

# FoodDrinkEurope’s first analysis of key provisions of the interinstitutional agreement of the PPWR

## Table of Contents

<b>Important disclaimer</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Background information</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Sustainability requirements (Chapter II)</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1. Requirements for substances in packaging (Article 5).....	3
2.2. Recyclable packaging (Article 6).....	3
What is the timeline? .....	4
How Design for Recycling criteria (DfR) will be developed and for which categories? .....	4
What will be developed in addition to DfR? .....	4
What is recyclability at scale and when does it enter into force? .....	4
How does the recyclability assessment work and grading system? .....	4
What derogations from recyclability requirements are foreseen? .....	5
2.3 Recycled plastic content for plastic in packaging (Article 7).....	6
What is the timeline? .....	6
How will the recycled content be calculated? .....	6
What is post-consumer waste? .....	6
What happens if there is insufficient recycled content on the market or prices are too high?.....	7
Will targets be reviewed? .....	7
How will recycling technologies be considered suitable? .....	7
Are there derogations from recycled plastic content targets?.....	7
2.4 Compostable packaging (Article 8).....	8
2.5. Packaging minimization (Article 9).....	8
<b>3. Labelling, marking and information requirements (Chapter III)</b> .....	<b>9</b>
3.1 Labelling of packaging (Article 11) .....	9
What obligations and timelines are set in the PPWR .....	9
3.2 Environmental claims (Article 12b) .....	9
<b>4. Bans of single-use packaging</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>5. Reuse targets (Article 29)</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Reuse targets for transport packaging.....	10
What formats are excluded from this obligation?.....	11
Reuse target for beverage sales packaging .....	11
Is there an exemption mechanism from reuse obligations?.....	11
Member States may exempt economic operators from reuse obligations for 5 years if: .....	11
What can Member States do? .....	12
<b>6. Waste prevention targets</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>7. Separate collection</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>8. Annexes - graphic of implementation phase</b> .....	<b>13</b>

## Important disclaimer

This is the first analysis of the interinstitutional agreement as adopted by the European Parliament on 24 April 2024. As the **text is not yet final and has not yet been published in the Official Journal**, it is important to note that this is only a first analysis of the text and should not be considered final. **Interpretations of the measures are subject to changes** and the **analysis will be updated accordingly** as new details become available in the upcoming months.

Lawyers and linguists of the EU institutions will have to go through the text and correct legal and linguistic mistakes. The final PPWR is expected to be published in the Official Journal towards the end of the year. Until then, the text is not final.

All deadlines included in this analysis are based on the assumption that the PPWR final text will be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force, 20 days after publication, in December 2024. As this date is still not confirmed, **all expected deadlines included in this analysis are subject to change.**

## Background information

- **Change from Directive to Regulation was retained.** However, Member States can still adopt national measures concerning specific measures such as reuse, waste prevention and compostable packaging. On the contrary, measures on recyclability, recycled plastic content and packaging minimisation are mostly harmonised at the EU level.
- The PPWR text is divided into several chapters. Chapter II called “**Sustainability Requirements**” is particularly important as it contains **market access requirements that will have to be demonstrated through an official conformity assessment** to place packaging on the market.
- The ultimate objective of the Regulation is to reduce the consumption of packaging, whenever unnecessary, and to shift towards sustainable packaging from a chemical, and environmental perspective. This Regulation takes a step further from the Single-use Plastic Directive (SUPD) also in the restriction of single-use plastic packaging

## 2. Sustainability requirements (Chapter II)

### 2.1. Requirements for substances in packaging (Article 5)

The article outlines requirements regarding substances found in packaging, emphasising the minimisation of substances of concern, including lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, and PFAS, in terms of their presence and concentration.

