

ESWET Press Release

Single use plastics must be banned

28.05.2018

Single use plastics such as the ones found in cups for beverages, cutlery or straws should be banned if a robust life cycle assessment does not show that they are the best option for the environment. Such plastics are normally not compatible with the circular economy.

This is why ESWET welcomes the publication of the Commission proposal to reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. In particular, once in force, the legislation will contribute to the reduction of plastics which are not suitable for reuse, recycling or recovery.

This initiative also constitutes a positive step towards the completion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular through Sustainable Development Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production.

In the same spirit of turning our backs to the linearity of consumption patterns, the waste-to-energy industry can help turning waste into valuable resources such as energy and secondary raw materials from bottom ashes. Such recovery operations are particularly relevant when quality recycling proves impracticable, in particular when certain plastics contain substances which should not be accepted in recycled materials.

ESWET hopes that, in the next steps towards the implementation of the Plastics Strategy, and, more generally, towards a truly circular economy, the Commission will take that reality into account.

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