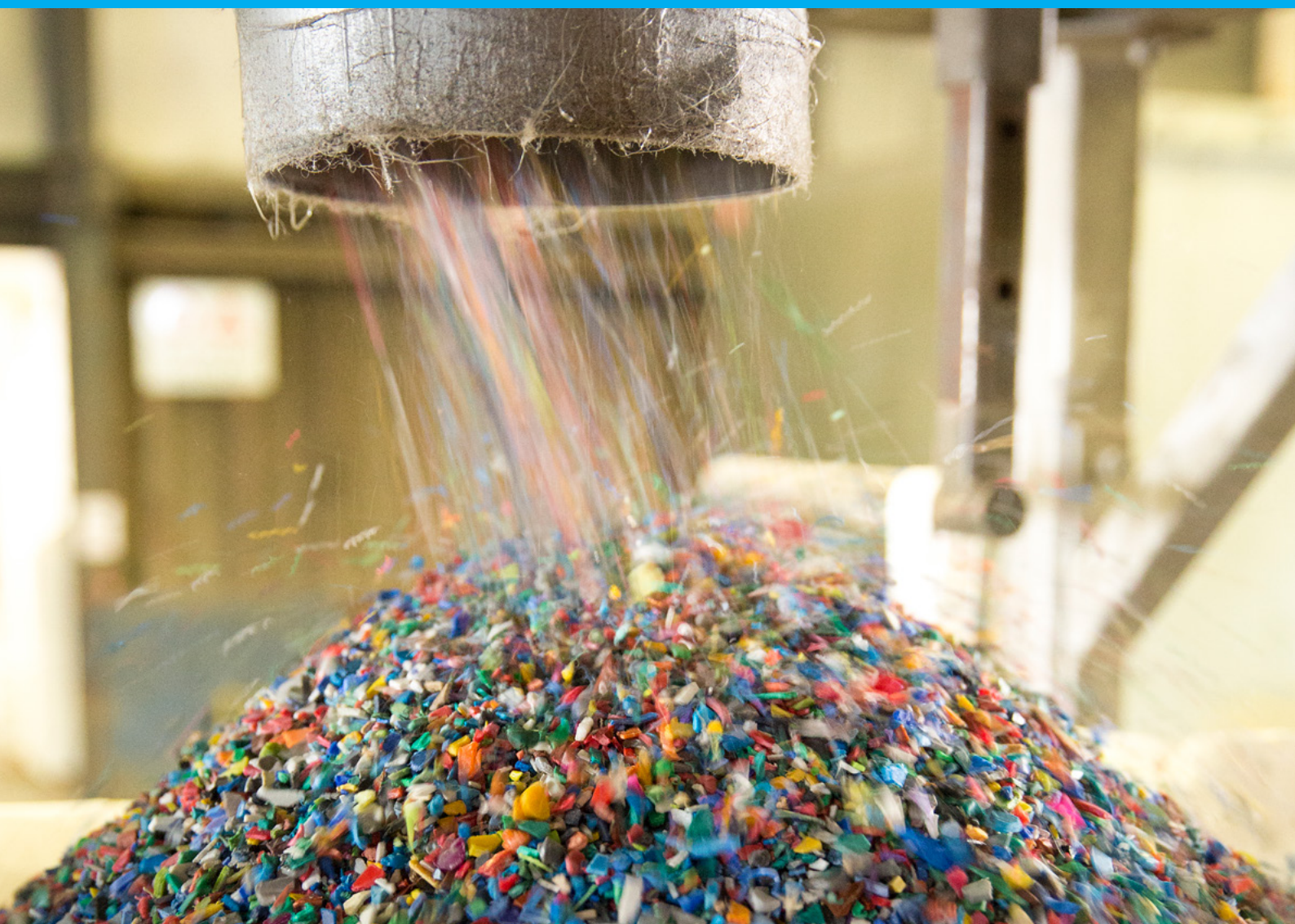


Plastics Pact NL 2019-2025

Frontrunners to do more, with less plastic
in the circular economy

English version



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The Parties

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

1. The State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Management, Ms. S. van Veldhoven-Van der Meer, acting in her capacity as an administrative authority ('the Ministry') of the State of the Netherlands

Plastics-using companies

Companies that use plastics in consumer goods or for packaging, such as producers in the food and beverage industry and the packaging industry, or in their operations, such as retailers, the hospitality industry, logistics providers, caterers and event organisers:

2. Friesland Campina Nederland B.V., represented in this matter by mr. B. Roelofs and ms. M. Schulte
3. Unilever Nederland B.V., represented in this matter by ms. C. Braams
4. Nestlé Nederland B.V., represented in this matter by mr. P.A. Michaud
5. Vrumona B.V., represented in this matter by mr. M. Spits
6. Coca-Cola European Partners Nederland B.V., represented in this matter by mr. J. Wassink
7. Heineken Nederland Commercie, represented in this matter by ms. Z. Schellekens
8. Koninklijke Grolsch N.V., represented in this matter by mr. K.J. van 't Hof
9. Inbev Nederland N.V., represented in this matter by mr. W. Heiwegen
10. Albert Heijn B.V., represented in this matter by ms. M.W.E. van Egmond
11. Jumbo Supermarkten B.V., represented in this matter by ms. C.S. Trügg
12. Lidl Nederland GmbH, represented in this matter by ms. Q.A. de Weerd and mr. M.A. Oosterwijk
13. Aldi Inkoop B.V., represented in this matter by mr. E.J. Verheul
14. Ekoplaza Franchise B.V., represented in this matter by mr. S.H.O. IJzerman
15. C.I.V. SuperUnie¹, represented in this matter by mr. T.J.M. Roozen
16. Plus Retail B.V., represented in this matter by mr. E. Leebeek
17. Vomar Voordeelmarkt B.V., represented in this matter by mr. A.A. van Haren and mr. J.F. Zwanenburg
18. Hema B.V. vertegenwoordigd door dhr. I. Vliegen
19. Sodexo B.V., represented in this matter by ms. M.J. Paalvast
20. ISS Catering Services, represented in this matter by mr. R. Weddepohl
21. Starbucks Coffee Netherlands B.V., represented in this matter by mr. G. van Vugt
22. McDonald's Nederland B.V., represented in this matter by mr. E. Dito
23. NS Stations B.V., represented in this matter by mr. B.A.J. Hendriks
24. Pathé Theatres B.V., represented in this matter by mr. J. Hoedervangers
25. Mojo Concerts B.V., represented in this matter by mr. R.M. Brouwer
26. Air Events, represented in this matter by mr. N. de Geus
27. Apenkooi, represented in this matter by mr. J.G.A. Goossen
28. Stichting Vierdaagsefeesten, represented in this matter by mr. L. Weterings
29. Coöperatie Royal FloraHolland U.A., represented in this matter by mr. Y.N. Pasma
30. Hordijk Spuitgieterverpakkingen b.v., represented in this matter by mr. E. Liebers
31. Hordijk Verpakkingsindustrie Zaandam b.v., represented in this matter by mr. E. Liebers
32. PaCombi Group B.V., represented in this matter by mr. H.B. van Dongen
33. Oerlemans Packaging, represented in this matter by mr. R. Verhagen
34. A TOP B.V., represented in this matter by mr. A. Hoekstra and mr. A. Verbeek
35. Haval Disposables B.V., represented in this matter by mr. E.J.M. van Limpt
36. PolyStyreneLoop B.V., represented in this matter by mr. A.J.M. Janssen
37. Gampet Plastics B.V., operating as Save Plastics, represented in this matter by mr. B. Peters
38. Royal Philips N.V., represented in this matter by mr. H.L. Tepper

