Plastics Industry tackling Plastic Waste

International High Level Conference on Marine Litter

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Introduction

• Too often the way plastics are currently produced, used and discarded fails to capture the economic benefits of a more 'circular' approach and harms the environment.

• There is an urgent need to tackle the environmental problems that today cast a long shadow over the production, use and consumption of plastics.

• The million tonnes of plastic litter that end up in the oceans every year are one of their most visible and alarming signs of these problems, causing growing public concern.

A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

Area 1: Improve the economics and quality of plastics recycling

Area 2: Curb plastic waste and littering

Area 3: Drive investments and innovation towards circular solutions

Area 4: Harness global action
Rivers come to the oceans bringing, every year, between 1,15 and 2,41 millions tons. 67% of this quantity is from 20 rivers mainly located in Asia.
The voluntary commitment of the Plastics Industry
Proposing Solutions – Initiating Actions

1. Preventing leakage of plastics into the environment
2. Increase Re-Use and Recycling of plastics packaging
3. Accelerate Resource Efficiency
Increase Re-Use and Recycling of Plastics Packaging

- Ensure high rates of **re-use and recycling** with the ambition to reach **60%** for plastics packaging by 2030.

- Leading to achievement of our **goal of 100%** re-use, recycling and/or recovery of all plastics packaging by 2040.

- Sector Specific Commitments: via Platforms
Preventing Plastics Litter in the Environment

Actions to Prevent Pellet Loss

Goals:
- 100% of PlasticsEurope member companies to be signatories of Operation Clean Sweep®
- Development of harmonized monitoring scheme for progress report
- Involve the entire value chain, including transport and logistics as well as engagement in major port authorities

Actions to Prevent Littering
- Launch of new research into top plastic items being littered in the marine environment; to identify suitable solutions to reduce littering
- Support educational programmes
The new alliance is the largest global, CEO-driven, cross-value chain initiative of its kind, working and investing to find common solutions to reduce plastic waste and prevent it from entering the environment.

The new initiative will invest $1.5B USD over the next five years into initiatives and projects, including on-the-ground waste management and infrastructure development in the geographies needing it most, beginning in the Asia-Pacific region.
Alliance strategic pillars

Prevention
Catalyze investment in enhanced waste infrastructure to prevent plastic from reaching the environment

Innovation
Innovate new, sustainable technologies and business models based on sound science and economics

Education and Engagement
Engage and collaborate with governments, industry and consumers to drive effective solutions

Clean Up
Develop solutions to address and clean up areas of existing plastic waste in the environment

ALLIANCE TO END PLASTIC WASTE
The Chemical Recycling
Plastics Cycle: Production, Mechanical Recycling and Chemical Recycling

FCM = Food Contact Material
Chemical Recycling: the state of art

- Past experience in chemical recycling has shown that technologies in that field have faced, until now, economic and technical challenges preventing their commercial development in Europe.

- Today we are seeing a number of new developments and initiatives in this area; however, further innovation and funding is needed to make chemical recycling technically and economically a reality in the future.
Chemical Recycling

McKinsey & Company

What if chemical recycling could radically transform the way plastic is recycled?

Braskem launches new chemical recycling study

Chemical Recycling - The Missing Piece to Plastic Circularity

Potentially, chemical recycling could be used for difficult to recycle streams where conventional mechanical recycling cannot provide an adequate solution. “chemical recycling could become a complement to mechanical recycling today for that market share of products that are not conventionally recyclable.”

For Internal Use
Plastics
The Material for the 21st Century