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# Public consultation on new product priorities under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

#### Introduction

#### 1.1 Background to this consultation

A proposal for a Regulation on <u>Ecodesign for Sustainable Produ</u>cts (ESPR) was adopted by the Commission in March 2022. The ESPR is a framework for setting ecodesign requirements on products to improve their circularity, energy performance and other environmental sustainability aspects. While the ESPR proposal provides a general framework for setting rules, the actual product requirements will be adopted only in a second stage. The Commission should therefore adopt and regularly update a working plan, setting out product priorities for which ecodesign requirements should be laid down.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather your views on what the new product priorities under the ESPR should be.

The questions build on preliminary assessments (see <a href="here">here</a>) carried out by the Commission's <a href="Joint Research Centre">Joint Research Centre</a> (JRC), which has identified several product groups and horizontal measures that <a href="may">may</a> be suitable candidates for prioritisation under the ESPR, once it enters into force. The responses of the public to this questionnaire will help the Commission to further refine this analysis, close information gaps and build consensus on future action under the ESPR.

A key methodological starting point for the JRC's preliminary assessments was **Article 16** of the <u>ESPR proposal</u>, which requires the Commission to prioritise products and horizontal measures based on a set of criteria pertaining in particular to the *potential contribution that could be made to the EU's climate, environmental and energy objectives*, as well as the *potential for improving* the product aspects identified by the proposal from an environmental point of view, *products' market share* and the *distribution of product impacts across the value chain*. Factors such as products' environmental, sustainability and circularity impacts, improvement potential from an environmental sustainability point of view, and as well as existing policy gaps and proportionality of costs related to the improvement potential were therefore amongst the considerations taken into account.

The ESPR proposal builds on the existing <u>Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC</u>, which currently covers energy-related products only. It should be clarified that this consultation focuses on identifying 'new products' that are *not* currently within the scope of Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC. The future ESPR working plan will nevertheless cover both new and energy-related products. (Please note: the Commission will carry out a

separate initiative to prioritise requirements for energy-related products, for which it will be necessary to take the progress in implementing the <u>Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2022-2024</u> into account.)

Given the wide scope of the ESPR, some products identified in this questionnaire will also be subject to separate product-specific or horizontal legislation at EU level. For these products, as a general principle the ESPR will only intervene when the environmental sustainability dimensions of those products cannot be fully and appropriately addressed by other instruments. For example for **chemicals**, ESPR could only take action where needed on aspects *not* dealt with under existing chemicals regulation (e.g. Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006); for **packaging**, it could only act where needed on *targeted aspects* specifically related to a packaged product covered by its measures, leaving revised Packaging and Packaging Waste rules to cover stand-alone packaging; for **construction products**, it could take action if the environmental sustainability dimensions of these products could not be fully and appropriately addressed by the revised Construction Products Regulation (with the exception of energy-related construction products, for which the ESPR will be the main regulatory instrument). As the ecodesign requirements that ESPR will set will help strengthen the EU's general circularity framework, including by improving product recyclability (including of the critical raw materials contained in products), it will also synergise with key pillars of upcoming EU initiatives in the area of **Critical Raw Materials** (CRMs).

The <u>JRC report</u> underpinning this consultation includes a preliminary assessment of product-specific legislation in this respect. However, a more precise assessment of the ecodesign requirements to be potentially laid down under ESPR, and their added-value in comparison with product-specific legislation, will be undertaken in a second stage, following adoption of the ESPR working plan, in the context of the preparatory studies foreseen. Questions on potential measures identified at this stage are therefore preliminary. Before adopting all rules under ESPR, the Commission will undertake thorough impact assessments and further consultations will also be held.

While the ESPR proposal is yet to be adopted by the co-legislators, and is therefore subject to further change, it is hoped that the results of this consultation will be able to feed into preparation of the new product priorities under the ESPR.

#### 1.2 Structure of this questionnaire

You are invited to respond to the questionnaire regardless of your level of expertise. You can save your answers as draft and finish the survey later if necessary. The questionnaire is available in all languages. The questionnaire comprises the following sections:

- 'About you': general information about you, the respondent, to better understand your perspective
- End-use products: including general questions and questions per product group
- Intermediate products: including general questions and questions per product group
- Horizontal measures: including general questions and questions per horizontal measure
- **Final remarks**: allows you to provide final remarks and/or upload a document that you think is relevant to your views

Please note that all sections (with the exception of the 'About you' section) are optional: you can

choose which you wish to complete, depending on your main area(s) of interest.

