conference in Bremen in July 2017. The G20 has finally recognised the urgent need to address this issue and adopted an action plan against marine litter.



*The Team Kunststoff stars, sponsored by PlasticsEurope in Germany.*

### SPORTS STARS AGAINST LITTER

*For many years now, PlasticsEurope Deutschland has been supporting German canoeing through the Team Kunststoff sponsorship initiative and celebrating the national team's remarkable success at European and international level. But our partnership is more than just a sporting one.*

*As part of the Global Declaration on Marine Litter Solutions, PlasticsEurope Deutschland has launched a project encouraging canoeists to collect garbage they find during the paddling activities using a specially designed, reusable plastic bag. We are also working with the German canoeing association and other watersports bodies on a joint initiative on the prevention of water pollution ("Gemeinsam für mehr Gewässerschutz").*

*Team Kunststoff has also been lending its voice to the fight against littering of rivers, lakes and oceans. German Olympic, World and European champions like Tina Dietze, Sebastian Brendel and Max Rendschmidt have recorded video sports raising awareness of the problem. These messages were distributed by the German canoe federation together PlasticsEurope Deutschland on social media and online publications, reaching a wide audience.*



# PolyTalk® 2018



*To engage with stakeholders in a transparent and forward-looking dialogue, PlasticsEurope organises its flagship PolyTalk forum on a biannual basis. The goal of PolyTalk is not only to raise awareness of issues, but also share concrete strategies and build new partnerships. PolyTalk serves as a platform to strengthen industry efforts and actions to tackle marine litter while boosting the role of research and innovations to identify knowledge gaps.*

*Under the banner of “Together we must save our oceans from litter”, this year’s edition of PolyTalk 2018 was held in St-Julian’s, Malta and brought together nearly 200 high-level representatives from the world of politics, industry, media, NGOs, science and academia. The two-day event, on 26 and 27 April, was the perfect setting to continue establishing and building new collaborations with stakeholders to improve circularity, waste management and other solutions to prevent marine litter around the world. Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries presented key European policy actions such as the Circular Economy Package and the Plastics Strategy aimed at tackling marine litter.*



*EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella with Daniele Ferrari, President of PlasticsEurope, and Karl-H. Foerster, Executive Director of PlasticsEurope*



*“Good use of our resources makes environmental, social and economic sense. Working together, we have an opportunity to develop new and better ways of managing our industrial activities.”  
EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella, Polytalk 2018*



*Hon. José A. Herrera, Minister for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Malta*



## Tackling litter through the whole plastics value chain

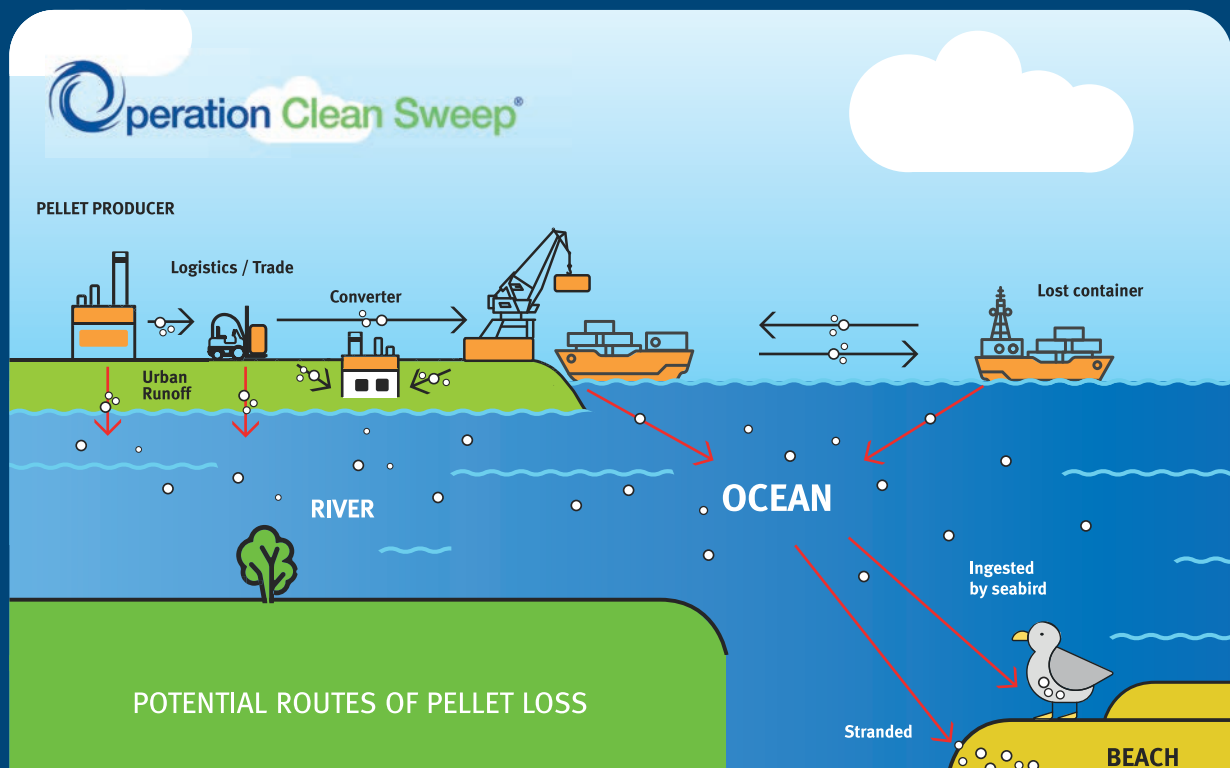
Plastics need to be responsibly managed throughout their life cycle, so that they are prevented from escaping into the environment by proper waste management, mindful product design and responsible behaviour. While most plastics litter in the environment is post-consumer, some of this litter is industrial resin pellets that entered the waste stream and the oceans. In general, pellet loss containment is part of a company's environmental management system. However, to give additional priority to this topic and engage with the value chain, PlasticsEurope and its members have been actively promoting good plastics stewardship practices through the Operation Clean Sweep® (OCS) initiative since 2011.

In Europe, PlasticsEurope is collaborating on OCS with more than 20 associations and

hundreds of companies, including plastics producers, converters, distributors, transporters, logistics services and recyclers.