Parties 2 to 38 are hereafter jointly referred to as 'Plastics-Using Companies';

¹ Superunie is a purchasing organisation which represents 13 independent retail companies: A-C Holding B.V., Boni Beheer B.V., Boon Food Group Beheer B.V., Coop Retail B.V., Deen Supermarkten B.V., Detailresult Groep N.V., Hoogvliet Super B.V., Jan Linders B.V., B.V. Nettorama Distributie, PLUS Retail B.V., Poiesz Supermarkt B.V., SPAR Holding B.V., Sligro Food Group Nederland B.V.

Plastics-producing companies

Producers of virgin, biobased and recycled plastics in the chemical industry, in the fossil-based and biobased plastics industry and/or in the waste processing and recycling industry:

39. Indorama Ventures Europe B.V., represented in this matter by mr. W.G. Hoenderdaal
40. Total Corbion PLA B.V., represented in this matter by mr. F. de Bie
41. Purac Biochem BV (Corbion), represented in this matter by mr. S.B. Roest
42. Ioniqa Technologies B.V., represented in this matter by mr. T.B. Hooghoudt
43. Cumapol B.V., represented in this matter by mr. M. Brons
44. Morssinkhof Plastics Heerenveen B.V., represented in this matter by mr. E.G.J. Morssinkhof
45. QCP B.V., represented in this matter by mr. W. Droogh
46. Veolia Nederland B.V., represented in this matter by ms. H. McCarville
47. Kunststof Recycling Van Werven B.V., represented in this matter by mr. A.F. van der Giessen
48. 4PET Recycling, represented in this matter by mr. J.L. van de Wiele
49. Wellman International Ltd, operating as Wellman Recycling, represented in this matter by mr. W.N. Christiaans
50. Renewi Nederland B.V., represented in this matter by mr. R. Amoureux
51. SUEZ Recycling & Recovery Netherlands B.V., represented in this matter by mr. W.M. Droogh
52. Attero B.V., represented in this matter by mr. R. Corijn
53. Afvalsturing Friesland N.V., represented in this matter by mr. J.W.G. Vernooij
54. Kunststoffen Sorteert Installatie B.V., represented in this matter by mr. H.J. van de Vijver
55. HVC Group N.V., represented in this matter by mr. D. van Steensel
57. Stichting MVO Nederland, represented in this matter by mr. M. Schuurman
58. A New Zero, represented in this matter by ms. J. Kroon
59. Plastic Whale, represented in this matter by mr. M. Smit
60. National Testcentre Circulaire Plastics (NTCP), represented in this matter ms. M. Brandsma
61. TNO, represented in this matter ms. M.H. Wijngaard
62. CLICK-NL, TKI Topsector Creatieve Industrie (CIRCO), represented in this matter ms. J. Hinfelaar
63. Stichting Polymer Science Park, represented in this matter by ms. M. Kinket-Breshamer
64. Federatie Nederlandse Rubber- en Kunststofindustrie (NRK), represented in this matter by mr. J. Gofers
65. NRK Recycling, represented in this matter by mr. R.H. Bruggen
66. NRK Verpakkingen, represented in this matter by mr. E.A.G. van den Boogerd
67. Vereniging Afvalbedrijven (VA), represented in this matter mr. B. van den Ham
68. BRBS Recycling, represented in this matter by A.F. van der Giessen
69. Coöperatie Green Events Nederland UA, represented in this matter by ms. I.L.T.H. van de Voort
70. ABN-AMRO, represented in this matter mr. R. Kooloos and ms. K. Flores d'Arcais
71. ASN Bank, represented in this matter by mr. A.P. Koornneef.
72. Filigrade Sustainable Watermarks B.V., represented in this matter by mr. J.B. Kerver
73. Obbotec B.V., represented in this matter by mr. W. Van Neerbos and mr. D. Jaspers
74. Stichting Holland Circular Hotspot, represented in this matter by mr. A.F. van der Giessen
75. NS Groep N.V., represented in this matter by mr. B.A.J. Hendriks

Parties 56 to 75 are hereafter jointly referred to as 'Other Parties'.

Parties 1 to 75 are hereafter jointly referred to as 'the Parties'.

Other Parties

Organisations which, due to the nature or their activities, are unable to independently fulfil the monitoring requirements of the Plastics Pact, but which are able and willing to play a significant role in the Plastics Pact network:

56. Stichting Natuur & Milieu, represented in this matter by ms. M. Demmers

Parties that join the Plastics Pact after the time of signature will be listed in appendix 1, which is an integral part of the Plastics Pact. The Ministry will keep the appendix up-to-date and publish any amended versions thereof in the Government Gazette every six months, so that information on which parties endorse the objectives of the Plastics Pact and what role they have in this is publicly available.