If you have any questions, please contact ENV-PRODUCT-POLICY@ec.europa.eu

Your opinion matters and we are grateful to you for taking the time to complete this consultation. The results of the consultation will be published on Have your say.

For further information, please see the following background information:

- Consultation webpage
- JRC background work and analysis

\*Language of my contribution

- ESPR proposal
- ESPR impact assessment

Bulgarian

Croatian

Slovenian

## About you

Czech
Danish
Dutch
English
Estonian
Finnish
French
© German
Greek
Hungarian
Irish
Italian
Latvian
Lithuanian
Maltese
Polish
Portuguese
Romanian
Slovak

0	Spanish
	Swedish
¹I am	giving my contribution as
•	Academic/research institution
	Business association
	Company/business
_	Consumer organisation
	EU citizen
_	Environmental organisation
0	Non-EU citizen
0	Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
_	Public authority
0	Trade union
0	Other
Plea	se specify your sector
	Agriculture,
	Ceramic products
_	Chemicals and chemical products
	Computers, electronic and optical products
	Construction
	Cosmetics
	Electrical equipment
	Energy-related products, including ICT and electronics
	Fixtures (e.g. toilets and urinals)
	Food, feed and drink
	Forestry and fishing
	Furniture
	Hygiene products
<b>V</b>	Materials (e.g. metals, plastics, paper)
	Office equipment
	Other [please specify] Packaging
	Retail & wholesale trade
	netan a wholesale hade

Textiles and footwear
Transport equipment
industry stakeholders) Please indicate the type of <u>product</u> your organisation
uces or represents:
Absorbent Hygiene Products
Agricultural products
Aluminium
Bed Mattresses
Ceramic products (including toilets and urinals)
Chemicals
Construction products
Cosmetic Products
Detergents
Energy-related products, including ICT and electronics
Fishing Nets and Gears
Food, feed and drink
Furniture
Glass
Iron and Steel
Lubricants
Non-ferrous metals
Office equipment
Other (please specify)
Packaging
Paints and Varnishes
Paper, Pulp Paper and Boards
Plastic and Polymers
Textiles and Footwear
Toys
Transport equipment
Tyres

(**For industry stakeholders**) Please indicate the level of the market(s) you are active on:

Local market
Regional market
EU market
Non-EU market
Worldwide market
Not applicable
* First name
Alexis
*Surname
Kuhl
*Email (this won't be published)
alexis.kuhl@europanels.org
*Organisation name
255 character(s) maximum
European Panel Federation
*Organisation size
Micro (1 to 9 employees)
Small (10 to 49 employees)
Medium (50 to 249 employees)
Large (250 or more)

#### Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the <u>transparency register</u>. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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### \*Country of origin

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

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

	Afghanistan	0	Djibouti		Libya	0	Saint Martin
	Åland Islands		Dominica		Liechtenstein		Saint Pierre and
							Miquelon
	Albania		Dominican		Lithuania	0	Saint Vincent
			Republic				and the
							Grenadines
	Algeria	0	Ecuador	0	Luxembourg	0	Samoa
0	American Samoa	0	Egypt		Macau	0	San Marino
	Andorra		El Salvador		Madagascar		São Tomé and
							Príncipe
	Angola		Equatorial Guinea	a <sup>©</sup>	Malawi		Saudi Arabia
	Anguilla		Eritrea		Malaysia		Senegal
	Antarctica		Estonia		Maldives		Serbia
	Antigua and		Eswatini		Mali	0	Seychelles
	Barbuda						
	Argentina		Ethiopia		Malta		Sierra Leone
	Armenia		Falkland Islands		Marshall Islands	0	Singapore
	Aruba		Faroe Islands		Martinique	0	Sint Maarten
	Australia		Fiji		Mauritania		Slovakia
	Austria		Finland		Mauritius		Slovenia
	Azerbaijan		France		Mayotte		Solomon Islands
	Bahamas		French Guiana	0	Mexico		Somalia
	Bahrain	0	French Polynesia	0	Micronesia	0	South Africa
0	Bangladesh		French Southern		Moldova		South Georgia
			and Antarctic				and the South
			Lands				Sandwich
							Islands
	Barbados	0	Gabon	0	Monaco	0	South Korea
	Belarus		Georgia		Mongolia		South Sudan
0	Belgium		Germany	0	Montenegro	0	Spain
0	Belize		Ghana		Montserrat	0	Sri Lanka
0	Benin	0	Gibraltar		Morocco	0	Sudan
0	Bermuda		Greece	0	Mozambique	0	Suriname
0	Bhutan		Greenland	0	Myanmar/Burma	0	Svalbard and
							Jan Mayen

