

EU SURVEY on microplastics 2022

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

Background information

Microplastics are small pieces of less than 5 mm made of synthetic polymers that are becoming the most widespread and persistent contaminant in the environment.

Microplastics are ubiquitous and a cause of growing concern. They can be found in soil, air, water and living organisms. They can accumulate through the food chain and adsorb and transport other organic contaminants and their small size facilitates ingestion by organisms. They can contain a complex mixture of chemicals, which may subsequently be released in the environment and constitute new routes of exposure for organisms. Their ubiquity is amplifying concerns about their negative effects on vulnerable eco-systems (e.g. coral reefs, deep seas, polar regions), biodiversity (all marine life from plankton to large marine mammals) and human health. Moreover, the economic impact to terrestrial and marine ecosystems due to plastics releases in the environment is vast.

The [WHO](#) and [EC Chief Scientific Advisors](#) recommend applying the precautionary principle approaching the microplastic pollution. The European Green Deal, the Circular Economy Action Plan, marine environment legislation and the EU Plastics Strategy announced measures to tackle pollution from microplastics; EU requires that microplastics do not harm marine or coastal environment. The Zero Pollution Action Plan aims to reduce by 30% microplastics released into the environment by 2030. Coordination with these and other relevant initiatives needs to be ensured.

Scope and objective

This public consultation aims to support the European Commission's initiative on [Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce impacts on the environment](#). This initiative focusses on microplastics that are unintentionally released into the environment such as resulting from the use of a product, for instance by fragmentation or abrasion. It focusses on the sources with the highest known releases:

1. from plastic pellets (intermediate materials used for the fabrication of plastic items),
2. from synthetic textiles,
3. from tyre abrasion,
4. from paints, including architectural and marine paints, road markings,
5. from geotextiles (used for civil engineering works such as road construction, coastal erosion prevention, drainage, etc.),
6. from detergent capsules for laundry and dishwashers.

While the initial scope was only on pellets, textiles and tyre abrasion, the impact assessment support study on '[Cost-benefit analysis of measures reducing unintentional releases of microplastics in the environment](#)' and stakeholder consultations called the attention to three additional sources: paints, geotextiles and detergent capsules.

This initiative does not address:

- intentionally added microplastics to products (e.g. cosmetics, detergents, fertilizers coatings): they are subject to a separate initiative under the [REACH Regulation](#);
- microplastics resulting from the fragmentation of macroplastics: they are addressed by existing legislation such as the Single Use Plastics Directive.

This public consultation will help gather data and information to close the gaps in knowledge related to the following:

- sources, pathways and impacts of microplastics on the environment and on human health;
- identification of measures to reduce the release of microplastics in the environment, e.g. labelling, standardisation, voluntary and regulatory measures, behavioural change;
- views on possible reduction measures.

Guidance on the questionnaire

This public consultation has three parts:

- Part I: it includes some introductory questions on your profile
- Part II: no expert knowledge required to reply to this
- Part III (from A to F): expert knowledge required to reply to this
- Part IV: all addressed sources

Please note that you are not obliged to respond to all questions in the questionnaire.

At the end of the questionnaire, you are invited to provide any additional comments and to upload additional information, position papers or policy briefs that express the position or views of yourself or your organisation.

The results of the questionnaire and the accompanying position papers and policy briefs will be published online. Please read the specific privacy statement informing on how the European Commission will deal with personal data and contributions.

Part I.

About you

* Language of my contribution

- ☐ Bulgarian
- ☐ Croatian
- ☐ Czech
- ☐ Danish
- ☐ Dutch
- ☒ English
- ☐ Estonian
- ☐ Finnish
- ☐ French

- ☐ German
- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Hungarian
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Italian
- ☐ Latvian
- ☐ Lithuanian
- ☐ Maltese
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Romanian
- ☐ Slovak
- ☐ Slovenian
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- ☐ Academic/research institution
- ☒ Business association
- ☐ Company/business organisation
- ☐ Consumer organisation
- ☐ EU citizen
- ☐ Environmental organisation
- ☐ Non-EU citizen
- ☐ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ☐ Public authority
- ☐ Trade union
- ☐ Other

* First name

Manca

* Surname

Pocivavsek

* Email (this won't be published)

manca.pocivavsek@sgieurope.org

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

SGI Europe

* Organisation size

- ☒ Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- ☐ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ☐ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ☐ Large (250 or more)

* Select for which of the source(s) below you want to answer specific questions

- ☒ Pellets
- ☒ Tyres
- ☒ Textiles
- ☒ Paints
- ☒ Geotextiles
- ☒ Detergent capsules
- ☐ None