The Regulation also establishes a procedure to monitor and possibly establish new limits for the presence of hazardous substances in packaging. Such measures would be implemented if they impact recycling and reuse, while also posing unacceptable risks to human health and the environment. By December 2026, the Commission will release a report detailing its findings, and it may choose to:

1. Initiate a restriction process under the EU chemicals framework (REACH).
2. Establish restrictions as part of the design criteria for recycling. Member States can contribute evidence to the Commission, potentially prompting additional limitations, starting with BPA.

Through secondary legislation, the Commission may lower the total concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium in packaging. These adjustments may be specific to certain packaging types or formats, and varying levels may be set for recycled materials.

By mid-2026, food contact packaging exceeding prescribed PFAS quantities outlined in the PPWR cannot be marketed (though not a total ban). By 2029, the Commission will evaluate this provision and make amendments if it overlaps with other existing bans under the EU chemicals framework.

By 2032, the Commission will assess the effectiveness of these PPWR provisions and design criteria for recycling in reducing the concentration of substances of concern in packaging.

### 2.2. Recyclable packaging (Article 6)

All packaging placed on the market (with some exemptions, see below) will have to be recyclable under the PPWR requirements. Packaging that does not comply with these requirements will not be placed on the market. Article 6 also defines new concepts such as recyclability at scale and grades of recyclability under which packaging will need to follow.

### What is the timeline?

- **From 2030 (or 2 years from the adoption of DA)** all packaging shall be recyclable, in line with the design for recycling criteria to be established in delegated acts by 1 January 2028
- **From 2030 (or 2 years from the adoption of DA)** packaging will not be allowed on the EU market unless recyclable within grades A, B or C.
- **From 2035 (or 2 years from the adoption of DA)** packaging will also have to be recycled at scale, in line with the conditions set out in the implementing act by January 2030
- **By 2038**, only packaging falling within grades A or B will be allowed on the market

### How Design for Recycling criteria (DfR) will be developed and for which categories?

DfR criteria will be developed by the European Commission through secondary legislation for each packaging category as listed in Annex II, Table 1. Examples of packaging categories are: PE flexible natural/coloured, incl. multi-layer and multi-material; PP flexible natural/coloured, incl. multi-layer and multi-material; PET flexible natural/coloured, other flexible plastics incl. multi-materials and biodegradable polymers; biodegradable plastics – rigid and flexible; paper/cardboard; composite packaging of which the majority is paper/cardboard; aluminium and composite packaging of which the majority is aluminium – semi-rigid and flexible.

When establishing these criteria, the Commission is obliged **to take into account standards developed by CEN, as well as the economic and environmental performance of recycling technologies and potential restrictions on substances that negatively impact the reuse of recycling.** The PPWR also establishes a **list of parameters for design criteria** (e.g. additives, colours, material composition, ease of emptying).

### What will be developed in addition to DfR?

In addition to the DfR criteria, the Commission will also establish methods for recyclability grading and eco-modulating packaging fees.

In the future, the Commission will be able to update those criteria according to new technological developments. When new or updated designs for recycling criteria are developed, compliance must take place 3 years later.

### What is recyclability at scale and when does it enter into force?

Recycled at scale means that packaging waste must be separately collected, and sorted into defined waste streams without affecting the recyclability of other waste streams. In addition, each packaging category as listed in Annex II, Table 1a has to reach a minimum of 55% recycling rate at the EU level on an annual basis to be defined as “recycled at scale”. The Commission may review and revise the minimum 55% recycling target by 2035.

The recycling at scale assessment method will also include a “chain of custody” mechanism that aims to ensure that packaging on the market is recycled at scale. It will be based on technical verification showing the amount of collected packaging waste sorted and sent to recycling facilities and a verification process for manufacturers to obtain data from downstream operations. It is currently unknown how this system will be implemented.

### How do the recyclability assessment and grading system work?

The **recyclability assessment** has to be carried out **by the manufacturer per each packaging unit**. For packaging including **integrated components**, the assessment of compliance shall include all integrated components. For packaging including **separate components**, the recyclability assessment must take place separately for each component.