Whereas...

Over the past fifty years, the use of plastics worldwide has increased twentyfold, due in part to their versatility. Plastics are strong and can be stiff or flexible, moulded or malleable. They enhance comfort, safety, shelf life, hygiene and energy efficiency. Products made with plastics usually have lower carbon emissions than similar products made using other materials. However, the large-scale use of plastics also has disadvantages. The use of fossil-based primary products and energy puts a lot of pressure on the environment: the production and disposal of plastics cause carbon emissions; improper disposal leads to the spread of litter and microplastics, polluting both land and aquatic ecosystems; and the failure to recycle plastic means a valuable raw material is wasted. In light of this, the Parties intend to reduce the environmental burden of plastics and promote circularity.

The Parties recognise the need for the relevant parties to work together to enhance corporate social responsibility and simplify the plastics production and supply chain at every stage, from design and use, to disposal and repurposing of single-use plastic products and packaging. Cooperation is a prerequisite for making clear agreements in the chain, pooling resources for research and innovation and improving consistency in communications with customers and consumers;

In agreeing this Plastics Pact, the Parties aim to complement statutory requirements and accelerate the transition to a closed plastics loop. Their aim is not only to achieve the quantitative objectives set out in the Plastics Pact, but through combined efforts to go beyond the realm of what is currently conceivable. As frontrunners, the Parties want to do more, with less plastic in the circular economy.

The Parties intend to intervene as high up as possible on the circularity ladder (also known as the R-ladder)², provided the measures taken to achieve the objectives of the Plastics Pact do not compromise the primary purpose of packaging (e.g. improving product safety and shelf life), some of which are governed by legislation. Simplifying the plastics supply chain will improve recyclability and boost recycled plastics applications. To meet remaining demand for primary products, the Parties will strive for the production and use of sustainably produced biobased materials. All this will reduce dependency on virgin fossil-based raw materials and contribute significantly to the Dutch climate commitments as laid down in the Paris Climate Agreement.

The Plastics Pact mainly concerns fast-moving consumer goods, i.e. single-use plastic products and packaging, as well as plastics recycle applications in complementary consumer goods industries (such as furniture, electronics, clothes and toys).

The Ministry may make agreements at a later stage with other industries where plastics have many applications, such as the construction and automotive industries;

The Parties consider that:

- It is necessary and desirable to pool resources in order to address the abovementioned challenges;
- The Plastics Pact allows the Parties to jointly contribute to accelerating the transition to a climate-neutral and circular economy;
- This Plastics Pact distinguishes itself from other initiatives in that the Parties have given the undertaking, in a pre-competitive setting and in cooperation with their partners in the chain, to lead the way in reducing applications of single-use plastic products and packaging and increasing the recycling of plastic products and packaging. To this end they have set concrete and measurable goals for 2025;
- In anticipation of this Plastics Pact, Parties 5 to 10 and 24 to 26 signed a Plastic Promise on October 17th 2018³, in which they jointly and individually pledged to reduce the use of single-use plastic products and increase reuse at festivals and other events;

² The R-ladder (refuse, reduce, redesign, reuse, repair, refurbish, repurpose, recycle, recover), described in J. Cramer, Milieu, Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam 2014.

³ <https://www.plasticpromise.nl>

- This Plastics Pact builds on the transition agendas for plastics and consumer goods set out in the Dutch Raw Materials Agreement⁴, the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy⁵ and the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy,⁶ relevant EU legislation such as the EU directive on single-use plastics,⁷ ‘The New Plastics Economy’⁸ published by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter;⁹
- The Plastics Pact will also contribute concretely towards the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

Agree as follows:

Article 1. Objective

1. The Parties aim to jointly simplify and close the plastics supply chain by marketing plastic products and packaging that are reusable in so far as possible and in any case recyclable, and in doing so to use no more plastics or types of plastics than necessary, to recycle more plastic and use recycled and biobased plastics in new products and packaging.
2. The Parties will undertake activities to ensure that by 2025:
 - a. all single-use plastic products and packaging that the Plastics-Using Companies place on the Dutch market are reusable where possible and appropriate, and are in any case 100% recyclable;
 - b. Each of the Plastics-Using Companies avoids unnecessary use of plastic materials through reduced use, more reuse and/or use of alternative, more sustainable materials, resulting in a 20% reduction in the amount of plastics (in kg) relative to the total amount of single-use products and packaging placed on the market, compared to the reference year (2017)¹⁰. This will in any case reduce the total amount of single-use plastic products and packaging of the Plastics-Using Companies combined;¹¹
 - c. the Plastics-Producing Companies will have created sufficient sorting and recycling capacity in the Netherlands so that at least 70% of all single-use plastic products and packaging (measured by weight) that reach the disposal stage in the Netherlands are recycled to a high standard;
 - d. All single-use plastic products and packaging marketed by Plastic-Using Companies will contain the highest possible percentage of recycled plastics (in kg¹²), with each company achieving an average of at least 35%. Moreover, the plastics used will as much as possible be sustainably produced biobased plastics, in order to reduce the use of virgin fossil-based plastics.

⁴ <https://www.circulaireeconomienederland.nl>

⁵ Communication from the Commission ‘Closing the loop – An EU action plan for the Circular Economy’ (COM(2015) 614).

⁶ Communication from the Commission ‘A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy’ (COM(2018) 28).

⁷ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (COM(2018) 340 final).

⁸ <https://newplasticseconomy.org/projects/global-commitment> (consulted on 14 January 2019).

⁹ <https://g7.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/OceanPlasticsCharter.pdf> (consulted on 14 January 2019).

¹⁰ Plastics-Using Companies that have made significant progress in recent years in reducing the amount of plastics in their products and packaging cannot reasonably be penalised for these results and may therefore use an earlier reference year than 2017 (but no earlier than 2013) in measuring their progress towards the objective, provided they can demonstrate that the amount of virgin fossil-based plastics in their products and packaging was highest in that year. Collectively, the Parties will report on progress compared to the 2017 reference year.

¹¹ Although individual companies may achieve a smaller net reduction in plastics use due to increased turnover or legal obligations.

¹² Compared to the total weight of plastic materials used.