Over the past year, the association has been actively encouraging its member companies as well as other associations to sign up to the programme. By signing the OCS pledge, each company recognises the importance of preventing pellet loss into the environment and commits to OCS by implementing the following six actions:

1. Improving worksite set-up to prevent and address spills
2. Creating and publishing internal procedures to achieve zero pellet loss goals
3. Providing employee training and accountability for spill prevention, containment, clean-up and disposal
4. Auditing performance regularly





*PlasticsEurope and its members have been actively promoting good plastics stewardship practices through the Operation Clean Sweep® (OCS) initiative since 2011*

5. Complying with all applicable state and local regulations governing pellet containment
6. Encouraging partners (contractors, transporters, distributors, etc.) to pursue the same goals.

At the time of publication of this report, nearly 70% of PlasticsEurope members to whom OCS is applicable have signed the OCS pledge, including the largest plastics producers and all steering board members. By volume, this covers the vast majority of the plastics production in Europe.

PlasticsEurope supports companies by providing a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience. Through OCS, a number of activities on-the-ground have also been carried out by PlasticsEurope and its members across Europe.

## Operation Clean Sweep® Across Europe

-  In the North Region, a number of large multinationals, including LEGO,
-  signed up to OCS in 2017. The UK is

leading the way with now more than 100 companies having signed up as Operation Clean Sweep® signatories. More than half of these companies have signed up since the beginning of 2016, and progress continues helped by workshops, best practice videos and resources available for supporters.

-  In 2017, PlasticsEurope Iberica organised a workshop on OCS implementation for regional member companies to support them with the implementation process and share experiences and best practices. It also actively supported the APIP (Portuguese Association of Plastics Industries) to help implement the programme throughout the Portuguese plastics value chain.

-  In Poland, the OCS pledge was signed by the country's biggest plastics producer Basell Orlen Polyolefins (BOP). PlasticsEurope Poland has been working with the company to support the implementation of OCS and actively contributed to planning and implementing the training of BOP's management and staff.

## CLEANING UP THE PORT OF ANTWERP (BELGIUM)



*In 2017, PlasticsEurope joined forces with the Port of Antwerp (PoA) authority, Voka (Flanders' Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and essenscia (Belgian Federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences Industries)*

*to make the port a cleaner place by fighting against pellet loss. All major plastics manufacturers based in the PoA took part in the OCS programme. The largest companies from the logistics sector have also joined or stated their intention to sign up to the programme. Since the start of this formal collaboration, several clean-ups have been performed in different locations of the port.*

*In addition, PlasticsEurope supported the 2017 Galgeschoor clean-up initiative in Antwerp harbour. In total, some 140 volunteers participated in this 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the clean-up campaign, despite the snow and cold. On average about 6 tonnes of waste are illegally discarded each year in Galgeschoor, a 100-hectare natural reserve, which serves as a nesting ground for migratory birds.*





# SAFE USE OF PLASTICS

**Plastics are used to enhance safety in countless applications. To take food as just one example, plastics protect against spoilage, hugely increase shelf life and, overall, contribute to improved consumer safety.**

However, chemicals are often the subject of discussion in the media. This has led to some scepticism about the safe use of plastics in food applications. An emerging zero-risk approach has led to discrimination against chemicals because of their misperceived hazardous properties.

While public concerns about plastics should be taken very seriously, proper evaluation of the risk that they actually pose in given applications must not be overlooked. It is essential that the focus be on developing tools to identify and properly control risks, so that consumers can continue to enjoy the many benefits of plastics while reassured about their safety.

The plastics industry attaches a vital importance to validated scientific data and its use in policy making. PlasticsEurope therefore engages with decision makers and stakeholders to promote evidence and risk-based regulation. This will make it possible to use internationally accepted scientific, transparent and harmonised procedures to distinguish evidence that is reliable and can be used by regulators.



## Engagement with stakeholders and policy makers

Brussels-based think tank – the European Risk Forum (ERF) – promotes high-quality risk assessment and risk management decisions by the EU institutions and raises awareness of risk issues at the EU level.

In 2017, PlasticsEurope supported the ERF’s Monograph on Scientific Evidence and the Management of Risk. The monograph recognises the recent developments in the use of science for EU regulatory decisions. It makes valuable suggestions for improving the related processes, highlighting, among other things, potential areas for improvement. The report proposes 20 reforms and makes 10 short-term recommendations on strengthening the role and quality of scientific evidence to improve the quality of regulatory decisions. A task force has been set up to promote the Monograph’s core findings and monitor the implementation of its recommendations. PlasticsEurope is an active contributor to this task force, and has provided strategic input and insights from the plastics industry, as well as introducing potential allies and putting



*The ERF monograph, which proposes several ways to improve regulatory decision making for safe use of plastics.*

forward high level-speakers for ERF events.

A high-level lunch event on “Fact-checking science: Shaping the governance of scientific advice in the EU” was also held by ERF. The event was hosted by Julie Girling MEP at the European Parliament (see box). Another ERF event that took place this year discussed the topic of “Scientific



*European Commissioner Andriuskaitis speaking at the ERF event on “Scientific Integrity, Public Policy and Better Regulation”.*

Integrity, Public Policy and Better Regulation”. The event included the participation of European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, and high-level representatives from the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Council.

PlasticsEurope has also actively contributed to a project initiated by the Huggard Consulting group on bias and conflicts of interest. The objective is to provide input to enhance the way in which expert advice is sought in the development of EU policy and regulation.

The project is based on research and an expert workshop. It concludes that certain conflicts of interest are more likely to lead to bias than financial considerations. These conflicts of interest must, in turn, be managed. The project is now moving forward to generate guidelines for expert recruitment and to manage bias and conflicts of interest in such a way that the advice available to regulators and policy-makers will be of excellent quality.

## STRENGTHENING THE ROLE AND QUALITY OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

On 23 January 2018, a lunchtime discussion was hosted by Julie Girling MEP as part of the European Parliamentary Working Group on Risk. The event provided a forum to discuss the findings and recommendations of the ERF Monograph, in addition to addressing the role of the EU institutions in rebuilding trust in EU government. Robert Schröder, Member of the Cabinet of EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas, Marta Hugas, Chief Scientist at EFSA, and Dirk Hudig, Secretary General of ERF were among the speakers.



