



Microplastics pollution – EU measures to reduce its impact on the environment

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SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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Unintentionally released microplastics

- Tyre and road wear
- Litter
- Textile laundry
- Boat hull paints
- Industrial pellets

Intentionally added microplastics

- Granules from artificial grass
- Cosmetics
- Cleaning and laundry products
- Fertilisers
- Plant protection product
- Seed coatings

EU regulations and initiatives

Microplastics pollution – EU measures to reduce its impact on the environment



Connected to:

- The Green Deal
- The Circular Economy Action Plan
- The Plastics Strategy
- The Chemicals Strategy
- The Zero Pollution Action Plan

Complement to the Reach restriction

[Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce its impact on the environment \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

[Microplastics \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

What do we know of the initiative so far?



Focus on:

- Tyre abrasion
- Textiles – release during the entire life-cycle
- Pre-production pellets – release during the entire life-cycle
- 2/3 of the emissions

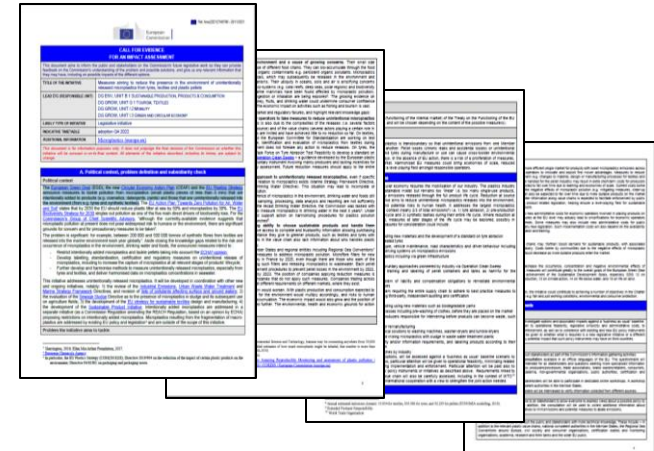
Aim:

- Labelling
- Standardisation
- Certification
- Regulatory measures
- Develop and harmonise methods for measuring MPs
- Deliver harmonised data on concentrations in seawater
- Close scientific gaps related to risk and presence of MPs

Call for evidence

Political context:

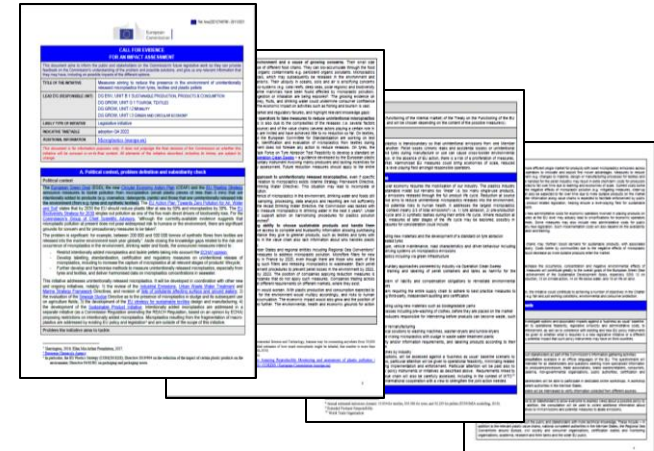
- Biodiversity Strategy – pollution is one of the main drivers behind biodiversity loss
- COMs Group of Scientific Advisors: “Although the currently-available evidence suggests that microplastic pollution at present does not pose widespread risk to humans or the environment, there are significant grounds for concern and for precautionary measures to be taken”.
- Coordination with reviews of the IED, UWWTD, MSFD, SSD and the development of the Textile Strategy and the SPI



Call for evidence

The initiative aims to correct the following market and regulatory failures:

- The absence of market incentives to reduce unintentional microplastics releases in the environment
- The absence of an EU comprehensive approach to unintentionally released microplastics.
- Incomplete information for consumers, making it difficult to choose sustainable products
- Market fragmentation
- Risk of proliferation of measures without an EU initiative



