



EU policy advances on marine litter

**The Plastic Busters MPAs**  
**HYBRID CAPITALIZATION**  
**CONFERENCE**

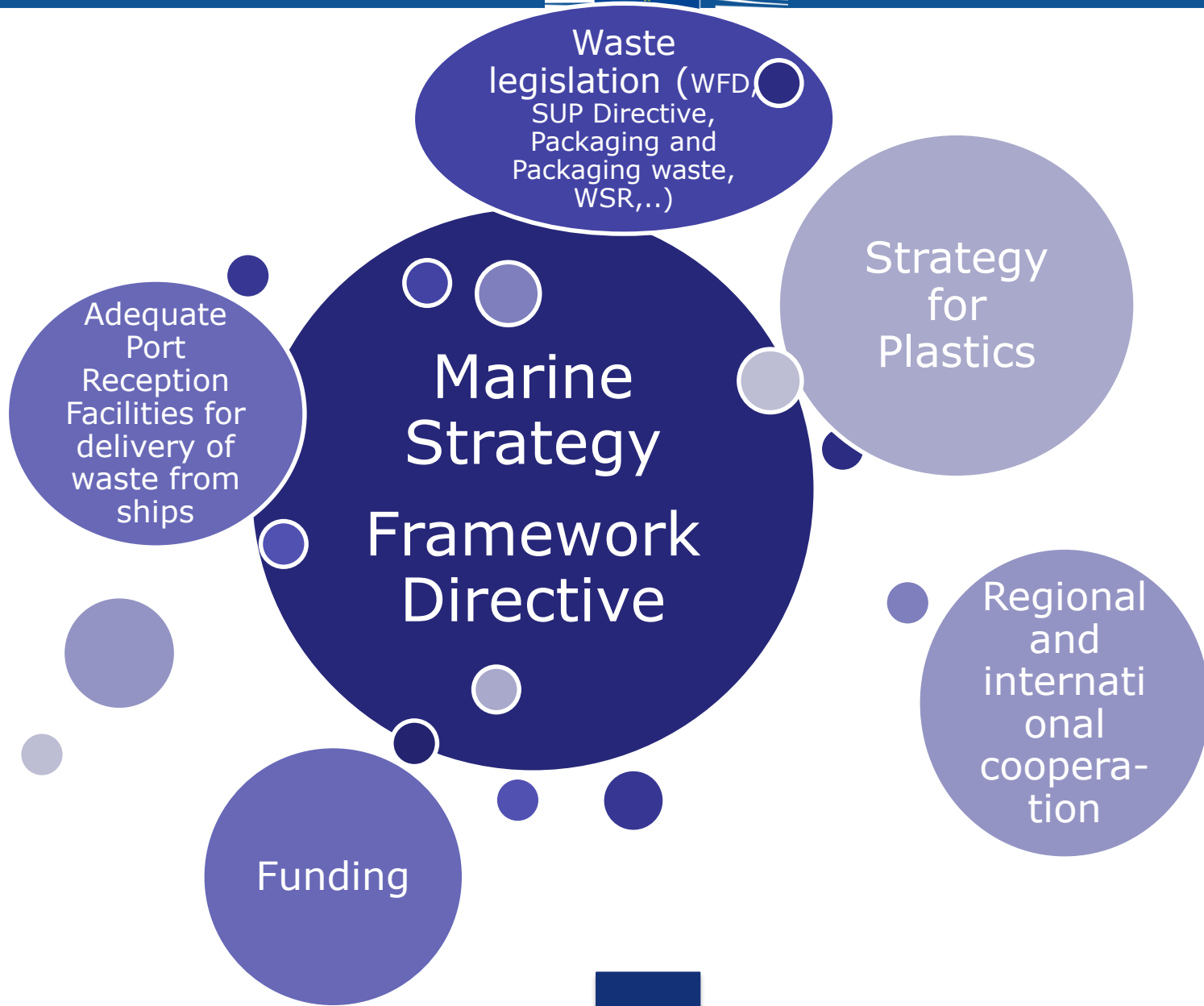
Athens, Greece, 12-13 April 2022

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# The European Green Deal zero pollution actions