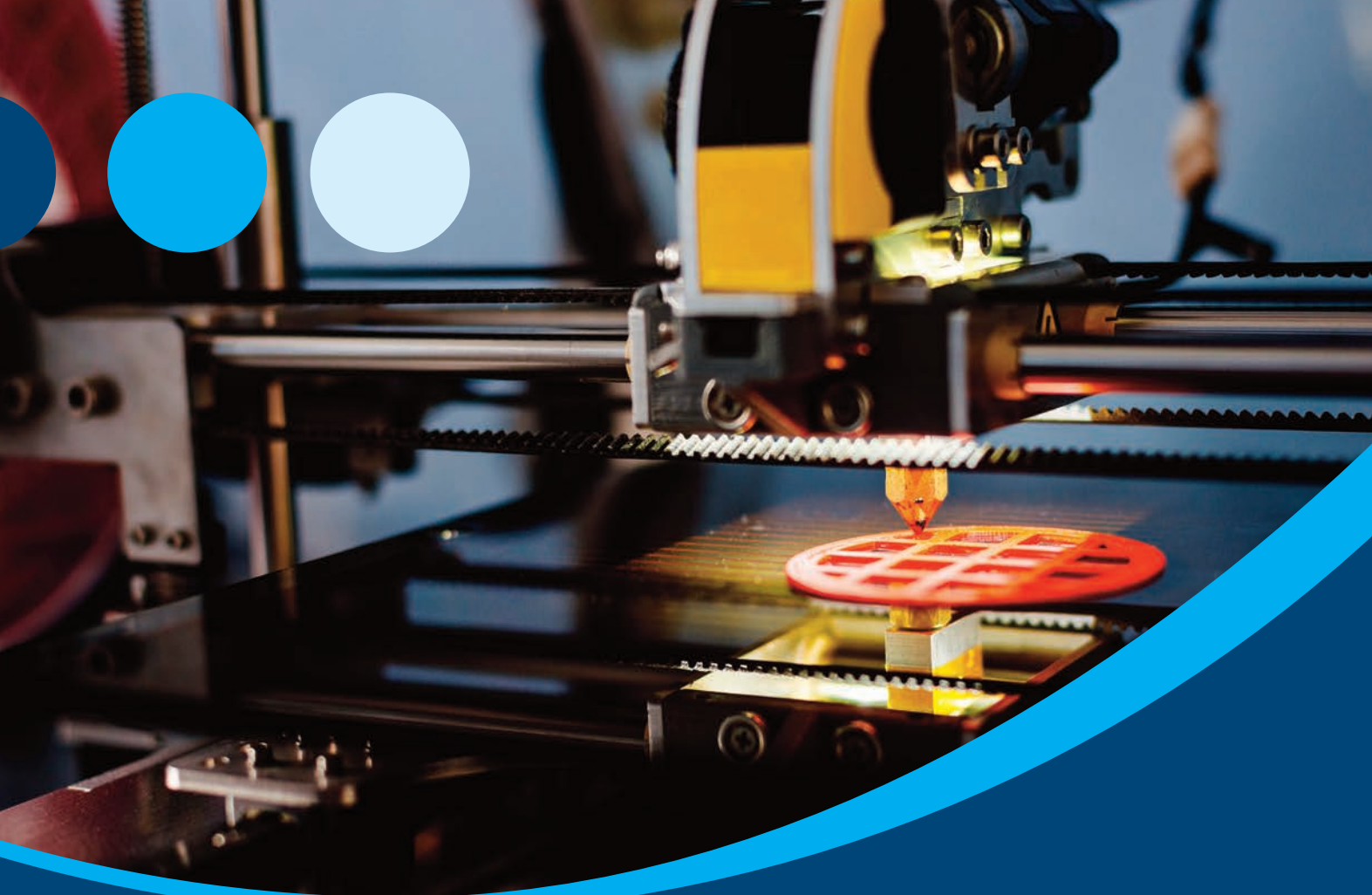
*Speakers at the European Parliamentary Working Group on Risk event at the European Parliament.*



*Consumers must continue to enjoy the many benefits of plastics while reassured about their safety.*