* If you are giving your contribution as a representative of a business, please provide the sector

- ☐ Plastics producer
- ☐ Plastics converter
- ☐ Plastics logistic, transporter, distributor, tank clean station
- ☐ Final plastic product producer
- ☐ Plastics recycler
- ☒ Not applicable

* If you are giving your contribution as a representative of a business, please provide the sector

- ☐ Textile producer
- ☐ Textile seller

- ☐ Washing machines (building and using)
- ☐ Drying machines (building and using)
- ☒ Not applicable

* If you are giving your contribution as a representative of a business, please provide the sector

- ☐ Tyre producer
- ☐ Car / vehicle producer
- ☐ Transport sector
- ☒ Not applicable

* If you are giving your contribution as a representative of a business, please provide the sector

- ☐ Paint producer
- ☐ Paints seller
- ☐ Business using paints
- ☐ Application and cleaning business
- ☒ Not applicable

* If you are giving your contribution as a representative of a business, please provide the sector

- ☐ Producers of the capsule cover
- ☐ Capsule producer
- ☐ Detergents producer
- ☐ Washing and laundry machines (building and using)
- ☒ Not applicable

* If you are giving your contribution as a representative of a business, please provide the sector

- ☐ Geotextile producer
- ☐ User
- ☒ Not applicable

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| ☐ Afghanistan | ☐ Djibouti | ☐ Libya | ☐ Saint Martin |
| ☐ Åland Islands | ☐ Dominica | ☐ Liechtenstein | ☐ Saint Pierre and Miquelon |
| ☐ Albania | ☐ Dominican Republic | ☐ Lithuania | ☐ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| ☐ Algeria | ☐ Ecuador | ☐ Luxembourg | ☐ Samoa |
| ☐ American Samoa | ☐ Egypt | ☐ Macau | ☐ San Marino |
| ☐ Andorra | ☐ El Salvador | ☐ Madagascar | ☐ São Tomé and Príncipe |
| ☐ Angola | ☐ Equatorial Guinea | ☐ Malawi | ☐ Saudi Arabia |
| ☐ Anguilla | ☐ Eritrea | ☐ Malaysia | ☐ Senegal |
| ☐ Antarctica | ☐ Estonia | ☐ Maldives | ☐ Serbia |
| ☐ Antigua and Barbuda | ☐ Eswatini | ☐ Mali | ☐ Seychelles |
| ☐ Argentina | ☐ Ethiopia | ☐ Malta | ☐ Sierra Leone |
| ☐ Armenia | ☐ Falkland Islands | ☐ Marshall Islands | ☐ Singapore |
| ☐ Aruba | ☐ Faroe Islands | ☐ Martinique | ☐ Sint Maarten |
| ☐ Australia | ☐ Fiji | ☐ Mauritania | ☐ Slovakia |
| ☐ Austria | ☐ Finland | ☐ Mauritius | ☐ Slovenia |
| ☐ Azerbaijan | ☐ France | ☐ Mayotte | ☐ Solomon Islands |
| ☐ Bahamas | ☐ French Guiana | ☐ Mexico | ☐ Somalia |
| ☐ Bahrain | ☐ French Polynesia | ☐ Micronesia | ☐ South Africa |
| ☐ Bangladesh | ☐ French Southern and Antarctic Lands | ☐ Moldova | ☐ South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands |
| ☐ Barbados | ☐ Gabon | ☐ Monaco | ☐ South Korea |
| ☐ Belarus | ☐ Georgia | ☐ Mongolia | ☐ South Sudan |
| ☒ Belgium | ☐ Germany | ☐ Montenegro | ☐ Spain |
| ☐ Belize | ☐ Ghana | ☐ Montserrat | ☐ Sri Lanka |