Both DfR and recycled at scale assessments will result in packaging being **graded according to the level of recyclability**. The design for recycling criteria and recycling at scale grades will be **merged over time into one grade**:

1. **From 2030**, grades will be given based on an assessment of the design for recycling per packaging unit, in terms of weighting (to this date, it is not clear what “in terms of weighting” means in practice):
  - Grade A:  $\geq 95\%$
  - Grade B:  $\geq 80\%$
  - Grade C:  $\geq 70\%$  (banned from 2038)
  - $< 70\%$  = technically non-recyclable and banned from 2030
  
2. **From 2035**, grades will be allocated based on the same design assessment plus an assessment of recyclability at scale, based on the weight of material effectively recycled per packaging category, according to the methodology adopted by the Commission. The recycling targets for recyclability at scale and the grades for recycling at scale will be established by the Commission in an implementing act.
  - Grade A:  $\geq 95\%$  + recycling target for recyclability at scale to be defined
  - Grade B:  $\geq 80\%$  + recycling target for recyclability at scale to be defined
  - Grade C:  $\geq 70\%$  + recycling target of 55% of recyclability at scale
  - $< 70\%$  + recycling rate  $< 55\%$  = technically non-recyclable and banned from 2035
  
3. **From 2038**, packaging is no longer allowed on the market unless it is recyclable under grade A or B.
  - Grade A:  $\geq 95\%$  + recycling target for recyclability at scale to be defined
  - Grade B:  $\geq 80\%$  + recycling target for recyclability at scale to be defined
  - Grade C:  $\geq 70\%$  + recycling target of 55% of recyclability at scale banned from 2038
  - $< 70\%$  + recycling rate  $< 55\%$  = technically non-recyclable and banned from 2035

As of mid-2031, EPR fees will have to be modulated by the recyclability performance grades. Before mid-2031, EPR fees are required to be modulated, but there are no harmonised rules for how the modulation is to be applied.

Eco-modulation of EPR fees (TBC who decides this and when) may take into account the percentage of recycled content. Such modulation must also take into account the sustainability criteria of the recycling technologies.

### **What derogations from recyclability requirements are foreseen?**

The following packaging is exempted from recyclability requirements:

- Immediate packaging in direct contact with **veterinary medicinal products and medicinal products for human use**
- Contact sensitive packaging of **medical devices**
- Contact-sensitive packaging of **in vitro diagnostic medical devices**
- Outer packaging of medicinal products when necessary to preserve the quality of the medicinal product.
- Contact sensitive packaging for **infant formula and follow-on formula, processed cereal-based food baby food and food for special medical purposes**.
- Packaging used for the **transport of dangerous goods**
- Sales packaging made from lightweight wood, cork, textiles, rubber, wax or ceramic

By 1 January 2035, the Commission will review the exemptions and, where necessary, propose an amendment to the PPWR to amend the list.

## 2.3 Recycled plastic content for plastic in packaging (Article 7)

Any plastic part of packaging placed on the market must contain **minimum percentages of recycled content coming from post-consumer plastic waste**. This is **calculated per packaging type and format and as an average per manufacturing plant and year**. A manufacturing plant should be understood as referring only to one industrial facility where packaging is manufactured. It is not clear whether the manufacturing plant is the one of the brand-owner/filler or the one of the converters. It is also still unclear what is understood by both packaging type and format.

### What is the timeline?

Packaging	2030 target	2040 target
Contact-sensitive packaging made from PET as the major component (except bottles)	30%	50%
Contact-sensitive packaging made from plastic materials other than PET, except plastic beverage bottles	10%	25%
Single-use plastic beverage bottles	30%	65%
All other plastic packaging (i.e. non-contact sensitive)	35%	65%

Even though targets start applying in 2030, **calculation and verification of recycled content in plastic packaging must follow the adopted method already by 1 January 2029**.

The **recycled content label is voluntary** but must be followed as of mid-2028.