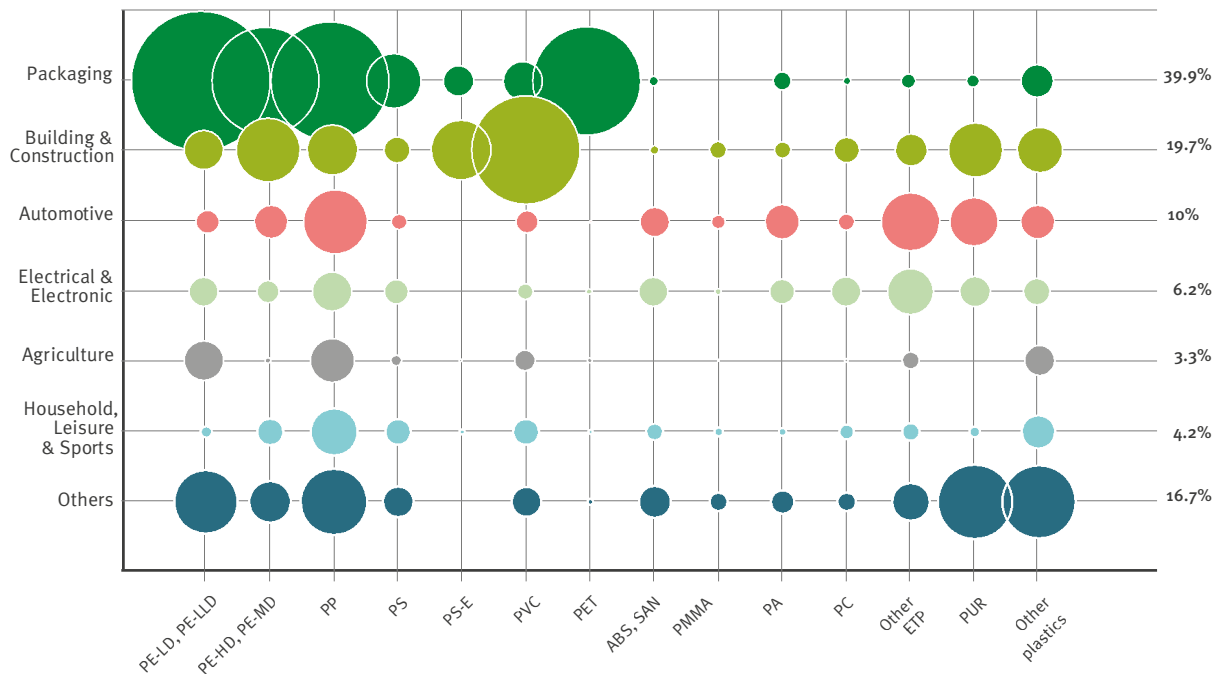




# SUPPORTING EUROPEAN INDUSTRY THROUGH KEY PLASTICS APPLICATIONS

**A wide and continually expanding range of innovations are made possible by plastics.**

In a wide range of different sectors, plastics are a key enabling material chosen for their performance, sustainability and cost-efficiency. Over the past year, PlasticsEurope has been actively promoting the plastics play in key applications, through a variety of initiatives.



European plastics converter demand by segments and polymer types in 2016 (Data for EU28+NO/CH)

Source: PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG) and Conversio Market & Strategy GmbH

## Packaging

In 2017, PlasticsEurope set up a new Packaging Working Group, with a view to contributing insights and inputs into the development of a resource efficient circular economy in Europe. To this end, PlasticsEurope believes that it is important to strengthen engagement with the entire supply chain and work in a more joined-up way. This will make it possible to deliver innovation that increases the resource efficiency of plastics and ensures their recovery at the end of their life cycle.

The Working Group provides an effective umbrella for managing individual initiatives, including the Polyolefin Circular Economy Platform (PCEP), Styrenics Circular Solutions (SCS) and Vinyl Circular Solutions (VCS). It has been actively inputting into policy outreach on single use plastics, the Strategy on Plastics and the Circular Economy Package, as well as other initiatives.

One such initiative is CEFLEX, which brings together companies and organisations from the entire value chain, pooling resources to promote flexible packaging within the Circular Economy by advancing system design solutions.



PlasticsEurope also sponsors a multi-stakeholder round table on eco-design of plastics packaging. The round table has been working on creating guidelines that serve as aids for the development of sustainable packaging solutions. The guidelines consist of practical and useful criteria and decision making tools.

Another initiative supported by the Working Group is the collective research project on “Stop waste – Save food” funded by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency. Through specific case studies for the reduction of food waste in the value chain (processing–packaging–logistics–retail–consumers –recovery), it aims to establish more quantitative data on food losses that can be included in life cycle assessments of packaging options.

In the area of innovative eco-design, PlasticsEurope organised two workshops with various stakeholders facilitated by denkstatt, after which a “view paper” was issued. The view paper, titled “Eco Design with Plastics”, highlights the important role of life cycle thinking in developing innovative plastics packaging. For example, the use phase often plays a key role, but it is equally important to ensure that the end-of-life of the packaging is taken into account.

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In addition to our work at EU level, PlasticsEurope has also been particularly active over the past year at a regional level.


 One highlight has been the creation of a Dutch Sustainability Plan on Plastics Packaging. This Plan is a collaboration between PlasticsEurope and the Dutch plastics converters association (NRK), and also involves the Dutch government and Dutch municipalities. Representing the plastics industry, PlasticsEurope presented the Plan to the Dutch Parliament in January 2018 with a focus on current and planned initiatives of the plastics industry to further increase the sustainability of plastics packaging.


 PlasticsEurope Iberica has been active in the PlastiCircle H2020 project, which focuses on the improvement of the plastics packaging waste chain from a circular economy approach. Six working groups were set up and shared their findings with the European Commission in November 2017. Deliverables included technical reports, analysis and communications tools.


## Building and Construction

The past year saw huge steps taken at EU level on the energy efficiency of buildings. The main outcome was the adoption of a revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), and progress in the legislative process of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). PlasticsEurope has closely followed the EU's work on these Directives to promote the positive contribution that the plastics industry has to make in building and construction, and to highlight the key role that plastics can subsequently play in the EU's energy and climate policies.

Linked to the EPBD, the association has been an active participant in various

 In the North Region PlasticsEurope has been working closely with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS), a body funded by the Scottish government to prevent waste. Projects include the substitution of non-recycled cups in the National Health Service (NHS) with PP alternatives and Project Beacon which is appraising a number of new recycling technologies to increase PO recycling.

 In France, PlasticsEurope, through its daughter association Valorplast, has supported the implementation of the extension of the separate household collection to all plastics packaging, now applicable to 25% of the population.

 In Germany, PlasticsEurope has continued working with its long-established network in the plastics packaging value chain. Concrete activities and projects are brought together in the BKV, the German excellence centre for plastics resources concepts.

platforms promoting building renovation over the past year. The main focus has been PlasticsEurope's partnership with Renovate Europe, a Brussels-based campaign that highlights the importance of building renovation in moving Europe towards an energy efficient future. Renovate Europe has developed a number of communications materials (including articles, videos, case studies, briefings, newsletters) and organises events gathering decision makers from the EU institutions, industry and NGOs (see box).

PlasticsEurope has also been participating in the Building Envelope Platform. The Platform is an informal alliance of construction product manufacturers who



work together to develop and adopt common positions and communications materials, and coordinate outreach to policy makers to keep building components on the policy agenda.

This EU-level legislative work has been strongly supported by PlasticsEurope's regional offices. PlasticsEurope's office in Poland has been in frequent contact with the rapporteur for the Energy Efficiency Directive in the European Parliament, Adam Gierek MEP. PlasticsEurope hosted a debate with MEP Gierek that brought together over fifty prominent national stakeholders.



In both France and Spain, we also communicated the industry's



position on the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Energy

Performance of Buildings Directive to key political stakeholders. In Spain, PlasticsEurope led an initiative to develop a common position paper with three other associations from the plastics value chain and the building industry.

In addition to the emphasis placed on energy efficiency, the association has also participated in EU-level meetings and consultations about the implementation of the Circular Economy concept for waste from construction and demolition. Inputting into the EU's consultation on "Levels – Building sustainability performance", PlasticsEurope stressed the importance of the use phase of construction products, and, more generally, of life cycle thinking in building and construction.