The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Zero Pollution Action Plan for Air, Water & Soil

Many Green Deal actions already contribute to the Zero Pollution ambition

- Circular Economy (e.g. microplastics)
- Biodiversity (e.g. Farm to Fork (e.g. pesticides)
- CAP (e.g. residues/fertilisers)
- Climate & Energy initiatives including Adaptation
- Gender Plan (e.g. air pollution)
- Mobility Strategy
- Renovation Wave (e.g. buildings)
- Industrial Strategy
- Pharmaceutical Strategy
- Trade Policy Review & Multilateralism

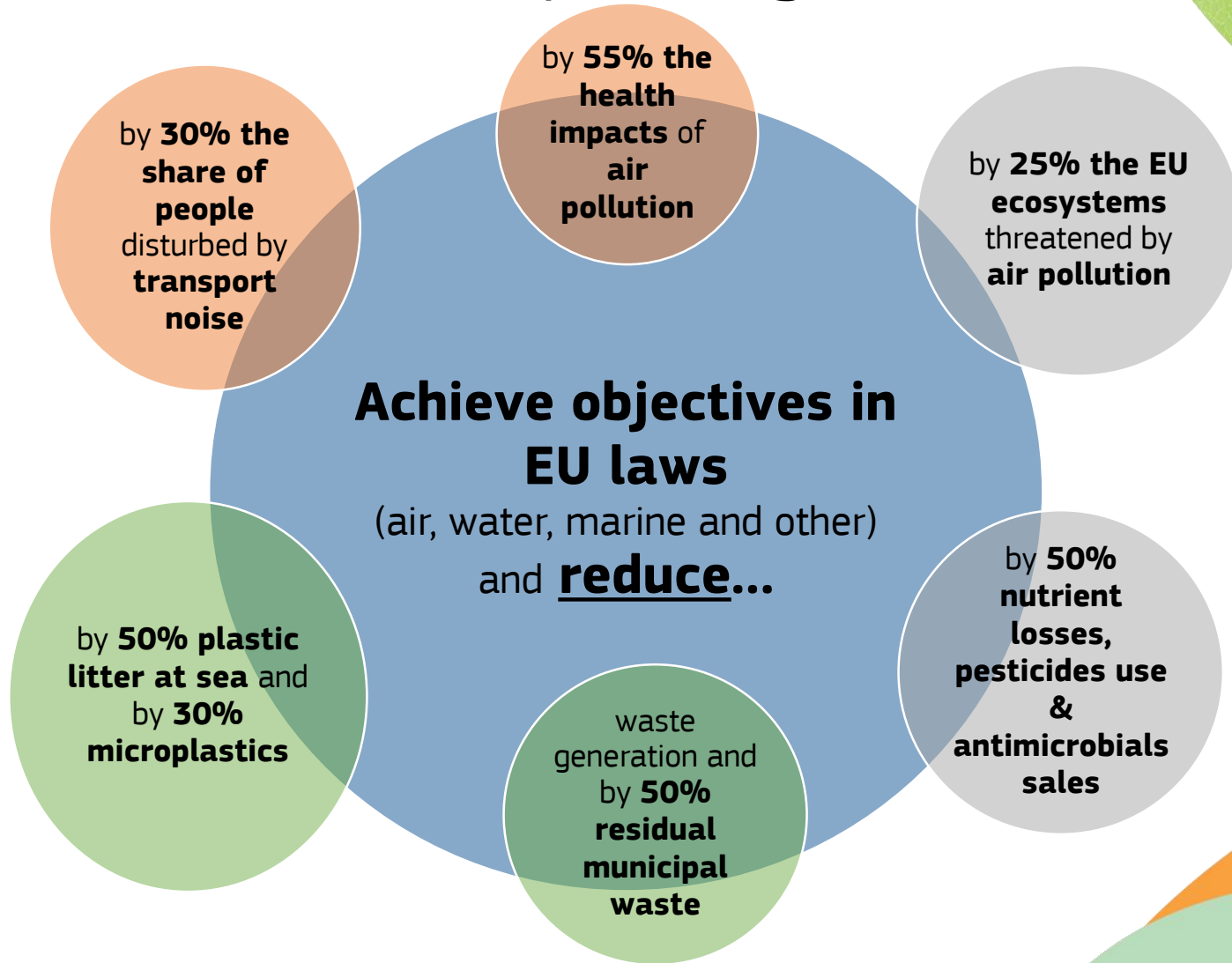
Joined up

Holistic

Integrated



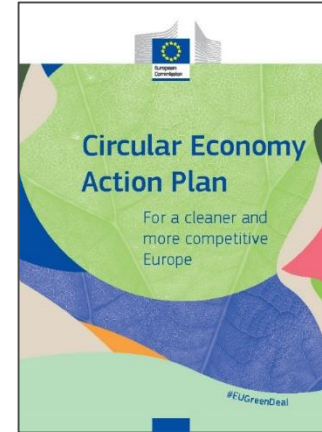
# 2030 targets complementing the UN's Sustainable development goals (SDGs)



# The EU Zero pollution action plan (ZPAP) targets for marine litter reduction

- by 2030, reduce by 50% plastic litter at sea and by 30% microplastics released into the environment
- Targets calculated on basis of SUP and microplastics measures; additional measures might be needed
- MSFD framework will be essential for their delivery and monitoring
- Regional sea conventions around Europe are adopting similar targets; close interaction, including through measures' coordination

# Circular Economy Action Plan



*In addition to reducing plastic litter, addresses microplastics by:*

- *restricting intentionally added microplastics (with the European Chemicals Agency)*
- *developing labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures on unintentional release of microplastics, including measures to increase the capture of microplastics at all relevant stages of products' lifecycle*
- *further developing and harmonising methods for measuring unintentionally released microplastics, especially from tyres and textiles, and delivering harmonised data on microplastics concentrations in seawater*
- *closing the gaps on scientific knowledge related to the risk and occurrence of microplastics in the environment, drinking water and foods*

## ***Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of certain plastic products on the environment of 5 June 2019***

### **Objectives:**

- **Prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, in particular the aquatic environment and on human health**
