

Environmental Omnibus Package

On 10 December 2025, the Commission [published](#) its Environmental Omnibus Package. The Communication identifies several areas where the Commission believes simplification can reduce delays, increase predictability, and address concerns raised by industry and Member States (MS). The Commission estimates annual cost savings of around EUR 1 billion. Additional gains from accelerated environmental assessments are expected to support projects worth at least EUR 30 billion per year.

The elements of the Package are as follows:

- a [Communication](#) on “Simplifying for sustainable competitiveness”;
- a [proposal for a regulation](#) amending the **Battery Regulation** (2023/1542) and **Industrial Emissions Portal** (2024/1244);
- a [proposal for a new regulation](#) and a [proposal for a new directive](#) suspending the application of the rules on the appointment of an authorised representative for extended producer responsibility for the following legislation: (**Batteries Regulation** (2023/1542), **Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)** (2025/40), **Waste Framework Directive** (2008/98/EC), **Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)** (2012/19/EU) and **Single Use Plastics Directive (SUPD)** (2019/904)).
- a [proposal for a regulation](#) on speeding-up environmental assessments;
- a [proposal for a Directive](#) on amending the **INSPIRE Directive** (2007/2)
- and a [proposal for a Directive](#) on amending the **Waste Framework Directive** (2008/98/EC); **Industrial Emissions Directive** (IED) (2024/1785); and **Directive on medium combustion plants emissions** (2015/2193).

Executive summary of proposals

The Omnibus introduces targeted amendments across the following key policy areas for Cefic:

- **Industrial Emissions Directive & Permitting** - changes to EMS requirements, transformation plans, transposition rules, and technical alignment with related emissions legislation.
- **Environmental assessments** – a new regulation which introduces measures to accelerate and streamline Environmental Impact Assessment and SEA procedures.
- **Waste Framework Directive & EPR** –changes to SCIP reporting, EPR obligations, authorized representatives requirements, and reporting harmonization.
- **Batteries Regulation** –changes to producer definitions, labelling requirements, removability rules and reporting provisions.

Other areas of relevance include:

- **Water Framework Directive** – announces forthcoming simplification, guidance on permitting, and alignment of monitoring and reporting cycles.
- **SUPD**: Evaluation in 2027 with consultations on simplification.
- **Nature Restoration Law**: increased support for MS in preparing National Restoration Plans.
- **INSPIRE**: removes outdated specifications, data-sharing conditions, & EU geo-portal requirement.
- **Waste Shipment Regulation**: Commission exploring green-listing of non-hazardous waste and solutions for restricted exports of mixed municipal waste.
- **PPWR**: upcoming guidance (PFAS testing, dates, labelling, reuse targets); draft delegated act to exempt pallet wrappings/straps from 100% reuse target; reporting simplification planned.

Detailed overview of proposals

Industrial Emissions Directive and Permitting procedures

The Omnibus introduces several changes to the **Environmental Management Systems (EMS)** and **transformation plans** under the IED, including:

- For **Article 14a**:
 - EMS can be prepared at company level within the same Member State (MS). The obligation for the operators to implement an EMS by 2027 to be postponed to 2030.
 - EMS content is simplified by deleting requirements for a chemicals inventory, risk assessment of the impact of the hazardous substances present or emitted from the installation and the analysis of the possibilities for substituting them.
 - The Commission's request to adopt an implementing act on EMS information for publication is removed. MS must assess which EMS elements should be made public, with confidential information still subject to redaction.
 - The obligation for independent audit will be repealed as existing systems (EMAS, ISO 14001) already address auditing needs.
- The requirement to prepare indicative transformation plans to be repealed (**Article 27d**). Clarifications are added regarding the transposition period of the revised IED (**Article 82**).
- A small amendment to **Annex I** to improve consistency between industrial emissions legislation and the EU's Emissions Trading System, with further amendments in Annex V of the IED.
- A specific change is proposed for the Medium Combustion Plant Directive, which allow MS to exempt certain existing or new medium combustion plants used only occasionally as back-up generators during emergency situations from compliance with relevant emission limit values.

Regulation on speeding-up environmental assessments

One of the Omnibus components is a new regulation which proposes measures to accelerate and streamline environmental assessments related to planning and permit-granting processes. These include:

- **Clarification of when project changes require an environmental impact assessment:** Competent authorities must screen project modifications or extensions to determine whether they are likely to have significant environmental effects. The environmental assessment is required only where changes involve major works posing risks similar to or greater than those posed by the original project.
- **Defines maximum timeframes for impact assessment** under the Environment Impact Assessment and SEA Directives, responding to the generalised requested for accelerated environmental assessments (**Art 7**).
- MS must **designate an administrative contact point administrative** to coordinate all environmental assessments within the permit-granting process.
- All information for environmental assessments and screening may be submitted electronically in a centralised manner, with reports, decisions, data being made publicly accessible.
- MS should endeavour to waive administrative charges and fees for SMEs undergoing environmental assessments.