PlasticsEurope has also supported its members by communicating the industry's views on national initiatives relating to building and construction.



In Italy, PlasticsEurope participated in a consultation launched jointly by the Italian Ministries of Economic Development and Environment on a new Italian Energy Strategy.



In Germany, among other projects, PlasticsEurope participated in Federal Resource Efficiency Round Tables and the G20 Resource Efficiency Workshop under the German Presidency of the organisation.

## RENOVATE EUROPE DAY 2017



*In October 2017, European Energy and Climate Commissioner*

*Miguel Arias Cañete (pictured) delivered the keynote speech to the audience at the Renovate Europe Day in the European Parliament. In addition to Commissioner Cañete, representatives from the European Council Presidency and the Parliament's rapporteur for the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive expressed support for enhancing energy efficiency in buildings.*



## FIRE SAFETY

*Fire safety has always been a major objective for the plastics industry and an integral part of our product design and manufacturing. The tragic event of the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017 brought fire safety to the forefront of European policy makers' attention.*

*PlasticsEurope has been actively engaging with stakeholders and policy makers to address this important topic. At a European Parliament debate on fire safety in buildings in September 2017, PlasticsEurope and MEPs discussed the need for a holistic approach to fire safety in order to prevent fires in buildings and save lives. We also participated in the first meeting of the Fire Information Exchange Platform set up by the European Commission to exchange best practices between the Member States and stakeholders.*

*PlasticsEurope contributed to the Commission's study on the toxicity of smoke produced by construction products in fires. The final report, published in January 2018, confirms the need for a wide-ranging approach, but does not call for a specific regulation on the toxicity of smoke of construction products.*

*In January 2018, PlasticsEurope created the Modern Building Alliance. This was carried out together with several trade associations and companies representing the plastics industry in the construction sector. The Alliance aims to advance the safe and sustainable use of construction solutions with plastics, in particular with regards to fire risk.*



## MODERN BUILDING ALLIANCE

Safe and sustainable construction with plastics

*The association also continued to contribute to the standardisation works at global level (ISO TC92), at European level (CEN TC127) and in the corresponding national committees. In various EU countries, too, PlasticsEurope has also been actively monitoring the regulatory developments.*

## Automotive

In the automotive sector, plastics are an important contributor to technical material performance for engineers. They are also particularly important for energy efficiency when considering a product's life cycle. Plastics have a great ability to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which translates into lower fuel consumption by improving engine efficiency, reducing air resistance through design, and lightweighting.

In this area, PlasticsEurope engages in dialogue and networking with the automotive value chain such as the

European Aluminium Association (EAA), the Association of Diisocyanates & Polyols Producers (ISOPA), GlassFibre Europe, European Plastics Converters (EuPC), the European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA) and the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA). Collaborations have included position papers and communications activities. We have developed these relationships as a basis for dialogue and advocacy on common issues and is continuing to maintain and expand its network of partners in the automotive value chain.



In addition to PlasticsEurope's value chain network, advocacy and communications work also took place at EU and national level with policy makers and through public conferences.

One highlight was PlasticsEurope's engagement with the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Council. The Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the EU attended PlasticsEurope's Automotive Task Force meeting where he discussed lightweighting and its contribution to saving resources and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



To support this work, the Mediterranean Region office gave a presentation on the contribution of plastics to climate change at the European Forum on Eco-Innovation in Sofia.

PlasticsEurope Italia also contributed to the definition of the national green public procurement (GPP) criteria on roads that was being developed by the Italian Ministry of Environment. As a result of our efforts, the latest draft now allows the use of light expanded polymeric materials for the "forming of roadbeds" and for the "filling in of excavations for foundations".

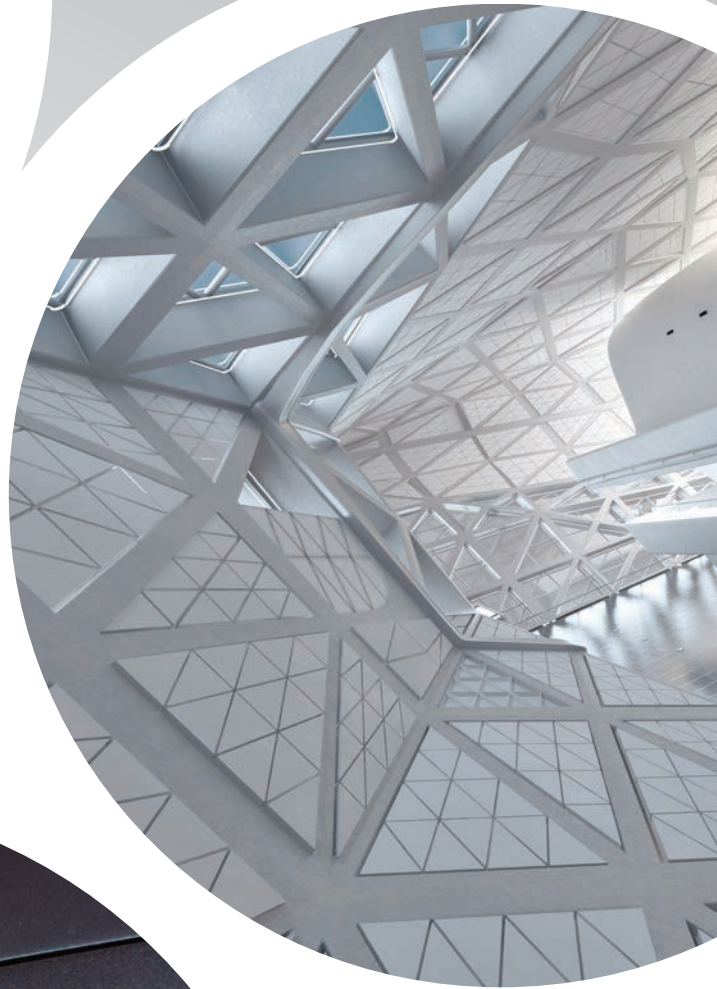


In Germany, PlasticsEurope is collaborating closely with the automotive value chain in the Automotive Economy Circle. This brings together original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and raw material producers, as well as shredding operators. PlasticsEurope is also engaged in advocacy as a member of the German Governmental Lightweight Forum.