- **Promote the transition to a circular economy with innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials**
- **Contributing to the efficient functioning of the internal market**

**Scope: single-use plastic products, products made of oxo-degradable plastic and fishing gear containing plastics**

- ❖ **70% of all marine litter covered: top 10 SUP (43%) + fishing gear (27%)**

# Port reception facilities directive

- all ships must deliver their waste before departure, *including* fishing vessels and recreational craft
  - cost recovery system based on the 100% indirect fee
  - covers also fishing gear and passively fished waste
  - **Improve waste management in ports (separate collection, waste reception and handling plans, electronic reporting and exchange of information)**
- **Extended producers' responsibility schemes for fishing gear included in the Single use plastics directive should support the proposed 100% indirect fee system and help to avoid any increase in the fee and ensure a right of delivery.**



# Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

- COM assessment for state, environmental status and targets (including for marine litter) reported by MS in 2018, [published](#); assessment on monitoring programmes planned Q4 2022
- Monitoring guidance for marine litter, and hopefully baselines for seabed litter and floating litter, expected in 2022;
- Harmonised litter items list and beach litter threshold (20 items/100 meters) available; more thresholds to follow, linked to harm from litter
- MSFD Review planned for 2023, possibly accompanied by amendment proposals; MPAs role in the MSFD one of the discussion topics



## Updates

*Guidance on products covered by **SUP Directive**; Available implementing acts on monitoring and reporting of fishing gear placed on the market and waste fishing gear, on marking requirements, on separate collection of SUP bottles, consumption reduction, collected post-consumption waste of tobacco products with filters*