Article 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this Plastics Pact, the following definitions apply:

1. **‘Plastics’** means any material consisting of a polymer within the meaning of Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which can function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified (such as silk and cellulose);
2. **‘Additives’** means substances added to plastic formulations to support certain functions of the end product. Examples include plasticisers, flame retardants and dyes;
3. **‘Biobased plastics’** means plastics made from sustainably produced biomass (e.g. sugar, cellulose or starch) or through a CCU process,¹³ and which have a smaller carbon footprint than comparable fossil-based plastics;
4. **‘Alternative sustainable materials’** means materials with a smaller carbon footprint than the materials currently being used;
5. **‘Single-use plastic products and packaging’** means consumer goods that are made wholly or partly from plastics and that are not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within their life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to the producer for refill or by being reused for the same purpose for which they were conceived;
6. **‘Plastic packaging’** means all plastic-containing materials which can be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of other products, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or the consumer;
7. **‘Reusable product or packaging’** means a product or packaging which has been conceived, designed and placed on the market to accomplish within its lifecycle multiple trips or rotations by being refilled or reused for the same purpose for which it was conceived;
8. **‘Recyclable product or packaging’** means a product or packaging whose component materials can be separated at reasonable cost into pure mono streams, with the lowest possible amount of additives (containing substances of very high concern), so that these component materials can be used again in new products and/or packaging, thus avoiding plastic litter, incineration and landfill¹⁴;
9. **‘Recycling’**¹⁵ means any useful mechanical, physical or chemical processing of plastic waste materials so that these can be reprocessed into products, materials or substances for the original or other purposes. It does not include energy recovery or reprocessing into materials intended for use as packaging filling material; The weight of recycled waste is the weight of the waste materials that remain after having undergone all the necessary preparatory operations to remove non-recyclable residues and ensure a high standard of recycling, including checking and sorting, and which are introduced into the recycling operation in order to be reprocessed into products, materials or substances;
10. **‘Feedstock recycling’** means a form of chemical recycling in which discarded plastics are reduced to pure base materials which are used by a plastics producer as feedstock for mixes in their factory to produce new plastics;
11. **‘Recyclate’** means plastic materials resulting from a mechanical, physical or chemical recycling process, which can be reused in new products and packaging;
12. **‘Recyclate applications’** means the use of plastic materials produced in a mechanical, physical or chemical recycling process in new applications with the highest possible value for the same or a different purpose.

¹³ CCU stands for carbon capture and utilisation.

¹⁴ In order to determine whether something is more or less recyclable, the Recycle Check, developed by the KIDV, recyclability is, Parties can use: <https://afvalfondsverpakkingen.nl/verpakkingen/recyclecheck>

¹⁵ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives.

Article 3. Stronger focus on recyclability in design of products and packaging

Introduction

The Parties acknowledge that in the past plastic products and packaging were not designed with circularity in mind, so that they are often difficult to recycle at the disposal stage. It has also led to the development of many different plastics and the use of different or mixed plastics (and labels) for the same purpose, as well a range of different additives, including substances of very high concern. This in turn results in a low-quality recycle that is suitable for only a few types of new product. In some cases the only options are incineration or landfill. The Parties wish to prevent this where possible in future and will take steps to simplify the use of materials and additives in products and packaging. Circular design (ensuring packaging and resources have a second life) can greatly improve reusability and recyclability. The Ministry is therefore making €3 million available in 2019 as part of its circular economy policy for businesses wanting to take part in CIRCO tracks. This programme encourages businesses to look at their products and packaging with circularity in mind.

Objective

By 2025 all single-use plastic products and packaging that the Plastics-Using Companies place on the Dutch market will be reusable where possible and appropriate and will in any case be 100% recyclable.

Measures and actions

In order to achieve this objective, the Parties will make agreements on their measures and actions in the *design and development stages* of plastic products and packaging.

Article 3.1 Measures and actions by Plastics-Using Companies

1. The Plastics-Using Companies will identify which plastics applications, additives and other disruptive factors such as substances of very high concern in single-use products and packaging currently limit the recyclability of the waste stream.
2. They will review their range of single-use plastic products and packaging and establish the scope for making design adjustments in order to make these products suitable for multiple use and to use fewer different types of plastic materials and additives in their production.
3. In a working group as referred to in article 8, paragraph 4, the Plastics-Using Companies will then discuss which types of plastics and additives are most suitable for which applications. They will then take concrete measures and inform the Steering Group, which will publish an overview of measures taken on the website as referred to in article 8, paragraph 3. The Plastics-Using Companies aim to announce the first measures in late 2019.
4. Where possible, the Plastics-Using Companies will bring their innovations in the areas of reusability and recyclability to the European and international markets, cooperating to this end in trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot.
5. The Plastics-Using Companies are completely free to adapt their range of products as they see fit.

Article 3.2 Measures and actions by Plastics-Producing Companies

Plastics-Producing Companies will conduct research into innovative plastic mono-materials with the right barrier properties to replace plastic products and packaging that are difficult to recycle, taking account of market demand in a timely manner. They will also look at ways of reducing the amount of substances of very high concern. Parties 42 to 49 will actively enter into dialogue with Plastics-Using Companies to promote the recyclability of their plastic products and packaging.

Article 3.3 Measures and actions by the Ministry

1. The Ministry encourages the Plastics-Using Companies to take part in circular design tracks, such as the CIRCO tracks and classes, which provide inspiration for marketing new products and packaging using alternative materials or additives, alternative designs and/or more circular business models.
2. The Ministry encourages internationally operating Plastics-Using Companies to share at international level the knowledge and experience gained in the tracks referred to in paragraph 1, and will support them in spreading knowledge.

3. The Ministry encourages safety by design and will actively support the process of reducing the use of additives containing substances of very high concern, as referred to in article 3.1 paragraph 1, by involving experts in a working group to be set up as referred to in article 8, paragraph 4 on this matter, and by sharing knowledge about tools being used in other parts of the world.¹⁶
4. The Ministry will support the scaling up to international level of Dutch innovations in the areas of circular design of single-use plastic products and packaging through its EU network of member states and institutions and through international networks such as PACE Business Partners, through support to incoming and outgoing trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot and through existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with other countries.