*PlasticsEurope's joint position paper on the EU's Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility.*



*In a wide range of different sectors, plastics are a key enabling material chosen for their performance, sustainability and cost-efficiency.*







## INFORMING THE DEBATE

**PlasticsEurope plays a leading role in European discussions around plastics and related issues.**

On behalf of our more than 100 member companies, we drive the debate about the future of plastics and keep stakeholders up to date and engaged with the latest developments. PlasticsEurope organises and participates in a range of events aimed at raising awareness of the benefits of plastics, and also works to promote knowledge of plastics and STEM education to young people in Europe.



## Keeping members and other stakeholders informed

To promote the plastics industry and the work of PlasticsEurope in particular, we publish *Plastics the Mag*, which has both English and French versions. *Plastics the Mag* keeps readers up to date with comprehensive dossiers on innovative plastics applications; provides the latest viewpoints from designers, sportspeople, scientists and more; showcases highlights from design; covers the latest news on the latest cutting-edge innovations; and provides updates on sustainability issues. The magazine is *the* place for readers to get the information they really *need* to know – a one-stop resource covering the latest from the European plastics industry in one go.



## Stakeholder engagement

PlasticsEurope organises two recurring flagship conferences: **IdentiPlast** and **PolyTalk**.

For 20 years we have been hosting **IdentiPlast**, an international forum to present latest engineering technologies for plastic waste management, exchange best practices, share knowledge and network. **IdentiPlast 2017** took place in Vienna, and brought together around 300 experts from





*IdentiPlast 2017 took place in Vienna*



European municipalities, local authorities, policy and decision makers, waste management organisations, NGOs, plastics value chain, academia and research institutes. Participants focused on the challenges presented by the Circular Economy to ‘new’ European member states and other countries in the

process of modernising their waste management infrastructure. The conference showcased a broad range of ideas and discussions on how these countries can benefit from the innovations in Europe and in other parts of the world (particularly in US, Japan and Turkey).

**PolyTalk** is PlasticsEurope’s forum to engage with stakeholders in a transparent, forward looking dialogue. Its aim is to equip the industry to meet new challenges and opportunities and act as a catalyst for concrete action on key issues where the plastics sector has a role to play. This major event targets policy and decision makers (EU, national, regional, UN), NGOs, designers and brand owners as well as the plastics value chain.



## Youth education activities

As part of a longstanding initiative, PlasticsEurope is closely involved in promoting knowledge of plastics and STEM education to young people in Europe. Over the past year PlasticsEurope has carried out a number of activities in support of this. In particular, PlasticsEurope has, in partnership with the European Petrochemical Association (EPCA) organised the **European Youth Debating Competition (EYDC)**. Out of 400 students

who took part in the 2017 EYDC competition, around 30 from seven EU countries qualified for the European finals in Berlin, which took place in October 2017 during the 51<sup>st</sup> EPCA Annual Meeting. Students debated the theme ‘People, Planet, Profit in the Digital age: With or without petrochemistry and plastics?’

Following the European Finals in Berlin, a jury composed of representatives from industry, media and academia judged the young participants based on their ability to



Winners at the European Youth Debating Competition

express themselves, to interact with others and their well-informed, logical and persuasive arguments. In the end, the winners were selected. They were awarded by EPCA's closing lunch keynote speaker and Tom Crotty, Director of INEOS Group and President of EPCA.

*“This initiative was launched to promote STEM education and to show to a young generation the importance of science. Education in these fields are of crucial importance for the future of our industry and the overall competitiveness of the European Union.”*

*Karl-H. Foerster, Executive Director, PlasticsEurope*

PlasticsEurope is also involved at a pan-European level with the **‘Kuno’ project**. ‘Kuno’ is an experimental kit for primary school pupils which educates children about the science behind recycling and about sustainability. The kit was first introduced in Germany in 2001 and is currently used in more than half of the countries’ primary schools. In 2010, Kuno went international with Plastek, the Polish version of the kit. In recent years, Italian version called “Plasty”, and the English version “Olly” were introduced.

**Plastimobile** is a plastic recycling education exhibit for school children that started in 2012. The Exhibit is a mobile

workshop that recycles plastics and allows children to witness how plastics are crushed and transformed to create new plastic objects.

The Project is an educational tool on plastics recycling as well as a teaching device on science, technology and chemistry. As an extension of the project, participants also create their own initiatives aimed at educating the public at large, using the theme “Stop plastics waste in the environment”.

Based on the Science Education Public Understanding Programme developed by Berkeley University and adapted by Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona, **APQUA Project** has a module specifically on “Plastics in our Society” developed in collaboration with PlasticsEurope in Spain. Since 2012, more than 33,000 students aged 12 to 16 have worked with the plastics experimental kit.



Kuno project experimental kits



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## PAST EVENTS

### 17-18 January 2017, Amsterdam Future of Polyolefins Summit

PlasticsEurope was a media sponsor of the annual Future of Polyolefins Summit. The goal of the conference was to examine the supply and demand trends of feedstocks, the global and European polyolefin markets, as well as the main drivers amongst end-products. The event was attended by senior executives from petrochemical companies, plastic converters, technology providers, chemical intermediate suppliers, researchers, as well as other influential stakeholders from across the value chain.

### 24 January 2017, Brussels PlasticsEurope New Year Reception

The programme of the evening included speeches by Patrick Thomas, President, PlasticsEurope & CEO of Covestro, Michal Boni MEP and Roland Strauss, Managing Director, Knowledge4Innovation (K4I).

### 8 February 2017, Wiesbaden Kunststoff in Hessen

To improve the public knowledge about the plastics industry, PlasticsEurope Deutschland, along with the Hessian chemical employers' federation, organised a conference that attracted more than 70 high-level participants from industry, academia, public institutions, politics and media. The Hessian Minister of Economics, Tarek Al-Wazir was the patron of the event.

### 22-23 February 2017, Vienna IdentiPlast 2017

PlasticsEurope organised the IdentiPlast 2017, the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the international conference on the recycling and recovery of plastics. Some 300 experts from European municipalities, local authorities, policy and decision makers, waste management organisations, NGOs,

plastics value chain, academia and research institutes gathered to share their views and experiences in the fields of plastic waste management and circular economy.