### How will the recycled content be calculated?

The **method for calculating and verifying the target should be adopted by the Commission by 31 December 2026** and the **targets apply 3 years later**. Therefore, 2030 targets could be postponed accordingly if the Commission is late in publishing the methodology for calculation.

The method for calculating and verifying the target will take into account the use of resulting secondary raw materials to make sure they are of sufficient quality compared to the original material and **may** also include an obligation to carry out **independent third-party audits on manufacturers of recycled content and on plastic packaging** to ensure requirements are met for both EU and non-EU recycled plastics.'

### What is post-consumer waste?

In addition to the definition established in Article 3.39 of the PPWR, there are no conditions as to what qualifies as post-consumer plastic waste:

- Collected under the national rules transposing the Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD) and the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) or;
- Collected in a third country by standards for separate collection to promote high-quality recycling which is equivalent to the PPWR, SUPD and the WFD and;

- Recycled in an installation in the EU to which the EU Industrial Emissions Directive applies or a non-EU installation to which rules concerning the prevention of emission into air, water and land apply. Those rules shall be equivalent to those concerning emissions limits and environmental performance levels established by the Industrial Emissions Directive that apply to an EU recycling installation.

## What happens if there is insufficient recycled content on the market or prices are too high?

According to the safety clause, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts to adjust recycled content targets where justified by lack of availability or excess prices of recycled plastics that can have adverse effects on human or animal health, security of food supply or the environment. The delegated act can be adopted only in exceptional cases.

## Will targets be reviewed?

By 7 years from the entry into force of the PPWR, the Commission may **review the need for derogation for specific formats or amend existing exemptions from 2030 targets for non-PET packaging**. This will take place where suitable recycling technologies are not available, not authorised or not sufficiently installed in practice.

In addition, at the same time, the Commission will review the implementation of 2030 targets and the need to amend the 2040 recycled content target. By that time, the Commission can also consider setting targets for other packaging materials.

## How will recycling technologies be considered suitable?

Based on an assessment of the economic and environmental performance (energy usage, waste availability, GHG emissions) of available recycling technologies, the Commission **will draft sustainability criteria for plastic recycling technologies by 31 December 2026**. Both EU and non-EU installations must comply with these requirements. For non-EU facilities, these can be “equivalent standards”.

## Are there derogations from recycled plastic content targets?

Yes, Article 7 does not apply to:

- Immediate packaging in direct contact with **veterinary medicinal products and medicinal products for human use**
- Contact sensitive packaging of **medical devices** and devices used exclusively for research use and investigational devices
- Contact-sensitive packaging of packaging of in **vitro diagnostic medical devices**
- Outer packaging of medicinal products when necessary to preserve the quality of the medicinal product.
- Compostable plastic packaging
- Packaging used for transport of dangerous goods
- Contact sensitive packaging for **infant formula and follow-on formula, processed cereal-based food baby food and food for special medical purposes**.
- Packaging of supplies, components, and immediate packaging components for the manufacturing of medicinal products and veterinary medicinal products where such packaging is needed to be in line with the quality standards of the medicinal product.
- Any plastic **packaging intended to come into contact with food, in case the amount of recycled content poses a threat to human health and results in non-compliance of the packaged product with Food Contact Material Legislation**. It is currently unclear how



operators would prove that this is the case but will likely be part of the technical information that needs to be provided as part of the declaration of conformity.

- **Any plastic part representing less than 5%** of the total weight of the whole packaging unit. It is not clear if this percentage should apply to each plastic component or the sum of components.

## 2.4 Compostable packaging (Article 8)

By 2028, tea bags, filter coffee pads, paper-based capsules and sticky labels must be compatible with the standards for industrial composting and when required by Member States, with home composting. **Until mid-2026, Member States can add other packaging to this list and mandate its compostability at the national level.**

By 2028, **packaging which is not required to be compostable** (either directly in the PPWR or through the national derogation) **must be recyclable** and without affecting the recyclability of other waste streams – even if made from biodegradable materials. Since recyclability provisions apply from 2030, it is not clear how compliance should be demonstrated in these two years.