Article 4. Responsible use of plastics

Introduction

The Plastics-Using Companies and Plastics-Producing Companies recognise the need to limit their carbon footprint and reduce the use of fossil-based raw materials by using no more plastics than necessary. This may involve (1) reducing use, (2) increasing reuse and/or (3) replacing plastics with a more sustainable alternative material.¹⁷

Objective

By 2025 each of the Plastics-Using Companies avoids unnecessary use of plastic materials through reduced use, more reuse and/or use of alternative, more sustainable materials, resulting in a 20% reduction in the amount of plastics (in kg) relative to the total amount of single-use products and packaging placed on the market, compared to the reference year (2017)¹⁸. This will in any case reduce the total amount of single-use plastic products and packaging used by the Plastics-Using Companies combined.¹⁹

Measures and actions

In order to achieve this objective, the Parties will make agreements on measures and actions in *the plastics use stage*.

Article 4.1 Measures and actions by Plastics-Using Companies

1. The Plastics-Using Companies will review their range of products, packaging and marketing materials, considering the benefits and necessity of and scope for reuse or substitution of materials, with a view to achieving more efficient use and preventing plastic litter.
2. Based on this review they will take measures in the form of using alternative materials or distribution systems.²⁰ They will inform the Steering Group, which will publish an overview of measures taken on the website.
3. The Plastics-Using Companies aim to review a substantial part of their range²¹ and will take measures based on their findings as soon as possible after that. These measures will make a specific contribution towards achieving the objective set out in this article.

¹⁶ E.g. the OECD Substitution and Alternatives Assessment Toolbox, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Chemicals Ingredients List, the BizNGO Plastics Scorecard and the Swedish Chemical Agency's PRIO tool.

¹⁷ Replacing one material with another is not always a sustainable choice. It is often useful to assess environmental impact through a life cycle analysis.

¹⁸ Plastics-Using Companies that have made significant progress in recent years in reducing the amount of plastics in their products and packaging cannot reasonably be penalised for these results and may therefore use an earlier reference year than 2017 (but no earlier than 2013) in measuring their progress towards the objective, provided they can demonstrate that the amount of virgin fossil-based plastics in their products and packaging was highest in that year. Collectively, the Parties will report on progress compared to the 2017 reference year.

¹⁹ Even though individual companies will be able to realize a net reduction in plastic use due to turnover increase or legal obligations

²⁰ E.g. reusable transport trays, dispensers, packaging-free shelves, reusable coffee cups, net bags for fruit and vegetables etc.

²¹ Parties 11 to 16 mainly have influence on the design of single-use plastic products and packaging for their store-brand products and have much less influence on manufacturer brands.

4. In order to encourage reuse, the Plastics-Using Companies will explore, together with logistics companies, cost-efficient ways of organising the hygienic reuse of their products. The results of the first exploratory studies will be presented to the Steering Group by the end of 2019 for publication on the website.
5. At least Parties 29 to 38 will explore the use of alternative materials and smart packaging, and will make agreements with other Plastics-Using Companies on conducting field trials with these sustainable, alternative materials and smart packaging. The first results will if possible be produced before the end of 2019 and sent to the Steering Group.
6. In 2019 Parties 10 to 28 will develop a strategy to further reduce litter, considering measures relating to design, communication and return schemes that will bring about a lasting change in consumers' disposal behaviour. These Parties will implement the strategy between 2020 and 2025. The results will be presented to the Steering Group, which will ensure that this information is shared on the website.
7. Where possible, the Plastics-Using Companies will bring their innovations in reducing and reusing plastics and using alternative materials to European and international markets, cooperating to this end in incoming and outgoing trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot.

Article 4.2 Measures and actions by Plastics-Producing Companies

1. Parties 50 to 55 will develop new, smart deposit and return schemes by 2020 at the latest and will offer Parties 2 to 38 the opportunity to test these in pilot projects starting in 2021 at the latest. The results will be sent to the Steering Group, which will publish the knowledge and experience gained on the website.
2. Where possible, the Plastics-Producing Companies will bring their innovations in reducing and reusing plastics and using alternative materials to European and international markets, cooperating to this end in incoming and outgoing trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot.

Article 4.3 Measures and actions by the Ministry

1. In the context of its policy on circular procurement and of central government operational management, the Ministry will seek to reduce the use of plastics in catering in all central government buildings.
2. A Circular Catering Vision and Action Plan will be drawn up in 2019 to reduce central government's carbon footprint resulting from plastics use. As part of this, the Ministry will perform a 'Plastic Scan' survey. In 2021 the Ministry will draw up a new category plan on catering containing specific, quantitative objectives. Implementation of the first contract for circular catering at 16 central government locations (housing Rijkswaterstaat and the Central Judicial Collection Agency) is expected to begin in 2019.
3. The Ministry will support the Parties in discouraging throwaway behaviour by consumers in regard to plastic products and packaging and in developing a strategy as referred to in article 4.1, paragraph 6 with the help of its Behavioural Insight Team (BIT).
4. The Ministry will actively share the experiences gained through the actions referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with other ministries and government bodies (through the Socially Responsible Procurement Manifesto (*Manifest MVI*)) and with businesses (through the Green Deal on Circular Procurement 2.0 (*Green Deal Circulair Inkopen 2.0*)).
5. The Ministry will support the scaling up to international level of Dutch innovations in the area of responsible use and reuse of single-use plastic products and packaging through its EU network of member states and institutions and through international networks such as PACE Business Partners, through support to incoming and outgoing trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot and through existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with other countries.

Article 5. More and better sorting and recycling of plastics

Introduction

In the Netherlands around 52% of household plastic packaging is currently collected for recycling. This means that in accordance with the new definitions in the EU Waste Framework Directive an estimated 35% of this type of packaging is recycled. It is vital to substantially increase the Netherlands' sorting and recycling capacity, otherwise it will be impossible to close the plastics loop and achieve the objective set out below in article 6. Plastics-using industries will demand not only high-value recycled materials, but also a sizeable and continuous stream of recyclate for use in new products and packaging. Waste and recycling companies as well as chemical companies are currently investing in strengthening and expanding their sorting and recycling capacity. It is promising that chemical recycling methods enable food grade packaging to be recycled into new

food grade packaging and additives – such as colorants – to be extracted from the plastic materials. Targeted investments will make it possible to significantly expand and improve the quality of recycling, offering a steady flow of plastic recyclate in bulk to plastics-using companies.