### 1 March 2017, Edinburgh Challenges and Opportunities in a Circular Economy

PlasticsEurope UK and the British Plastics Federation hosted “Plastics: Challenges and Opportunities in a Circular Economy” at the Scottish Parliament. The event was sponsored by Angus MacDonald MSP and had support from the Scottish Plastics and Rubber Association and Fidra, a Scottish charity focused on environmental issues.

### 10-11 May 2017, Berlin VinylPlus Sustainability Forum 2017

Organised by VinylPlus, the European PVC industry sustainability programme, the 2017 edition of the VinylPlus Sustainability Forum revolved around the circular economy and looked at the key challenges and opportunities for the PVC industry.

The event took place on 10 & 11 May 2017 in Berlin and featured high-level speakers from the EU Institutions, UNIDO, NGOs, academia, the PVC industry value chain, and many others.





conference focused on the EU's building stock by 2050, and was co-hosted by Members of the European Parliament Bendt Bendtsen, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Morten Helveg Petersen, Dario Tamburrano and Florent Marcellesi. EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, delivered a keynote speech.

### **25 October 2017, Ljubljana Challenges and Solutions for Plastics in the Circular Economy, joint Slovenian-Croatian government and industry conference**

The joint conference on plastics in the circular economy took place in Ljubljana and aimed at strengthening the collaboration between industry and the governments of both countries. Around 50 high-level participants, including a senior political and governmental figures and Presidents and Directors of industry from Croatia, Slovenia and the EPA network, discussed the political framework for the circular economy, the role and contributions of plastics and, finally, the best practice cases for plastics waste management.

### **26 October-5 November 2017, Genova Genova Science Festival**

PlasticsEurope Italia held an exhibition on "Plastics Contacts – The Long Life of Plastics" together with CNR (National Council of Research) and ISMAR (Institute of Marine Science) at the Genova Science Festival. This exhibition offered an interactive journey to understand plastics and their complex interactions with our planet. The purpose of the event was to educate people to a correct use of plastics, changing improper behaviours and highlight the positive aspects of using such materials. The exhibition was visited by more than 2,000 people, mainly students and families.

### **21 November 2017, Madrid Forum on the Use of Energy from Waste**

The Energy from Waste Platform in Spain, of which PlasticsEurope is a member, together with the Energy Foundation of the Regional Government of Madrid, organised the first Forum on the Use of Energy from Waste. The main objective of this event was to analyse the situation of Spain in terms of waste

management, in accordance with European regulations, the role of Energy from Waste in the Circular Economy, as well as the technological potential for the decarbonisation of the economy. The forum was attended by stakeholders from across value chain: administration, companies and citizens, with more than 240 attendees.

### **11 January 2018, Paris Annual press conference on plastics waste data in France and Europe**

Prompting broad press coverage, PlasticsEurope held press conference for 21 journalists a few days ahead of the publication of the European Plastics Strategy and during the discussions with French policymakers about French circular economy roadmap.

### **26-28 January 2018, Hanover Stand at the Green party Convention**

The federal delegate conference of the German Greens in Hanover provided an opportunity to discuss plastics with the party delegates. During the two days, over 100 delegates from the Green party visited PlasticsEurope stand to engage in an in-depth discussion.

### **30 January 2018, Brussels PlasticsEurope New Year Reception**

With welcome speeches by Daniele Ferrari, President PlasticsEurope and CEO Versalis and keynote speech by Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director-General for Environment, European Commission.

### **7 February 2018, London Marine Litter Event**

Supported by PlasticsEurope UK, the British Plastics Federation held a highly popular Marine Litter event in London. Renowned experts and entrepreneurs in marine litter, waste management, education, communication, behavioural change, and packaging design came together and pledged to work collaboratively to find solutions to the marine litter problem. The audience included representatives from leading retailers, brands, plastic companies, policy advisors and will lead to a coordinated plan to drastically reduce land-based litter finding its way into the marine environment, as well as a reduction in waste.



## 26-27 April 2018, Saint Julian's, Malta PolyTalk 2018

Under the banner of “Together we must save our oceans from litter”, this year’s edition of PolyTalk 2018 was held in St-Julian’s, Malta. It brought together nearly 200 high-level representatives from the worlds of politics, industry, media, NGOs, science and academia. The two-day event was the perfect setting to continue establishing and building new partnerships with stakeholders to improve circularity, waste management and other solutions to prevent marine litter around the world.



## 16-17 May 2018, Madrid The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum (VSF) 2018

Spread over two days, the 2018 VSF will take a “Global View on Vinyl” on its first day; while day two will focus on the contribution of the PVC industry to sustainable solutions that meet people's essential needs.

The VinylPlus Sustainability Forum 2018 will be an exciting opportunity to network and exchange on today's crucial topics and trends.



## 21 May 2018, Kielce Plastics Industry Meeting 2018 at Congress Center of Kielce Fair SA

Jointly with Polish Plastics Converters Association (PZPTS), PlasticsEurope Polska is organising its yearly meeting of the plastics industry. The high-level managers from the industry are meeting to discuss important issues facing them at the Polish and European level. This year the event focuses on the opportunities and challenges for the industry in view of Circular Economy and Plastics Strategy.

## 24 May 2018, Milan PlasticsEurope General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly is the highest-ranking decision-making body of PlasticsEurope, composed of senior management representatives from all members companies. The GA decides upon vision and strategy, fees and budget, application for membership and election of the members of the Steering Board.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**29 May – 1 June 2018, Milan**

### **PLAST**

PLAST, held in Milan every three years, is one of the most important exhibitions for plastics and rubber industry worldwide. PlasticsEurope Italia will be hosting a stand, and looks forward to meeting stakeholders and various interest groups. PlasticsEurope Italia will also hold its Mediterranean Advisory Board and some other meetings during this major event.

**6-8 July 2018, Augsburg**  
**14-16 September, Leipzig**  
**31 August-2 September, Hamburg**  
**Marine Litter activities at big water sport events**

PlasticsEurope carries out the “Team Kunststoff” sponsoring initiative on behalf of the plastics manufacturers in Germany. Through this initiative, PlasticsEurope closely cooperates with the German rowing, sailing and canoeing associations to achieve the common goal - no litter must end up in the water. PlasticsEurope Deutschland has introduced its various marine litter activities via a couple of stands at world cup and championship events throughout Germany.