0	Bolivia		Grenada		Namibia		Sweden
0	Bonaire Saint Eustatius and	0	Guadeloupe	0	Nauru	©	Switzerland
	Saba						
0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	Guam	0	Nepal	0	Syria
0	Botswana	0	Guatemala	0	Netherlands	0	Taiwan
0	Bouvet Island	0	Guernsey	0	New Caledonia	0	Tajikistan
0	Brazil	0	Guinea	0	New Zealand	0	Tanzania
0	British Indian Ocean Territory	0	Guinea-Bissau	0	Nicaragua	0	Thailand
0	British Virgin Islands	0	Guyana	0	Niger	0	The Gambia
0	Brunei	0	Haiti	0	Nigeria	0	Timor-Leste
0	Bulgaria	0	Heard Island and	0	Niue	0	Togo
	J		McDonald Islands	3			J
0	Burkina Faso	0	Honduras		Norfolk Island	0	Tokelau
0	Burundi		Hong Kong	0	Northern		Tonga
					Mariana Islands		
0	Cambodia		Hungary		North Korea	0	Trinidad and
							Tobago
0	Cameroon	0	Iceland		North Macedonia		Tunisia
0	Canada	0	India		Norway		Türkiye
0	Cape Verde	0	Indonesia	0	Oman	0	Turkmenistan
0	Cayman Islands	0	Iran	0	Pakistan	0	Turks and
							Caicos Islands
0	Central African	0	Iraq	0	Palau		Tuvalu
	Republic						
0	Chad	0	Ireland	0	Palestine	0	Uganda
©	Chile	0	Isle of Man	0	Panama	(iii)	Ukraine
0	China	0	Israel		Papua New	0	United Arab
					Guinea	0	Emirates
	Christmas Island		Italy		Paraguay		United Kingdom
	Clipperton		Jamaica		Peru		United States

0	Cocos (Keeling)	Japan	0	Philippines	0	United States
	Islands					Minor Outlying
						Islands
	Colombia	Jersey		Pitcairn Islands		Uruguay
	Comoros	Jordan	0	Poland	0	US Virgin Islands
0	Congo	Kazakhstan		Portugal	0	Uzbekistan
0	Cook Islands	Kenya		Puerto Rico	0	Vanuatu
0	Costa Rica	Kiribati		Qatar	0	Vatican City
0	Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo		Réunion	0	Venezuela
0	Croatia	Kuwait		Romania	0	Vietnam
0	Cuba	Kyrgyzstan		Russia	0	Wallis and
						Futuna
0	Curaçao	Laos		Rwanda	0	Western Sahara
0	Cyprus	Latvia		Saint Barthélemy		Yemen
0	Czechia	Lebanon		Saint Helena	0	Zambia
				Ascension and		
				Tristan da Cunha		
0	Democratic	Lesotho		Saint Kitts and	0	Zimbabwe
	Republic of the			Nevis		
	Congo					
0	Denmark	Liberia		Saint Lucia		

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. Fo r 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

### A. END-USE PRODUCTS

'End-use products' are products sold directly to consumers and that are ready for their intended use upon sale (i.e. they do not require further [professional] manufacturing and/or assembly processes before being ready for use).

Based on the approach outlined in the main introduction to this questionnaire, the following end-use products have been identified as potentially suitable for first action under the ESPR:

- Textiles and Footwear
- Furniture
- Ceramic products
- Tyres
- Detergents
- Bed Mattresses
- Lubricants
- Paints and Varnishes
- Cosmetic products
- Toys
- Fishing Nets and Gears
- Absorbent Hygiene Products

For each end-use product listed above, the **product scope** taken into account in the preliminary analysis outlined in the main introduction to this questionnaire is set out in the dedicated sections underneath. These scopes remain subject to further change, including based on the results of this consultation.

1. Do you <u>agree</u> with the identification	of the following end-use products for p
otential first action under the ESPR?	