Dutch consumers can also contribute to better sorting and recycling by presenting waste for separate collection at home, at work and elsewhere. The Parties can support this by providing clear, consistent information on effective disposal by consumers. The disposal guide (*Weggooiwijzer*)²² is a suitable tool for doing so.

In the Netherlands around 2,000 kt of plastics is sold every year, of which 40-45% is single-use plastic products and packaging. Because they are used so briefly, a similar quantity – 800 to 900 kt – ends up being disposed of each year. This figure does not include the import of discarded plastic products and materials.

The Ministry has set aside €5 million from the general climate budget in 2019 to promote more and better sorting and mechanical/chemical recycling of plastics and consumer goods. To this end, businesses and consortia wishing to invest in innovative sorting and recycling plants will be invited to submit their grant proposals to the Energy Innovation Demonstration scheme (*Demonstratie energie-innovatie*; DEI).²³

Expansion of and innovation in sorting and recycling capacity must not focus exclusively on the Dutch market. Other countries can also benefit from innovations developed in the Netherlands, which may further their transition to a circular economy. Dutch businesses may also benefit from scaling up their innovations to international level as this may help them recoup their investment and/or take the next step in innovation sooner.

Objective

By 2025, the Plastics-Producing Companies will have created sufficient sorting and recycling capacity in the Netherlands so that at least 70% of all single-use plastic products and packaging that reach the disposal stage in the Netherlands are recycled to a high standard.

Measures and actions

In order to achieve this objective, the Parties are making agreements on measures and actions aimed at the *disposal and recycling stages* of the plastics loop.

Article 5.1 Measures and actions by Plastics-Producing Companies

1. Parties 42 to 49 will invest in greater sorting capacity, mechanical and chemical recycling, and research and development in order to improve the quality of and the return on recycling.
2. Parties 50 to 55 will invest in greater plastic sorting capacity and in research and development in order to improve the quality of and the return on sorting, so that by 2025 their sorting systems will separate 95% of plastics into mono streams of recyclate. To support this process, use will be made of existing and new knowledge and testing facilities, including the National Test Centre for Circular Plastics which is due to be opened in 2019.
3. Where possible, the Plastics-Producing Companies will bring their innovations in sorting and mechanical and chemical recycling to European and international markets, cooperating to this end in incoming and outgoing trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot.

Article 5.2 Measures and actions by Plastics-Using Companies

1. Plastics-Using Companies will make agreements with suppliers in their product chain to increase demand for recyclate and make it financially feasible for Plastics-Producing Companies to invest in greater sorting and recycling capacity in the Netherlands.
2. The Plastics-Using Companies will aim to provide clear, consistent information on the correct waste stream for single-use plastic products and packaging after consumption of the product. The disposal guide is a suitable tool for communicating this.

²² www.kidv.nl/6900/weggooiwijzer.html

²³ www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/demonstratie-energie-innovatie

3. Plastics-Using Companies will help make plastic testing centres such as the National Test Centre for Circular Plastics more effective by involving them in any questions and dilemmas relating to the objectives set in articles 3, 4 and 6.
4. Where possible, the Plastics-Producing Companies will bring their innovations in sorting and mechanical and chemical recycling to European and international markets, cooperating to this end in incoming and outgoing trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot.

Article 5.3 Measures and actions by the Ministry

1. The Ministry will draw up an assessment framework for chemical recycling to provide clarity on when the use of certain chemical recycling technologies is appropriate.
2. The Ministry will promote the use of existing and new knowledge and testing facilities, and will encourage the Parties to keep investing in high-quality plastics sorting and recycling.
3. The Ministry will apply the lessons learned from the voluntary agreement on More and Better Recycling ('Convenant Meer en Beter Recycling').²⁴
4. The Ministry invites Plastics-Producing Companies to submit grant proposals to the DEI scheme which is intended to promote investment in the sorting and mechanical/chemical recycling of plastics and consumer goods.
5. The Ministry will support the scaling up to international level of Dutch innovations in the areas of sorting and mechanical and chemical recycling through its EU network of member states and institutions and through international networks such as PACE²⁵, through support to incoming and outgoing trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot and through existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with other countries.

Article 6. Use of recycled and biobased plastics

Introduction

Parties in the chain are dependent on each other. Policy and innovation aimed at one link in the chain can affect parties upstream and downstream. This can stimulate the circular economy but it can also make recycling and reuse more difficult. The challenge is to coordinate innovation and policymaking, so that there is more incentive to reuse packaging and raw materials. At present, very little recycle finds its way into new products. The use of recycle in food-grade plastic products and packaging is hampered by EU food safety legislation. The Parties aim to use more recycle in their products because this will have the greatest environmental gain and because a circular economy is characterised by the lowest possible inputs of primary products. The Parties also recognise the need to add virgin biobased products to the mix. After all, a certain quantity of virgin product will always be needed due to deterioration of the molecular structure and/or because certain quality requirements cannot otherwise be met. In both cases it is important to remove unnecessary legislative obstacles and ensure that research and innovation take place. It is also important to provide certainty with regard to the recycled and biobased content of materials and products in economic transactions between companies.

Objectives

All single-use plastic products and packaging marketed by Plastic-Using Companies will contain the highest possible percentage of recycled plastics (in kg²⁶), with each company achieving an average of at least 35%. Moreover, the plastics used will as much as possible be sustainably produced biobased plastics, in order to reduce the use of virgin fossil-based plastics.

Measures and actions

In order to achieve these objectives, the Parties are making agreements on measures and actions to **close the plastics loop**, aimed at the stage in which plastic recycle and biobased plastics are applied in new products.

²⁴ See: www.meerenbeterrecyclen.nl

²⁵ Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, <https://www.acceleratecirculareconomy.org/>

²⁶ Expressed as a percentage of the total weight of all plastic materials used.