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| ☐ Benin | ☐ Gibraltar | ☐ Morocco | ☐ Sudan |
| ☐ Bermuda | ☐ Greece | ☐ Mozambique | ☐ Suriname |
| ☐ Bhutan | ☐ Greenland | ☐ Myanmar/Burma | ☐ Svalbard and Jan Mayen |
| ☐ Bolivia | ☐ Grenada | ☐ Namibia | ☐ Sweden |
| ☐ Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba | ☐ Guadeloupe | ☐ Nauru | ☐ Switzerland |
| ☐ Bosnia and Herzegovina | ☐ Guam | ☐ Nepal | ☐ Syria |
| ☐ Botswana | ☐ Guatemala | ☐ Netherlands | ☐ Taiwan |
| ☐ Bouvet Island | ☐ Guernsey | ☐ New Caledonia | ☐ Tajikistan |
| ☐ Brazil | ☐ Guinea | ☐ New Zealand | ☐ Tanzania |
| ☐ British Indian Ocean Territory | ☐ Guinea-Bissau | ☐ Nicaragua | ☐ Thailand |
| ☐ British Virgin Islands | ☐ Guyana | ☐ Niger | ☐ The Gambia |
| ☐ Brunei | ☐ Haiti | ☐ Nigeria | ☐ Timor-Leste |
| ☐ Bulgaria | ☐ Heard Island and McDonald Islands | ☐ Niue | ☐ Togo |
| ☐ Burkina Faso | ☐ Honduras | ☐ Norfolk Island | ☐ Tokelau |
| ☐ Burundi | ☐ Hong Kong | ☐ Northern Mariana Islands | ☐ Tonga |
| ☐ Cambodia | ☐ Hungary | ☐ North Korea | ☐ Trinidad and Tobago |
| ☐ Cameroon | ☐ Iceland | ☐ North Macedonia | ☐ Tunisia |
| ☐ Canada | ☐ India | ☐ Norway | ☐ Turkey |
| ☐ Cape Verde | ☐ Indonesia | ☐ Oman | ☐ Turkmenistan |
| ☐ Cayman Islands | ☐ Iran | ☐ Pakistan | ☐ Turks and Caicos Islands |
| ☐ Central African Republic | ☐ Iraq | ☐ Palau | ☐ Tuvalu |
| ☐ Chad | ☐ Ireland | ☐ Palestine | ☐ Uganda |
| ☐ Chile | ☐ Isle of Man | ☐ Panama | ☐ Ukraine |

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ China | ☐ Israel | ☐ Papua New Guinea | ☐ United Arab Emirates |
| ☐ Christmas Island | ☐ Italy | ☐ Paraguay | ☐ United Kingdom |
| ☐ Clipperton | ☐ Jamaica | ☐ Peru | ☐ United States |
| ☐ Cocos (Keeling) Islands | ☐ Japan | ☐ Philippines | ☐ United States Minor Outlying Islands |
| ☐ Colombia | ☐ Jersey | ☐ Pitcairn Islands | ☐ Uruguay |
| ☐ Comoros | ☐ Jordan | ☐ Poland | ☐ US Virgin Islands |
| ☐ Congo | ☐ Kazakhstan | ☐ Portugal | ☐ Uzbekistan |
| ☐ Cook Islands | ☐ Kenya | ☐ Puerto Rico | ☐ Vanuatu |
| ☐ Costa Rica | ☐ Kiribati | ☐ Qatar | ☐ Vatican City |
| ☐ Côte d'Ivoire | ☐ Kosovo | ☐ Réunion | ☐ Venezuela |
| ☐ Croatia | ☐ Kuwait | ☐ Romania | ☐ Vietnam |
| ☐ Cuba | ☐ Kyrgyzstan | ☐ Russia | ☐ Wallis and Futuna |
| ☐ Curaçao | ☐ Laos | ☐ Rwanda | ☐ Western Sahara |
| ☐ Cyprus | ☐ Latvia | ☐ Saint Barthélemy | ☐ Yemen |
| ☐ Czechia | ☐ Lebanon | ☐ Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha | ☐ Zambia |
| ☐ Democratic Republic of the Congo | ☐ Lesotho | ☐ Saint Kitts and Nevis | ☐ Zimbabwe |
| ☐ Denmark | ☐ Liberia | ☐ Saint Lucia | |

* If you are responding to questions from the perspective of a country other than your country of origin, please indicate it here:

100 character(s) maximum

SGI Europe represents members from all across EU.

* If you are giving your contribution as a civil society organisation or a public administration, please indicate your main area of focus or your area of competence:

100 character(s) maximum

SGI Europe represents members active in the water, waste and energy sectors, amongst others.

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* **Contribution publication privacy settings**

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

☐ **Anonymous**

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

☒ **Public**

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

☒ I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Part II. General public

1) Please indicate to which extent you agree with the following concerns as to microplastic pollution.

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
Microplastics can contain and accumulate hazardous chemicals	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Microplastics are transported over long distance and adsorb and transport other contaminants	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Microplastics are persistent in the environment (they do not biodegrade)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Microplastics harm human health via ingestion and inhalation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Microplastics harm animal health	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Plants assimilate microplastics	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Microplastics harm the economy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

Microplastics not only harm the environment (in particular aquatic environments), moreover they also significantly harm the economy. In agriculture, nutrients contained in sewage sludge could be used as an inexpensive fertiliser, this however is not possible due to the high containment of microplastics. For this reason, the sewage sludge has to be incinerated by sewage treatment plant operators, which is energy-intensive and costly, increasing price for fertilisers.

