



Position paper revised

## Plastics continue on course towards a circular economy and climate protection

**Berlin/Frankfurt am Main, March 11 2025** – Three years after the publication of their first joint position paper, the German plastics and recycling industry has renewed its joint commitment to a circular economy and climate protection. The representatives of the plastics value chain are working constructively on a comprehensive circular economy for plastics.

Plastics already make a fundamental contribution to climate protection. Promoting the circular economy of plastics will further improve the CO<sub>2</sub> balance of the plastics industry. The positions and proposed measures are to be understood as an appeal to the plastics industry, politicians and the public to take joint responsibility for greater resource conservation and climate protection, to actively participate in the realisation of the circular economy through plastics, and to implement the standards defined by the EU.

### Broad support from leading organisations

This position paper is backed by the associations PlasticsEurope Deutschland, GKV Gesamtverband Kunststoffverarbeitende Industrie (General Association of the Plastics Processing Industry), VDMA Fachverband Kunststoff- und Gummimaschinen (VDMA Association for Plastics and Rubber Machinery), BDE Bundesverband der Deutschen Entsorgungs-, Wasser- und Kreislaufwirtschaft e.V. (Federal Association of the German Waste, Water and Recycling Industry) and the BDSB Bundesverband Sekundärrohstoffe und Entsorgung e.V. (Federal Association for Secondary Raw Materials and Disposal), who collectively represent the key players whose roles within the circular economy complement each other. They all contribute towards closing the plastic cycle efficiently and sustainably.

### Extended catalogue of measures for a more circular economy

The position paper contains detailed proposals for the areas in which changes are needed to provide the necessary impetus for a more circular economy. In addition to recycle-friendly product design, foreign trade in used plastics, or the EU-wide end to their landfilling and the



expansion of disposal and recycling structures, this also includes improving market conditions for the use of recycled materials. This requires a clear political roadmap and the necessary legal framework. In the revised paper, the positions on mechanical and chemical recycling have been sharpened. The wide range of existing and new recycling processes will create the conditions for bringing additional recyclates onto the market, including those of virgin-like quality.

### **Strengthening European market surveillance for products from third countries**

European market surveillance has the task of ensuring the safety of workers and consumers, as well as the competitiveness of European companies. It is therefore another necessary instrument for promoting the circular economy. In view of the increasing density of regulation in Europe however, market surveillance in the member states must function more effectively with regard to imports from third countries and take appropriate action in the event of violations of EU standards in order to avoid distortions of competition.

The associations view their position and proposals as a contribution towards the continuation of the dialogue with other partners from the plastics industry, but also with representatives from politics, science and civil society as key players on the road to a circular economy.

#### **The plastics and recycling industry join forces**

The plastics industry associations, GKV German Association of Plastics Converters, Plastics Europe Deutschland and VDMA Fachverband Kunststoff- und Gummimaschinen as well as the Bundesverband der Deutschen Entsorgungs-, Wasser- und Kreislaufwirtschaft e.V. and the Bundesverband Sekundärrohstoffe und Entsorgung e.V. have joined forces to position themselves in favour of a more circular economy and climate protection. They represent the key players in closing the plastics cycle.

With their joint position in favour of the circular economy and climate protection, the associations of plastics producers, the plastics processing industry and plastics machine construction, the waste disposal industry and plastics recycling are strengthening their cooperation in order to pool their expertise. Together, the associations want to promote an open exchange and dialogue on innovations and sustainable developments in the plastics industry, particularly with regard to the circular economy. With an annual turnover of over 100 billion euros, a high export share and its innovative strength, the plastics industry, with its increasingly sustainable orientation, is a world leader not only in high-tech applications.



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