**September 2018, Madrid**  
**Innovation with Plastics**

The event, organised by PlasticsEurope Iberica in collaboration with SusChem (the Spanish Platform to foster research and innovation in the chemical industry), will focus on the importance of innovation in the transition towards a more circular and resource efficient Europe and how plastics can contribute to this transition.

**September 2018, Madrid**  
**Voluntary Commitment of the Plastics Industry**

PlasticsEurope Iberica will organise a stakeholder event in Madrid to present the Voluntary Commitments of the Plastics Industry and the contribution of our industry towards a more circular and resource efficient Europe.

**7-10 October 2018, Vienna**  
**European Youth Debating Competition (EYDC) Finals**

The three best speakers from each participating country will participate for the European Finals which will take place in Vienna.



**10 October 2018, Bunnik**  
**Workshop plastics packaging sustainability plan**

This workshop for members of PlasticsEurope and NRK aims to develop a concrete action programme for our industry for the coming 2-3 years, focusing at the circularity of plastics packaging.

**19-20 November 2018, Bremerhaven**  
**Workshop and booth at the main German educational conference on STEM**

Around 2,000 teachers from all school types participate in a Federal congress on STEM education. Each year PlasticsEurope Deutschland presents its school programme “Kunos coole Kunststoff-Kiste” – experimental kit for primary school pupils during teachers’ seminars. Moreover, the secondary-school book “Kunststoffe – Werkstoffe unserer Zeit” (“plastics – materials of our times”) will be presented to the visitors of PlasticsEurope Deutschland booth.

**26-29 November 2018, Madrid**  
**CONAMA 2018**

CONAMA is the biennial National Congress on the Environment organised under the auspices of the Spanish Environmental Ministry. PlasticsEurope Iberica will participate in several conferences, panel debates and will have a booth to engage with more than 10,000 visitors.

**CONAMA**

**7-8 March 2019, London**  
**IdentiPlast 2019**

The 2019 edition of IdentiPlast will be held in the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London, United Kingdom.

For 20 years, IdentiPlast has grown to become the Centre of Excellence where “Best Practices” in the management of plastic waste are exchanged between all relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and policy makers.

Please register your interest at  
[www.identiplast.eu/identiplast2019](http://www.identiplast.eu/identiplast2019)!

**2 January 2019**  
**PlasticsEurope**  
**Headquarters**  
**New Offices!**

As from January 2019,  
PlasticsEurope offices will  
be located **Rue Belliard 40,**  
**1040 Brussels,** in the heart  
of the European district.



# IdentiPlast® 2019

Save the date!

7 & 8 March 2019

London





# Engage with us!

PlasticsEurope has a true pan-European dimension on social media too. Our European Twitter account is complemented with regional accounts in Germany and Spain, and we're also on LinkedIn.



Twitter  
@PlasticsEurope



Twitter  
@PlasticsEuropeD



Twitter  
@PlasticsEuropES



LinkedIn  
PlasticsEurope

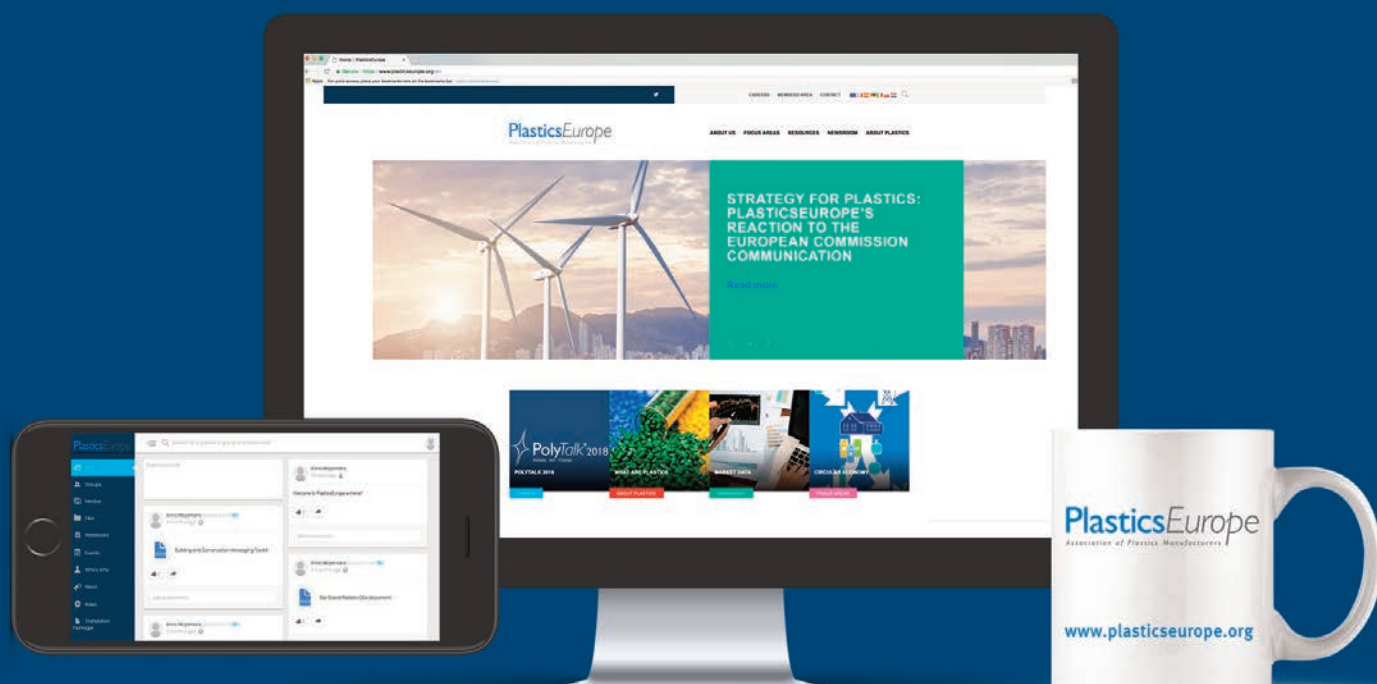


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