Other packaging can be required to be compostable at the EU level only if the Commission proposes an amendment to the PPWR. By 2026, the Commission will ask the EU standardisation organisation to update the harmonised standard for compostable packaging.

## 2.5. Packaging minimisation (Article 9)

**By 1 January 2030, the manufacturer or importer** shall ensure that packaging weight and volume are reduced to the minimum necessary for ensuring its functionality taking account of the **shape and material** that the packaging is made of.

Packaging with characteristics that are only aimed at increasing the perceived volume of the product, including double walls, false bottoms, and unnecessary layers is not allowed. Manufacturers can justify not being able to further minimise packaging based on the list of performance criteria set out in Annex IV. Here is a simplified list of performance criteria:

1. Product protection
2. Packaging manufacturing process
3. Logistics
4. Packaging Functionality
5. Information requirements
6. Hygiene and safety
7. Legal requirements
8. Recycled content, recyclability and reuse

Manufacturers will have to demonstrate that packaging is minimised as much as possible and include proof of that in the technical documentation. Such assessment shall include at least:

- details of the calculation of the minimum necessary weight and volume for the packaging. Possible variations between production batches for the same packaging shall be taken into account and documented;
- for each performance criterion, a description shall be made which explains the design requirement that prevents further reduction of the packaging weight or volume without endangering the packaging functionality, including safety and hygiene, for the packaged product, packaging and user. The method used for the identification of these design



requirements shall be described, and the reasons preventing further reduction of the packaging weight or volume shall be explained. All reduction opportunities with a given packaging material shall be investigated, such as the reduction of any superfluous layer which does not perform a packaging function. **Substitution of one packaging material with another shall not be considered sufficient;**

- any test results, market research or studies that have been used for the assessment conducted.

By 2027, the **Commission shall request the European standardisation organisation to prepare or update harmonised standards laying down the methodology for the calculation** and measurement of compliance minimisation requirements under this Regulation. For **most common packaging types** and formats such standards should **specify maximum adequate weight and volume limits, and, if appropriate, wall thickness and maximum empty space.**

## 3. Labelling, marking and information requirements (Chapter III)

### 3.1 Labelling of packaging (Article 11)

The Regulation introduces harmonised labelling and marking requirements for different packaging formats.

#### What obligations and timelines are established in the PPWR?

1. **From 2028 (42 months from entry into force of PPWR)** Packaging should be marked with a label indicating the material composition (which can be done virtually for individual components). This does not apply to transport packaging or packaging subject to DRS.
2. **From 2028 (42 months from entry into force of PPWR)** packaging will need to bear a pictogram label indicating sorting instructions (can be also provided digitally). Such pictograms will also have to be applied to waste receptacles.
3. **From 2026 (18 months from entry into force of PPWR)** the Commission should adopt an implementing act establishing a harmonised label and specifications for labelling requirements. At the same time, the Commission should present an implementing act to establish a methodology for identifying the material composition of packaging by means of digital marking. This information will be more relevant for waste management operators and in 2030, **substances of concern also must be included in the digital system.**
4. **From 2028 (42 months from entry into force of PPWR)** reusable packaging should provide information with a label on its reusability through QR code or other digital carriers. Further labelling requirements and harmonisation will be developed in an implementing act by the European Commission by 2026 (18 months after the entry into force of PPWR)
5. **From 2028 (42 months from entry into force of PPWR)** packaging subject to DRS should be marked with harmonised labelling that should be established by the Commission through an implementing act by 2026. Member States may still establish a national DRS symbol.
6. **By 2026 (24 months from entry into force of PPWR)** National EPR symbols will be allowed but only digitally and the European Commission could adopt guidelines to clarify criteria to avoid consumers being misled.