2) To reduce microplastics pollution, how and at what level should the action be taken?

	Yes	No	I don't know/Not applicable
No action needed	☐	☒	☐
Voluntary measures	☐	☐	☒
Legislation	☒	☐	☐
International action	☒	☐	☐
Other	☒	☐	☐

2.B) Legislation

	Yes	No	I don't know/Not applicable
At local/regional level	☒	☐	☐
At Member State level	☒	☐	☐
At EU level	☒	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

SGI Europe calls for a clear prioritization of the prevention of microplastic inputs than reduction. In order to achieve the goal of an environment that is as unpolluted as possible, coordinated and comprehensible efforts are required from all parties involved. These include legislators, manufacturers, retailers, consumers and other stakeholders. The life cycle for each product and all relevant substances and substance mixtures must be thought through before they reach the market.

3) To what extent would you agree to buy a product that releases less microplastics, even if it costs more?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Clothing	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Carpets, sofas	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tyres	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paints	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Product that is painted	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Detergent capsules	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part III. Expert section

Part III contains questions for which expert knowledge is required, but all types of respondents are welcome to respond. It includes questions on the sources of microplastics pollution being assessed by the European Commission (pre-production pellets, tyre wear particles, synthetic textiles, paints, geotextiles and detergent capsules) and on the policy measures reducing unintentional release of microplastics.

Part III. A. Pre-production pellets

4) To what extent would you agree with the following weaknesses on how current systems deal with pellets?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Lack of risk assessment of pellet handling activities by companies	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of reporting of estimated pellets releases to the environment	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Unnecessary handling or improper handling protocols by companies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Improper training of workers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Improper sealing of transport containers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Improper storage protocols	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improper transferring protocols	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of independent auditing	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Prevention equipment too expensive	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Lack of economic incentives for companies to address pellet losses	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

5) To what extent would you agree with the following non-regulatory measures improving voluntary schemes?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Industry to prioritise preventive measures	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clearer public reporting, transparency and tracking of progress	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Independent auditing	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Industry to create a remediation fund to finance the cleaning of spills	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Multi stakeholders' governance	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

6) To what extent would you agree with the following regulatory measures for pellet loss prevention?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
EU legislation setting up a comprehensive system for pellet handling companies	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
International approaches, including for shipping (e.g. loss of containers)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extended producer responsibility	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

Part III. B. Tyre wear Particles

7) To what extent would you agree with the following measures to reduce microplastic emissions from tyres?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
Tyre design in order to reduce abrasion	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Legal limit on tyre abrasion	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Labelling of tyres in terms of abrasion	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requirements on road infrastructure to reduce abrasion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Improve capture and treat road run-off water	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve road cleaning in high emission hotspots	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Higher fees in Extended Producer Responsibility for less performing tyres	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Artificial intelligence and advanced driver assistance systems in vehicles to reduce abrasion	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

Part III. C. Synthetic textiles

8) During which phase of the life-cycle, microplastics emissions from textiles are the most significant?

	Very significant	Somewhat significant	Very little significant	Completely Insignificant	I don't know/Not applicable
Manufacturing of synthetic fibres, thread, yarn, other raw material for garment production	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Garment production	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pre-wash cycles after production	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wear	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use phase washing cycles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use phase drying cycles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
End of life	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

9) To what extent would you agree with the following measures to reduce microplastic emissions specifically from clothing, carpets, fabrics for furniture and similar.

A) During design or production phase

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Product design requirements	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Restriction of all synthetic fibres for certain applications	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Restriction of synthetic fibres and fabrics with high releases of microplastics	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Emission limit during production	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Emission limit for textile placed on the EU market	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mandatory prewashing before placing on the market	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Specific waste water treatment in production plants	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

9.B) During use phase

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
Consumer awareness on microplastics releases e.g. labelling, washing instructions, best practices	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Filter (or other absorbing devices) in washing machines	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Regulate microplastics releases from professional laundries	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

9.C) Transversal policies

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Incentivising sustainable textile practices (buying consciously, reducing, sharing, repairing, buying second-hand etc.)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Include aspects of microplastics in EU ecolabel and Green Public Procurement	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extended producer responsibility	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Develop a database of microplastics release measurements for yarn, fabric, washing condition, fabric age	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

Part III. D. Paints

10) During which phase of the life-cycle, microplastics emissions from paints are the most significant?

