

Plastics Europe • Rue Belliard 40 Box 16 • B-1040 Brussels

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

CC

Maroš Šefčovič, EVP for the European Green Deal
Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for the Environment
Thierry Breton, Commissioner for the Internal Market
Peter Van Kemseke, Cabinet Member
Helena Braun, Cabinet Member
Joan Canton, Cabinet Member
Rozalina Petrova, Cabinet Member
Marco ten Bruggencate, President, Plastics Europe

Brussels, 26 October 2023

RE: The Plastics Transition Roadmap for plastics in Europe to be circular and net-zero by 2050

Dear President von der Leyen

Today, Plastics Europe is publishing its Plastics Transition Roadmap on how the plastics industry can reach the EU's 2050 circularity and net-zero emissions goals, a copy of which you can find in attachment to this letter.

We are aware of and share the societal concerns about the contribution of our industry to climate change and the challenge of plastics waste and the need to ensure the sustainable use of plastics.

Plastics Europe and its members are committed to addressing the concerns about plastics and to be part of the solution to enabling a sustainable future. We have a vision to transition the European plastics system by making plastics circular, helping drive lifecycle emissions to net zero (with circularity a key pathway to doing so), and fostering the sustainable use of plastics. Whilst significant progress has and continues to be made by our companies and across the plastics system, we know faster systemic change is essential and that we must do more if we are to successfully address society's concerns and meet the EU's 2030 emissions reduction and circularity targets.

Our Plastics Transition Roadmap establishes an ambitious but realistic pathway to net-zero and circularity, including milestones for 2030, key actions and indicators. The Roadmap will serve as our North Star for the coming decades designed to guide, incentivise, and accelerate industry action and performance. It is a major milestone for our industry and reflects the fundamental cultural change within it.

As members of Plastics Europe and leaders of the plastics industry in Europe, we are writing to ask for the European Commission's support in delivering on the objectives set out in our Plastics Transition Roadmap.

Plastics have a vital role to play enabling the sustainability transitions and supporting the competitiveness of many sectors in Europe and the European economy more broadly. The reality is that plastics remain irreplaceable for many applications and sectors that underpin our changing world. Our Roadmap sets-out a pathway through which Europe can retain the benefits of a sustainable and competitive plastics industry, and continue to lead the world in transitioning from a linear to circular plastics system.

However, the European plastics industry continues to face an ever-growing competitiveness gap with the rest of the world (including energy costs, access to raw materials, and regulatory landscape). Plastics Europe is under no illusions about the scale, complexity and cost of the transition facing our industry. It will, for example, require new infrastructure and business models, and further technological innovations, while the cumulated additional investments and operational costs by 2050 are estimated by Deloitte in the Roadmap to be not less than €235 billion for the industry.

To unlock these private investments, we need to create a global level playing field and regain European competitiveness as this transition occurs through, for example, a true EU equivalent to the Inflation Reduction Act to support business cases for transformational projects, and the creation of a harmonised, consistent and enforceable regulatory framework across the EU Single Market.

We call upon the European Commission to develop a policy and regulatory framework that enables the industry's transition if we are to meet the net zero and circularity ambitions in this Roadmap. Such a framework would include immediate policy levers to unlock investments and accelerate industry's circularity and net-zero emissions journey (with credit-based fuel-use exempt mass balance for chemical recycling a key urgent priority), using legislation to incentivise sustainable business models and create demand, developing a waste management system fit for a net-zero circular economy, and ensuring the necessary framework conditions such as securing access to affordable and reliable renewable and low-carbon energy.

We ask the Commission to urgently develop a Clean Transition Dialogue for the entire plastics sector to prioritise the actions, support mechanisms, and policies needed to reach the goals set out in the Roadmap.

Doing so would allow Europe to continue to benefit from the critical role of plastics in delivering on the EU Green Deal in all sectors, secure the future of the 1.5 million workers across 52,000 European companies in the plastics industry, and ensure the EU continues to lead the global path to plastics sustainability.

We thank you for your attention to this critical milestone and would be pleased to have the opportunity to present the Roadmap and our main policy asks at a meeting with you or your team at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned (representing EU plastics producers, in alphabetical order):

Company logo



Martin Jung,
President Performance Materials
BASF SE



Jonas Siljeskär,
Chief Operations Officer
BEWI



Lucrèce Foufopoulos,
Executive Vice President, Polyolefins, Circular Economy Solutions,
Innovation & Technology
Borealis



Walmir Soller,
Vice-President Olefins & Polyolefins Europe and Asia, CEO
Netherlands
Braskem



Sabine Spillner,
Vice President, Celanese Engineered Materials
Celanese



Markus Steilemann,
CEO
Covestro



Marco ten Bruggencate,
Commercial VP P&SP EMEA
Dow Europe GmbH



Ann Geens,
Managing Director
Ducor Petrochemicals



JP Kuijpers,
Managing Director EMEA
Eastman



David Castañeda,
CEO
ELIX Polymers



Peter Henrichfreise,
Executive Vice President Intermediates
Envalior



Lauren Kjeldsen,
Member of the Executive Board & President Smart Materials
Evonik



Rob Ingram,
CEO
INEOS Olefins & Polymers Europe



Steve Harrington,
CEO
INEOS Styrolution



Geir Tuft,
CEO
INEOS Inovyn



Richard Roudeix,
President EMEA Ventures
LyondellBasell



Jaime Martín Juez,
Executive Director Refining & Chemicals Division
Repsol



Michael Pack,
CEO
Röhm



Mark Williams,
Vice President Europe
Sabir



Danielle Ebentreich,
General Manager Marketing Europe
Shell Chemicals Europe



Marc Bergman,
Business Manager
Shin-Etsu PVC



Peter Browning,
President Specialty Polymers
Solvay



Nathalie Brunelle
SVP Polymers
TotalEnergies



Frank Bozich,
President and Chief Executive Officer
Trinseo PLC



Bruno De Bièvre,
President
UBE Corporation Europe



Franco Meropiali,
Head of Polyolefins and Intermediates Business Unit
Versalis



Oliver Kretschmann,
Managing Director
Vestolit GmbH



Christophe Andre,
CEO
Vynova



Karl-Martin Schellerer,
Senior Vice President Europe and Asia
Westlake Performance and Essential Materials