Article 6.1 Measures and actions by Plastics-Using Companies

1. Each year, the Plastics-Using Companies will draw up and implement a plan that states what percentage of recycled and biobased plastics they will use in their single-use products and packaging, for each product category. The plan will also describe goals and measures aimed at limiting the use of substances of very high concern (additives).
2. If the recycled and biobased plastics prove suitable, these parties pledge to demand an increasing volume of such plastics in these product categories between 2020 and 2025.
3. Any relevant but not competitively sensitive information on this will be shared with the Steering Group, so that it can publish an overview on the website www.circulairondernemen.nl.
4. The Plastics-Using Companies will inform the Plastics-Producing Companies of the crucial specifications that recycled and biobased plastics must meet in order to increase cost-efficient use of these plastics in applications as referred to in the first paragraph.
5. The Plastics-Using Companies want to prevent unfounded claims regarding the percentage of recycled and/or biobased material in plastic products and packaging, and will therefore work with Plastics-Producing Companies in 2019-2020 to develop and reach agreement on a framework (possibly with certification) to validate suppliers' claims concerning plastics composition.

Article 6.2 Measures and actions by Plastics-Producing Companies

1. Parties 39 to 49 will develop new production and recycling technologies and invest in production and recycling capacity to recycle discarded plastics to a high standard and to produce biobased plastics with the required barrier properties, so that recycled and biobased plastics can be used effectively in new single-use products and packaging.
2. Parties 40 to 41, with steering and support from the Plastics Transition Team, will develop a Bioplastics Action Plan within the framework of the Circular Economy Implementation Programme. This plan will describe the preconditions for and possible approaches to scaling up the production of promising, sustainably produced biobased plastics.²⁷
3. Parties 50 to 55 will develop new sorting technologies and aim for clean input into their sorting process by making agreements with their suppliers in such a way that it is possible for other Plastics-Producing Companies to produce high-value recycle from the sorted materials.
4. Where possible, the Plastics-Producing Companies will bring their innovations in sorting and mechanical and chemical recycling to European and international markets, cooperating to this end in incoming and outgoing trade missions in the context of Holland Circular Hotspot.

Article 6.3 Measures and actions by central government

1. The Ministry will explore the scope for proposing amendments to European food safety legislation such that risk assessments for food safety and public health look at the recycled output rather than the input materials for recycling. If there is scope for amending EU legislation so as to allow chemical recycling of food-grade plastics into new food-grade plastics without comprising food safety and public health, the Ministry will work to ensure this legislation is amended accordingly.
2. Besides developing legislation promoting circular innovation, the Ministry will also seek adjustments to any national or European legislation that raises obstacles in this field. The Ministry will of course ensure that any amendments made do not undermine the original objective of the legislation in question (such as environmental protection) and will report annually to the Plastics Pact Steering Group on its efforts and results.
3. The Ministry will facilitate the development of the Bioplastics Action Plan via the Plastics Transition Team²⁸ in order to boost applications of sustainably produced biobased plastics.

²⁷ The Circular Economy Implementation Programme (in Dutch) can be downloaded at www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2019/02/08/aanbieding-uitvoeringsprogramma-circulaire-economie-2019-2023.

²⁸ The Circular Economy Implementation Programme (in Dutch) can be downloaded at www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2019/02/08/aanbieding-uitvoeringsprogramma-circulaire-economie-2019-2023.

Article 7. Role of Other Parties

Introduction

With regard to all the activities described in articles 3 to 6 it is important that Other Parties participate proactively in the process alongside the Ministry, the Plastics-Using Companies and the Plastics-Producing Companies, to achieve the objectives set out in article 1, paragraphs 1 and 2 and to support the network of Parties, referred to as the 'Community of Practice'. This includes civil society organisations whose broad, critical stance can help parties focus on their approach and achieve the objectives, and regional and local authorities that are willing to play a coordinating role in connecting regional parties and activities. Trade associations can also play a role in disseminating knowledge and experience with respect to, for example, innovations in technology and logistics, while technology suppliers can provide innovative technologies that help achieve the objectives. Knowledge institutions can contribute by gathering relevant data and developing and sharing knowledge with the parties to the Plastics Pact.

Objectives

The Other Parties will support the Plastics Pact in a constructive manner and endorse the objectives set out in article 1, paragraphs 1 and 2. They recognise the importance of an effective exchange of knowledge and experience and acknowledge that the signatories to the Plastics Pact do not stand for the entire sector but are participating because they wish to step up their objectives.

Measures and actions

The Other Parties are in principle concerned with all the stages of the plastics loop.

Article 7.1

Depending on their role, position and expertise, the Other Parties will participate in working groups, as referred to in article 8, paragraph 4, and will also hold meetings in order to facilitate the successful implementation of the Plastics Pact.

Governance

Article 8. Sharing knowledge, experience and dilemmas

1. The Parties will inform their own networks about the Plastics Pact, the agreed measures and actions and the results achieved.
2. The Ministry will support this exchange by organising one or more annual meetings, where possible using the facilities offered by the other Parties, such as meeting venues and other facilities.
3. The Ministry will ensure optimum communication by providing for a shared environment on the website www.circulairondernemen.nl.
4. Depending on the issues at hand, the Parties will set up working groups with a view to discussing dilemmas, promoting cooperation in the production and supply chain, identifying legal and market-related barriers and getting ideas for follow-up actions in relation to, for example, circular design, simplifying the use of different plastics, reducing additives and substances of very high concern, reuse and logistics, influencing consumer disposal behaviour and recycle applications.
5. The Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging (KIDV) is willing to provide support to these working groups if so requested.
6. Those Parties that are private bodies will in any case ensure that a legal expert in competition law monitors the working groups and takes care that specific actions do not conflict with competition law.
7. The working groups as referred to in article 7, paragraph 4 will report to the Steering Group, which will publish the outcomes on the website, as referred to in paragraph 3.
8. The Parties will organise contests and other challenges to stimulate innovation.

Article 9. Measuring progress

1. The Parties agree to make all relevant data – baseline measurement and subsequent measurements – required for gaining insight into achievement of the objectives, available to the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) via the secretariat. As soon as possible after signature but in any event no later than 1 May 2019, RIVM will inform the Steering Group referred to in article 10 which indicators are relevant for measuring progress. The Steering Group will then inform the Parties of the data to be provided. If necessary, the annual progress report will include a proposal on revising the indicators for which data is collected.