*Revision of the **Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive**: definition of recyclable packaging based on design for recycling criteria to be developed; aim to harmonise criteria for eco-modulation of packaging EPR fees (by implementing act), labelling for consumer sorting of waste based on the Nordic pictograms approach, targets to reduce packaging waste by 2030 and sector-specific reuse targets, recycled content targets for plastic packaging differentiated by product sensitivity*

## Updates (continued)

*Policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics foreseen for this summer*

*Standard for a circular design of fishing gear to prepare for re-use and recycling planned for May 2024*

*End-of-life recreational boats : recommendations from the stakeholders to the Commission on future potential action planned for end 2022*

*Container losses at sea: litter prevention and remediation (including from pellets), closely linked to IMO and RSC activities*

*Work ongoing in the IMO on reporting and marking of lost or discarded fishing gear.*

## Updates (continued)

*Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive/Sewage Sludge Directive : next steps (Impact Assessment and possible proposals) due in Q2 2022*

*Unintentionally released microplastics (from pellets, tyres, textiles, marine paints, geotextiles) study ongoing; [Open Public Consultation until 17<sup>th</sup> May](#)*

*ECHA process covers microplastics with an intentional use in chemical products; first restrictions could be in place by Q4 2022*

*By end of 2022 we will have clearer view of what can be expected at EU level*

## Mediterranean

- heavily polluted with plastic litter and microplastics, alarming reports (e.g. recent IUCN's *Mare plasticum*)
- in addition to the MSFD (applicable to EU MS and accession countries), the Barcelona Convention decisions and action plan apply to all
- EU, a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention actively supports marine litter monitoring and assessment, as well as the implementation of its action plan
- Support includes a great number of EU-funded projects directly and indirectly supporting above activities in the Mediterranean



## Projects (examples)

Implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Action Plan, with the Barcelona Convention

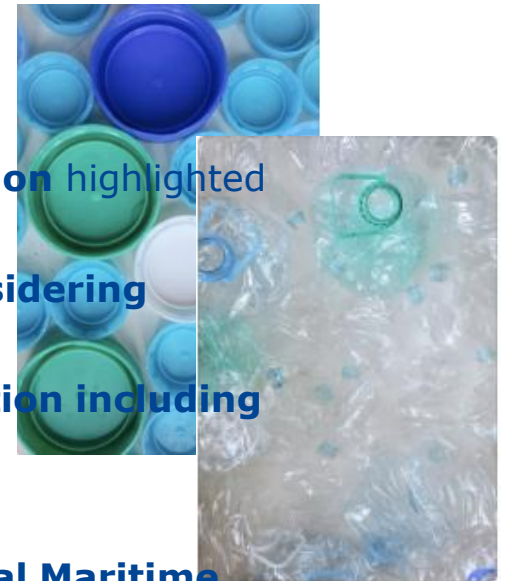
INDICIT : harm to marine life from litter

Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030” calls for proposal were [published](#) in December under the 2021 Work Programme; Mediterranean sea basin lighthouse – €16m call, grants for 2 projects (8m each), focus on plastic pollution

# Towards a global agreement on plastics

**United Nations Environment Assembly** (UNEA-5, March 2022) launched process for a global agreement against plastics pollution on plastics

- ❖ **Priority for EU, taking leadership role**
- ❖ **Circular economy** and **sustainable consumption and production** highlighted in mandate
- ❖ Negotiating committee should **address plastic pollution by considering efforts at all stages of the plastic life-cycle**
- ❖ Will address both **land and sea-based sources of plastic pollution including in the marine environments**
- ❖ Recognizes that plastic pollution includes **microplastics**
- ❖ Building on and complementing **Basel Convention, International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** and **regional seas conventions (RSCs)**
- ❖ Mandate to conclude within **2024**





[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/index_en.htm)

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan_en)



Thank you for your attention!