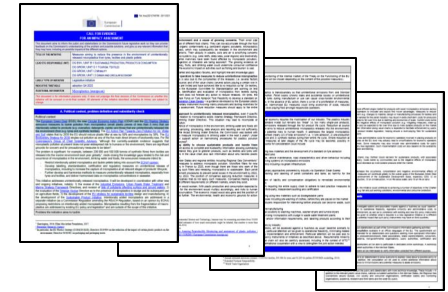
Call for evidence

For tyres:

- Eco-design and development of a standard on tyre abrasion
- Links between MP emissions and vehicle type, maintenance, road characteristics and driver behaviour
- Capture via green infrastructure

For pellets loss:

- Development of existing voluntary approaches e.g. Operation Clean Sweep
- Mandatory staff training and labelling of pellet containers and tanks as “harmful for the environment”
- Introduction of a regulatory system of liability and compensation obligation

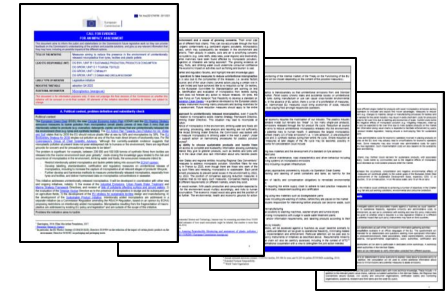


Jungo Heiko, Scanpix

Call for evidence

For synthetic textiles:

- Ecodesign requirements, e.g. new materials such as biodegradable yarn
- Improved manufacturing processes, e.g. pre-washing clothes
- Filters etc for washing machines, washer-dryers and tumble-dryers
- Technologies to avoid mixing MPs with sludge



Åkan Hjort, Johnér

*Operational feasibility? Administrative burdens? Implementation and enforcement?
Coherence with existing and new EU policy?*

Next step?

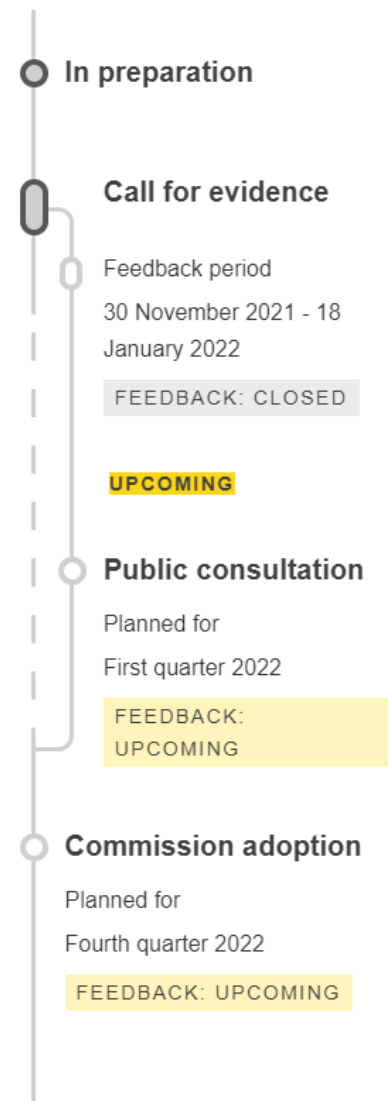
- 12-week online public consultation
- Workshops
- Interviews

- Target audience: relevant plastic value chain, national authorities, the Regional Sea Conventions, consumer organisations, certification bodies, monitoring organisations, **academia, research** and think tanks

Keep a lookout:

[Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce its impact on the environment \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Microplastics \(europa.eu\)](#)



Swedish comments

- Prepared by the Swedish Government Offices
- Input gathered from The Swedish EPA, SwAM, Swedish Chemicals Agency, Swedish Food Agency, The Swedish Transport Administration and The Swedish Transport Agency



- ✓ Welcomes the initiative as a necessary complement to the REACH proposal
- ✓ Additional sources of information
- ✓ Additional sources of MPs
- ✓ Reviews as technology and science progresses
- ✓ Closure of knowledge gaps are needed
- ✓ Standardised and harmonised methods
- ✓ Regretted the delay of the Reach-proposal



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