### 3.2 Environmental claims (Article 12b)

Environmental claims concerning packaging properties related to the requirements mentioned in the Regulation can be allowed if they fulfil the following requirements

1. The claim on the packaging property exceeds the minimum requirements set in the Regulation. AND
2. They specify to which part of the packaging they relate to

## 4. Bans of single-use packaging

From 1 January 2030, economic operators cannot place on the market the following packaging formats:

- **Single-use plastic grouped packaging (such as collation films or shrink wraps) used at the point of sale to group goods sold in bottles, cans, tins, pots, tubs, and packets** designed as convenience packaging to enable or encourage consumers to purchase more than one product. This excludes grouped packaging necessary to facilitate handling.
- **Single-use plastic packaging for less than 1.5 kg of pre-packed unprocessed fresh fruit and vegetables.** Member States may establish exemptions to this restriction if there is a demonstrated need to avoid water loss, turgidity loss, microbiological hazards, physical shocks, and oxidation.
- **Single-use plastic packaging (such as sachets) in the HORECA sector, containing individual portions or servings, used for condiments, preserves, sauces, coffee creamer, sugar and seasoning,** except in the following cases:
  - such packaging is provided together with take-away ready-prepared food intended for immediate consumption without the need for any further preparation;
  - such packaging is required to ensure safety and hygiene in establishments where there is a medical requirement for individualised care, such as hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes.

By December 2026 the **Commission will publish Guidelines** with examples of the banned packaging formats.

If restrictions for these same purposes are adopted by Member States before 1 January 2025, but cover other materials as well (e.g. paper fruit packaging), then they may be retained. Likewise, packaging falling under the scope of the ban which Member States mandate as compostable by Article 8(2), can stay on the market.

By December 2031, the Commission will review these restrictions and possibly propose an amendment to the PPWR.

## 5. Reuse targets (Article 29)

The PPWR sets for the first time binding reuse targets for packaging used in different applications. It is important to specify that in 2026, the Commission will publish guidelines explaining better products in the scope of reuse targets.

### Reuse targets for transport packaging

From 1 January 2030, each economic operator using transport packaging or sales packaging for transporting products in the EU will have to comply with reuse targets. These effect the following packaging formats:

- Pallets
- foldable-plastic boxes
- boxes, trays

- plastic crates
- intermediate bulk containers
- pails
- Drums and canisters of all sizes and materials, including flexible formats or pallet wrappings or straps for stabilisation and protection of products put on pallets during transport

The reuse targets for these materials will establish that at least 40% of such packaging is reusable. From 2040, the percentage goes up to 70% but such a target for 2040 is only voluntary. It is still not clear whether the target should apply to all packaging types in aggregate or whether the target has to be reached for each packaging format. Our first interpretation is that the target applies to the sum of reuse percentages in the packaging formats covered.

However, these packaging formats must be 100% reusable in cases of transportation in the following scenarios:

- Transportation within the territory of the European Union between **any of the sites on which the operator performs its activity** and the sites of any other linked enterprise or partner enterprise;
- Delivering products to another economic operator **within the same Member State**;

### What formats are excluded from this obligation?

The following packaging formats are excluded:

- used for the transportation of dangerous goods;
- used for transportation for large-scale machinery, for equipment and commodities for which packaging is customised-designed to fit the individual requirement of the ordering economic operator;
- flexible format, used for transportation, that is in direct contact with food and feed, and food ingredients;
- cardboard boxes.

### Reuse target for beverage sales packaging

From 2030, final distributors (i.e. retailers) must ensure at least 10% of all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in sales packaging are sold in reusable packaging within a system for reuse. From 2040, there is an aspirational target of 40%.