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Textiles and Footwear	•	0	0
Furniture	•	0	0
Ceramic products	0	0	•
Tyres	•	0	0
Detergents	•	0	0
Bed Mattresses	0	0	•
Lubricants	•	0	0
Paints and Varnishes	•	0	0
Cosmetic products	•	0	0
Toys	•	0	0
Fishing Nets and Gears	•	0	0
Absorbent Hygiene Products	•	0	0

2. Are there any <u>othe</u>	<u>r</u> end-use products <u>y</u>	you believe s	should be a	idded to t	this
list?					

10	00 character(s) maximum						

3. The implementation of the ESPR and setting of ecodesign requirements will happen over time. Even among the products finally selected, an order of priority will need to be decided.

Please <u>rate the priority</u> of the below products from 1 to 3, with 1 denoting the lowest importance and 3 the highest:

	1 (low importance)	2 (medium importance)	3 (high importance)		
Textiles and Footwear	0	0	•		
Furniture	0	•	0		
Ceramic products	0	•	0		

Tyres	©	0	•
Detergents	0	0	•
Bed Mattresses	0	•	•
Lubricants	0	0	•
Paints and Varnishes	0	0	•
Cosmetic products	0	0	•
Toys	0	•	0
Fishing Nets and Gears	0	0	•
Absorbent Hygiene Products	0	0	•

#### II. QUESTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL END-USE PRODUCT GROUPS

Please select the end-use product group(s) on which you would like to provide input:

ΔII 12	end-use	product	aroune	identified	1
AII 12	. enu-use	DIOGUCE	uroups	IUGIIIIIGU	1

- Textiles and Footwear
- Furniture
- Ceramic products
- Tyres
- Detergents
- Bed Mattresses
- Lubricants
- Paints and Varnishes
- Cosmetic products
- Toys
- Fishing Nets and Gears
- Absorbent Hygiene Products

#### **FURNITURE**

**Product scope:** Free-standing or built-in units whose primary function is to be used for the storage, placement or hanging of items and/or to provide surfaces where users can rest, sit, eat, study or work, whether for indoor or outdoor use. The scope extends to domestic furniture and contract furniture items for use in domestic or non-domestic environments. Bed frames, legs, bases and headboards are included in the scope.

**Excluded from the scope in preliminary analysis:** bed mattresses, streetlights, railings and fences, ladders, clocks, playground equipment, stand-alone or wall-hung mirrors, electrical conduits, road bollards and building products such as steps, doors, windows, floor coverings and cladding

and building products such as steps, doors, windows, floor coverings and cladding
1. Should certain elements be <u>added</u> to or <u>removed</u> from the above scope
description?
✓ I agree with the product scope description as set out above
Elements should be added
Elements should be removed
2. Furniture products can be very different from one another. In order to be able to set effective requirements under the ESPR, the appropriate level at which to do so needs to be chosen.
At what level do you believe ecodesign requirements for furniture should be laid down?
at most 1 choice(s)
Across all furniture products (i.e. applicable at general level to all products falling within this product group)
At the level of specific sub-groups within this product group (for example, 'free standing' furniture)
Based on the materials used (e.g. 'wooden furniture')
At the level of components (e.g. 'upholstery')
At the level of individual articles (e.g. requirements specifically for 'bed frames
Based on product purpose/functionality (i.e. for 'office furniture')
Other
Please specify
Text of 1 to 100 characters will be accepted
The delegated act must allow for a diversity of relevant requirements.
3. Do you believe that action under the ESPR would contribute to better addressing the environmental sustainability aspects of furniture products, compared to existing EU level legislation/initiatives?               Yes
© No
No opinion

# 4. For furniture, which of the following <u>products aspects</u> do you believe will be the most important to regulate under ESPR?

it most 3 cnoice(s)
Improving durability and reliability
Ease of repair and maintenance
Ease of recycling of materials
Ease of refurbishment, remanufacturing and upgradability
Resource use or resource efficiency
Use or content of recycled materials
Presence of substances of concern
Energy use or energy efficiency
The lifecycle environmental impact, including carbon footprint
Expected generation of waste, such as release of microplastics
Other

### 5. Do you wish to add comments on furniture?

500 character(s) maximum

EPF beives that renewable content / biodegradable materials should be considered as a criterion. The use of renewable materials is an important aspect of the circular economy. Wood and wood-based products represent a large share of the materials used in the furniture industry, wood being a renewable raw material with carbon storage effects.

# **B. INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS**

'Intermediate products' are products placed on the market as final products, but which require further (professional) manufacturing and/or assembly processes before being ready for their end-use.

