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# Quarterly EU Report



*Logos has completed this report with the help and input of ICOMIA's Environmental and Technical Consultants*

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## Executive Summary

The European Commission continues in its preparatory work for the revision of **Directive 2014/94/EU on the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure (DAFI)**. The Commission is still expected to launch its public consultation on the evaluation of the Directive during the first quarter of 2020. The results the consultations are then expected to feed into Commission Staff Working Document evaluating the Directive, which is provisionally scheduled to be adopted by the end of June 2020. According to initial findings related to the priorities of the new Commission, a revision of the Directive itself is planned too, aiming at fixing national targets for the market development of alternative fuels and their infrastructure.

The Commission is expected to present a Report on the implementation of **Directive (EU) 2016/2284 (NEC Directive)** by early 2020. The Report is likely to pave the way to a review of the Directive itself. While reviewing the Directive, the Commission is expected to devote particular attention to ammonia, assessing both the latest scientific evidence and the updates of the UNECE Guidance Document on Preventing and Abating Ammonia Emissions from Agricultural Sources of 2014 (the 'Ammonia Guidance Document') and the UNECE Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions as last revised in 2014. Moreover, the evaluation of the NEC Directive is under scrutiny also for its coherence with overarching EU Clean Air policy framework of EU Directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC on ambient air quality.

After the publication of a Report on the implementation of its **Circular Economy Strategy**, the co-legislators have started the scrutiny of the text. The Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU announced that the Conclusions are expected to be discussed at an Environment Council meeting in the autumn, possibly as early as October. The work on the **Interface between chemicals, products and waste** has substantially stalled, left to the incoming European Commission. The study on further development of indicators to monitor environmental and health benefits of EU chemical legislation, started on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017, will provide data to the key indicators from the previous Report on the calculation of the benefits of chemicals legislation on human health and the environment focusing on 2014-2018. The study is expected to be completed by December 2019.

The Council managed to make small steps forward on the **Water Re-use** proposal; however further substantial work is required, with the interinstitutional negotiations at a technical level yet to start.

The Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (**Single-use Plastics**) was published in the EU Official Journal on 12<sup>th</sup> June and then entered into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

As already reported, both the European Parliament and the Council are ready to start the interinstitutional negotiations on the **Drinking Water Directive** revision.

On **REACH** and chemical legislation, 11 substances are scheduled to be placed on the Authorisation List. These 11 substances were prioritised for inclusion in Annex XIV to the REACH Regulation by ECHA in its 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Recommendation. More specifically regarding Diisocyanates, Member State experts are expected to discuss the draft Commission Regulation (which is not yet available) restricting diisocyanates under REACH in September and November 2019. The REACH Regulatory Committee is scheduled to discuss the restriction during its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September, as well as during the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019. It should be noted that this timeline is provisional. In this regard, the impact on materials



and products/components and machinery and a series of applications will need to be monitored, as the recent updates will impact coating application processes & quality of paint products, foam (moulders and isolation materials), sealant application and bonding materials and processes.

The European Union has continued its constant work for the achievement of a **sustainable Blue Economy**, establishing – or deepening – international partnerships with Canada and China. The strong commitment pursuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the Sustainable Development Goal 14, remains an overarching objective of both the internal and external EU policy.

To follow up on the finding of the Inception Impact Assessment on the **Machinery Directive** performed in early 2019, the European Commission launched a 12-week Open Public Consultation on 7th June. The consultation, which closed on 30th August, looked into the potential for improvement and simplification of existing provisions. The Commission is currently examining the results of the public consultation. Following this, an impact assessment will also be carried out on the basis of the findings of the evaluation of the Directive. The impact assessment report would accompany any Commission proposal for revised EU legislation on machinery.

The regulatory activities related to **Non-Road Mobile Machinery** have slowed down. At present, the topics that the industry and Member State experts are expected to discuss in late November, during the forthcoming GEME meeting, mostly revolve around the possibility of installation of retrofit emission control devices in engines in NRMM already placed on the market and the introduction of overarching in-service conformity (ISC) checking scheme for NRMM.

While the joint motion for a European Parliament Resolution on the **Commission Communication Clean Planet for All** endorses setting an objective of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, Member States are still struggling in order to find a common agreement. Eight Member States called for ambitious and urgent climate action to be a cornerstone of the European Strategic Agenda 2019-2024. However, as the involvement of numerous different Council compositions is unveiling, the overarching objective of the Commission Communication represent commitments that might prove too difficult for Member States to embark on. The progress of discussions on the EU's decarbonisation strategy will represent contentious points on the agenda points during both the Transport Council (20<sup>th</sup> September) and Energy Council (24<sup>th</sup> September) meetings.

The **European Elections** held in late May have finally brought a new Commission College. Notwithstanding some other procedural steps which are still needed, the team put together by the Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen displays the priorities of her mandate by giving two former Spitzenkandidaten Frans Timmermans (a social democrat) and Margrethe Vestager (a liberal) wide-reaching powers as Executive Vice-Presidents. The Dutchman will be in charge of elaborating a “*Green New Deal*”, which von der Leyen promised to deliver in the 100 first days of her mandate. Margrethe Vestager, for her part, will be in charge of digital affairs whilst still keeping the competition portfolio that she's already held for five years. In other words, the Commission's priorities are fixed around climate action and digital transformation. This is also confirmed by the presence of a young and ambitious Commissioner for the environment and the Oceans, the youngest member of the new Commission and the only Green, the Lithuanian Virginijus Sinkevičius.



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