The following products are excluded:

- beverages which are to be considered highly perishable. We understand that beverages having a “use by” expiration date would be exempted while the ones bearing “best before” expiration dates would be included in the reuse target scope.
- milk and milk products and their dairy analogies falling within CN codes 2202 9911 and 2202 9915;
- Wine
- Spiritous beverages

### Is there a general exemption mechanism from reuse obligations?

Member States **may exempt economic operators from reuse obligations for 5 years if:**

- That member state reached 5 percentage points above the targets for recycling of packaging waste per material in 2025 and is expected to reach 5 percentage points above the 2030 recycling targets (Commission will publish a report in 2027);
- That member state is on track to fulfil the waste prevention targets established by the PPWR (the first one in 2030) and can demonstrate to have reached at least 3% waste prevention by 2028.
- The economic operators have adopted a corporate waste prevention and recycling plan.

The European Commission could amend the PPWR through a new legislative proposal and **exempt economic operators due to specific economic constraints in a specific sector, in case of hygiene and food safety issues and exempt specific formats in case of environmental issues.**

**All these three conditions should be fulfilled to reach the exemption.**

### **What can Member States do?**

Member States may set targets for economic operators going beyond those set in the PPWR, as well as targets for products which are not mentioned in the PPWR.

## **6. Waste prevention targets**

Member States must meet the following packaging waste prevention targets:

- 5% by 2030;
- 10% by 2035 and
- 15% by 2040.

Member States have the authority to implement packaging waste prevention measures that surpass these thresholds. The decision on which measures to adopt to meet these targets lies with the Member States. These measures cannot entail banning packaging compliant with the PPWR requirements. However, they could encompass taxes, adjustments to extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, voluntary initiatives, funding mechanisms, or even directives mandating economic operators transition to reuse or refill options for products not covered by current reuse objectives.

Although there are no specific targets for individual materials, Member States are encouraged to reduce the volume of plastic packaging. In practical terms, this implies that Member States may enact measures targeting plastics specifically. By 2032, the Commission will evaluate the necessity of revising the PPWR to include material-specific targets.

It is still unclear what the text means by ‘measures implemented by Member States should not result in a shift toward lighter packaging materials to achieve waste minimisation’. The exact implications of this provision remain unclear, but one possible interpretation is that Member States cannot exclusively rely on light-weighting measures, such as offering EPR incentives for lighter packaging, to achieve waste prevention targets.

## **7. Separate collection**

In addition to the obligation of Member States to ensure systems and infrastructure for separate collection are in place, Member states must also:

- **Ensure packaging complying with design-for-recycling criteria is collected for recycling.** Derogations from separate collections are possible when collecting packaging together (co-mingling) does not affect the capacity of such packaging to be recycled and generates comparable output as that collected through separate collections.
- **Ban incineration and landfill of packaging complying with design-for-recycling criteria** (except waste resulting from subsequent treatment for which recycling is not feasible)
- **Adopt mandatory collection targets at the national level by January 2029**
- Ensure that “**comprehensive collection and sorting infrastructures**” are in place to facilitate high-quality recycling and to ensure the **availability of plastic feedstock for recycling.**

- Member States may voluntarily ensure that packaging that is not separately collected is **sorted before disposal or energy recovery to remove packaging design for recycling.**

**Unfortunately, Member States can postpone the achievement of their targets by 5 years, and present a plan to the Commission that shows how they intend to do so.**

### Annexes – implementation phase

	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032				2033				2034				2035...				2040			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
<b>PPWR Adoption &amp; Publication</b>																																																				
<b>Chemicals</b>																																																				
Chemicals of concern must be minimized																																																				
Commission/ECHA report on presence of substances of concern																																																				
PFA restriction																																																				
Revision of PFA restriction																																																				
Revision of chemicals provisions																																																				
<b>Design for Recycling</b>																																																				
Design for recycling criteria & grades																																																				
Recycled at scale method, gradechain of custody																																																				
Packaging must be grade ABC																																																				
Packaging must be grade A or B (from 2038)																																																				
Eco-modulation based on grades																																																				
Optional review of recycling at scale thresholds																																																				
Review of exempted formats																																																				