Based on the approach outlined in the main introduction to this questionnaire, the following intermediate products have been identified as potentially suitable for first action under the ESPR:

- Iron and Steel
- Non-Ferrous Metals
- Aluminium
- Chemicals
- Plastic and Polymers
- Paper, Pulp Paper and Boards
- Glass

For each intermediate product listed above, the product scope taken into account in the preliminary

analysis outlined in the main introduction to this questionnaire is set out in the dedicated sections underneath. These scopes remain subject to further change, including based on the results of this consultation.

#### I. GENERAL QUESTIONS ON INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS

# 1. Do you <u>agree</u> with the identification of the following intermediate products for potential first action under the ESPR?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Iron and Steel	0	•	0
Non-Ferrous Metals	0	•	0
Aluminium	0	•	0
Chemicals	0	•	0
Plastic and Polymers	0	•	0
Pulp Paper and Boards	0	•	0
Glass	0	•	0

# 2. Are there any <u>other</u> intermediate products you believe should be added to this list?

10	00 character(s) maximum

3. The implementation of the ESPR and setting of ecodesign requirements will happen over time. Even among the products finally selected, an order of priority will need to be decided.

# Please <u>rate the priority</u> of the below products from 1 to 3, with 1 denoting the lowest importance and 3 the highest:

	1 (low importance)	2 (medium importance)	3 (high importance)
Iron and Steel	©	0	•
Non-Ferrous Metals	©	•	0
Aluminium	©	0	•
Chemicals	©	•	0
Plastic and Polymers	©	0	•
Pulp Paper and Boards	0	•	0

Glass	0	0	•	

II. QUESTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL INTERMEDIATE PRODUCT GROUPS

Please select the intermediate product group(s) on which you would like to provide input:

All 7 intermediate product groups identified

Iron and Steel

Non-Ferrous Metals

Aluminium

Chemicals

Plastic and Polymers

Paper, Pulp Paper and Boards

Glass

### C. HORIZONTAL MEASURES

The ESPR proposal includes the possibility, when needed, of setting horizontal measures – in other words, cross-cutting measures applicable to two or more product groups sharing common characteristics.

Based on the preliminary analysis described in the main introduction to this questionnaire, five areas for horizontal measures which may be suitable candidates for prioritisation under the ESPR have been identified: Durability, Recyclability, Post-Consumer Recycled Content, Lightweight Design, and Sustainable Sourcing. After assessment, three of these aspects were retained for consultation:

- **Durability**: for the purposes of this consultation, 'durability' covers the aspects of 'reliability', 'reparability', 'reusability' and 'upgradability'.
- Recyclability: for the purposes of this consultation, 'recycling' means recovery operations of any
  kind via which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances, whether for
  the original or other purposes, excluding energy recovery.
- Post-Consumer Recycled Content: for the purposes of this consultation, 'post-consumer recycled content' refers to the amount of post-consumer recycled material that goes into the manufacturing of a new product.

The remaining two (Lightweight Design and Sustainable Sourcing) require further elaboration before drafting of the ESPR working plan, and are therefore not covered by this questionnaire.

The three horizontal measures retained for consideration are accompanied by sets of suggested provisions via which they could be concretely implemented. While this approach would entail alignment of certain

definitions, principles, regulatory formulations and verification procedures, the exact content of the provisions could differ and be adapted, depending on the characteristics of the product categories to which they would apply.

#### I. GENERAL QUESTIONS ON HORIZONTAL MEASURES

# 1. Do you <u>agree</u> with the horizontal measures identified for potential first action under the ESPR?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Durability	0	•	0
Recyclability	•	0	0
Post-Consumer Recycled Content	0	•	0

2. Are there any other horizontal measures	you believe should be added to
this list?	

Yes
163

No

#### II. QUESTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL HORIZONTAL MEASURES

Please select the horizontal measure(s)	on which you would	like to provide input
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- All 3 horizontal measures identified
- Durability
- Recyclability
- Post-Consumer Recycled Content

#### D. FINAL REMARKS

If you wish to add further information or elaborate on your views, please do so here:

1000 character(s) maximum

There are many challenges connected to introducing a horizontal measure on post-consumer recycled content. Several aspects should be considered. It cannot be applicable to all materials in the same way and implications should be assessed on a material basis. It should not have a negative effect on other important ecodesign criteria (e.g. durability, quality, performance or functionality). We need to carefully consider the technical possibility of replacing virgin with recycled material, as well as the concrete availability, quality and safety of recycled materials and maturity and size of the market.

If you wish to upload a supporting document, please do so here:

#### Contact

ENV-PRODUCT-POLICY@ec.europa.eu