Industrial Emissions Portal Regulation

The Omnibus proposes to exempt livestock and aquaculture operators from reporting water, energy and materials use. **Article 6(9)** is replaced to reflect this exemption and MS may choose to quantify deliberate releases on behalf of these operators.

No changes are introduced to reporting obligations for manufacturing operators.

Water Framework Directive

- As announced in the ReSourceEU Action Plan, the Commission will **review and revise the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Q2 2026**, building on stakeholders' input and focusing on simplification, addressing bottlenecks, promoting circularity and access to critical raw materials.
- **In Q1 2026, Commission guidance** will clarify permitting issues. Ongoing dialogues with MS aim to improve implementation and may identify additional simplification needs, including reducing reporting burden and aligning monitoring and reporting cycles across the water acquis.
- Implementation of relevant WFD will be **stress-tested in 2026**, including the recently agreed exemptions to the non-deterioration principle. The Commission will intensify stakeholders and MS dialogue, keeping in mind the objectives of the Resource EU Action Plan.
- Intention to improve coherence across EU freshwater acquis by reducing reporting requirements and improving data management and governance with the Regional Seas Conventions.
- The Communication announces that these actions are planned for 2026, whilst the legislative process on new environmental quality standards for surface and groundwater is still ongoing. The compromise text is expected to be adopted in the EP plenary on 25 March 2026, followed by Council adoption. The Communication does not specify which WFD articles will be affected.

Waste Framework Directive & EPR

- It is proposed to **repeal the obligation to report SCIP-related data in the Waste Framework Directive**. EU chemicals legislation, in particular the One Substance One Assessment package as well as the digital product passport (DPP) will progressively fulfil the envisaged role of the database. When designing the DPP for products, the Commission will include data about substances of very high concern in its scope. The Commission also reiterates that it will explore simplification possibilities when preparing its targeted revision of REACH.
- The EC will prepare a proposal for a **comprehensive reform of the extended producer responsibility (EPR) system in 2026**, which will be adopted via ordinary legislative procedure. In addition, as a preliminary burden-reduction measure, the provisions (including the Waste Framework Directive, but also the Batteries Regulation, PPWR, WEEE Directive and SUPD) which make the **appointment of an authorised representative for EPR mandatory are proposed for suspension until 1 January 2035**.
- Additional proposed changes aim to harmonise frequency of EPR reporting across legislation to reduce administrative burden. The proposal also deletes the requirement for the Commission to adopt an implementing act establishing indicators for monitoring waste prevention measures, due to a lack of mandatory application requirements.

- The **Circular Economy Act, expected in Q3 2026**, aims to simplify and harmonise rules, reduce costs for cross-border circular activities, and establish a single market for waste and recycled materials. It will also advance reforms to extended producer responsibility schemes, including digitalisation through a one-stop-shop for registration and reporting, and explore broader harmonisation across the EU.

Batteries Regulation

The omnibus proposes changes to clarify producer definitions and labelling requirements specifically for batteries as part of the Batteries Regulation:

- The definition of a producer is expanded to include all operators selling batteries, regardless of selling technique.
- A new definition for "substances of very high concern" is introduced for clearer labelling requirements.
- Exclusion of battery packs from removability and replaceability requirements: light means of transport (LMT) batteries will be required to be removable and replaceable at module level instead of cell level to enhance safety.
- The requirement for the Commission to publish a report on battery waste management data is proposed to be deleted for flexibility.

Other areas of Relevance:

- **Single Use Plastics Directive:** in the Communication, the Commission highlights that it will complete an evaluation in 2027 to determine if it has met its objectives to reduce (marine) plastic pollution and improve circularity, as well as to fully assess the possibility to reduce administrative burden. A specific call for evidence and a public consultation will be launched in the coming weeks.
- **Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation:** to support PPWR implementation, the Commission will publish a guidance notice and FAQs on key issues (PFAS testing, application dates, labelling, reuse targets). A draft delegated act will propose an exemption for pallet wrappings and straps from the 100% reuse target, with further flexibilities considered for other formats facing hygiene or food-safety constraints.
- **Waste Shipment Regulation:** the Commission is exploring green-listing of certain non-hazardous waste streams via delegated acts and solutions to address concerns about restrictions on exporting mixed municipal waste for recovery. Potential solutions to be explored through the Circular Economy Act or other legislative tools.
- **Nature Restoration Law:** the Commission will intensify its support to MS and regional authorities in the preparations of their draft National Restoration Plans. It will assess issues raised in the call for evidence, consider additional measures in secondary legislation and provide support for stakeholders affected by restoration measures.
- **INSPIRE Directive:** the Omnibus proposes updates to modernise and simplify the European Spatial Data Infrastructure (INSPIRE Directive) which supports the sharing of environmental spatial information and public access to data.