	Very significant	Somewhat significant	Very little significant	Completely insignificant	I don't know/Not applicable
Initial spray painting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
End of life of painted goods	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

10.A) Wear and tear of paints from:

	Very significant	Somewhat significant	Very little significant	Completely insignificant	I don't know/Not applicable
Boats and ships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cars	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Infrastructures	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Buildings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Roads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

10.B) Maintenance of:

	Very significant	Somewhat significant	Very little significant	Completely insignificant	I don't know/Not applicable
Boats and ships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cars	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Infrastructures	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Buildings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Roads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

11) How much do you agree with the following measures to reduce microplastic pollution due to paints, depending on the application?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
Promotion of alternative solutions without paints	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Awareness raising to reduce paint bought but not used	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Regulate the share of plastic content in paint	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increase share of biodegradable plastic in paint	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increase application yield (more brush and airless spray to reduce loss at application)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increase life time of paint	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increase of preventive and localised maintenance	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use technologies increasing dust recover, e.g. vacuum blasting methods	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Capture of scrapped road marking (when renovated)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Capture and treat road run-off water	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Include aspects of microplastics in EU ecolabel and Green Public Procurement	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Better regulation on dust protection and capture for key industries	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cleaning of shipyards (dry-docks) prior to re-floating the boats	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Better gypsum waste management in construction and demolition waste with paint	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other						
-------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

Part III. E. Geotextiles

12) How much do you agree with the following measures to reduce microplastic pollution from geotextiles?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Regulate the type of polymer or fibres used	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Regulate the range of applications in which geotextiles can be used	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Promote alternative solutions not using geotextiles	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Promote environmentally friendly materials	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Set limits for microplastics emissions by application	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

13) How much do you agree with the following statements related to the applications of geotextiles?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Non-woven geotextiles can be used to protect coasts from erosion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Woven geotextiles can be used to protect coasts from erosion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Non-woven geotextiles can be used to build roads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Woven geotextiles can be used to build roads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geotextiles made with natural fibres can be used to protect coasts from erosion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geotextiles made with natural fibres can be used to build roads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There are no alternatives to geotextiles for drainage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part III. F. Detergent laundry and automatic dishwasher capsules

Some of these capsules have a plastic shell around the detergent that consists of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), a synthetic polymer, intended to dissolve in water, but that may not fully biodegrade, leaving microplastics in the environment. The [Detergents Regulation](#), currently under revision, already regulates certain aspects of biodegradability of these capsules.

14) Please provide any information regarding this shell and its biodegradability in waste water and its treatment, including possible releases of microplastics.

2500 character(s) maximum

15) If there would be sufficient evidence about the microplastics emissions of detergent capsules, to which extent would you agree with the following measures?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Monitoring of PVA in waste water treatment plants	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Establish a protocol to assess the biodegradability of dissolvable capsule shells in real life conditions	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve waste water treatment plants	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Restrict non-biodegradable water-soluble shells for capsules	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extended Producer Responsibility	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Consumers awareness raising, e.g. labelling	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Incentivise the use of alternative, biodegradable materials	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

With regard to a possible improvement of wastewater treatment plants, prevention should instead take place at the source in the sense of the precautionary and polluter-pays principle; moreover, the technical possibilities that do not involve a significant additional energy burden are limited.

Part IV. All addressed sources: pellets, synthetic textiles, tyres, geotextiles, detergent capsules and paints

16) How much do you agree with the following measures to reduce microplastic pollution in general?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
Common system to monitor and report microplastics releases along the life cycle	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Specific waste water treatments in urban waste water treatment plants	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Specific waste water treatments in recycling plants	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
International agreement	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

17) Please provide any additional information regarding microplastics and the reduction of emissions, in particular for paints, geotextiles and detergent capsules?

2500 character(s) maximum

The pollution of rainwater by microplastics from paints is critical. The use of rainwater is essential for climate change to sustainably manage groundwater and use it for urban irrigation and cooling. Use of the rainwater in the sense of the sponge city would require the removal of microplastic from the rainwater necessary, leading to hardly bearable financial costs.

Clean water and an intact water cycle are existential foundations for a sustainable "economy" and prosperity. This can only be achieved by stopping the input of microplastics into the water cycle and the environment at the source.

18) Please provide any information if a significant fraction of the release might be in form of very fine particles (smaller than 1 micron, also called nanoplastics), either in general, either for one of the specific sources, and which consequences that might have on possible measures?

2500 character(s) maximum

Contact

ENV-B01-ARES@ec.europa.eu