2. The Plastics-Using Companies will report on progress based on the following indicators:

Design stage, relating to the objective in article 1, paragraph 2 (a):

- a. Recyclable plastic products and packaging, per company (by number of products and as a percentage of the total product and packaging portfolio).
- b. Single-use plastic products and packaging that are now fit for reuse, per company (by number of products and as a percentage of the total product and packaging portfolio).

Use stage, relating to the objective in article 1, paragraph 2 (b):

- c. Use of single-use plastic products and packaging, per company (in kg and as a percentage of the total amount of plastic products and packaging used).
- d. Reuse of single-use plastic products and packaging, per company (in kg and as a percentage of the total amount of plastic products and packaging used).
- e. Quantity of plastic waste still being produced, per company.

Closing the loop (use of recycled and biobased plastics), relating to the objective in article 1, paragraph 2 (d):

- f. Use of recycled plastics (in kg and as percentage of the total amount of plastic products and packaging used, per company with 2017 as the reference year,²⁹ adjusted for changes in the company's turnover).
- g. Use of biobased plastics (in kg and as a percentage of the total amount of plastic products and packaging used, per company with 2017 as the reference year,³⁰ adjusted for changes in the company's turnover).

- 3. Plastics-Producing Companies will report on progress based on the following indicators:

Disposal stage, relating to the objective in article 1, paragraph 2 (c):

- h. Sorting into mono and mixed plastics streams through multi stream waste programmes or separation of single stream waste, respectively (in kg and as a percentage of the total volume of collected plastics).
- i. Plastic recycling, divided into mechanical, chemical and feedstock recycling (per company, in kg and as a percentage of the total amount of plastic waste).
- j. Amount of plastic waste in the Netherlands that is fed as residual material to waste-to-energy plants in the Netherlands.

- 4. The Ministry will report on the progress referred to in article 4.3 based on the following indicators:

- a. Use of plastic products and packaging at the Ministry's premises (in kg, and as a percentage).

- 5. The Ministry will explore scope for setting up a raw materials information system (GRIS), including how data on raw material streams can be obtained from companies and organisations and how this data can be recorded in a database.
- 6. The Parties will aim to ensure the data is presented in as uniform a manner as possible. This will make it easier to combine and compare data and produce joint progress reports. To this end, the Parties will consult with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) on developing a standardised and broadly applicable set of indicators, in accordance with the indicators listed in article 9, that can be used to describe organisations' plastic impact as accurately as possible. The majority of the Parties already operate according to this standard, which will prevent unnecessary additional data collection.
- 7. Companies will supply data for the baseline measurement over 2017 no later than 1 August 2019.
- 8. Parties that only have global or European operations data because they are a multinational organisation will adjust the above data in proportion to the share of their products sold in the Netherlands.
- 9. RIVM will analyse said data and present its findings to the company in question and to the Progress Committee referred to in article 12. Where necessary, following consultation, the accuracy and reliability of the data will be improved. Each company will receive a presentation of its results compared to the baseline measurement and to average performance.
- 10. The Progress Committee will provide feedback to each Party on the baseline measurement and progress data, comparing it to the average of the other Parties (benchmark).
- 11. The Progress Committee will fine-tune the exact procedure in due course.
- 12. RIVM will provide only the aggregated data to the Ministry, so that it can monitor progress in the Pact's implementation and determine whether extra support is required and so that it can inform Parliament accordingly.

²⁹ Plastics-Using Companies that have made significant progress between 2013 and 2016 in reducing the amount of plastics in their products and packaging cannot reasonably be penalised for these results and may therefore use an earlier reference year in their individual reports, provided they can prove that the amount of virgin fossil-based plastics in their products and packaging was highest in that year.

³⁰ See footnote 29.

Article 10. Plastics Pact Steering Group

1. The Parties will establish a Steering Group
2. composed of:
 - a. an independent chair
 - b. several members representing the Parties, ensuring that all the different segments are represented and including one Ministry representative; and
 - c. a secretariat that will support the Steering Group and the Progress Committee in their day-to-day tasks, including obtaining monitoring data from the Parties.
3. The chair of the Steering Group will be appointed by the State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Management on the recommendation of the Parties.
4. In the period from 2019 to 2021, the Ministry (Rijkswaterstaat) will run the secretariat.
5. The Parties will make further arrangements for the period thereafter.

Article 11. Steering Group tasks

1. The Steering Group's primary task is to steer the Parties towards achieving the objectives set out in this Plastics Pact and observing the agreements made.
2. The Steering Group will convene the Parties at least once a year.
3. The Steering Group is responsible for publishing information provided to it as referred to in Article 3.1, third paragraph, Article 4.1, second, fourth and sixth paragraphs, Article 4.2, first paragraph, and Article 6.1, third paragraph, on the site www.circulairondernemen.nl.
4. The Parties mandate the Steering Group to take decisions on their behalf concerning the accession of new parties pursuant to the accession criteria referred to in article 16, paragraph 3.
5. The Ministry reserves the right to withhold its assent for the accession of a party if it has good grounds for doubting that party's integrity.
6. The Ministry reserves the right to withhold its assent for the accession of a party if it has good grounds for doubting that party's integrity.
7. If the annual evaluation or changes in circumstances or insights so warrant, the Steering Group will be mandated to submit a proposal to the Parties on adjusting the objectives of the Plastics Pact. Such a proposal will be discussed and put to a vote at the Parties' annual meeting. The proposal will enter into force once the conditions set out in article 16 have been met.³¹

Article 12. Plastics Pact Progress Committee

1. The Parties will also establish a Progress Committee tasked with monitoring and reporting on and evaluating the agreements and effects of the Plastics Pact.
2. The Progress Committee will be composed of experts who are deemed capable of determining the progress being made on the agreements and resulting effects of the Plastics Pact. The Progress Committee will be chaired by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL).
3. The secretariat will coordinate and manage the data collection process. RIVM will participate in the Progress Committee, advising on indicators and monitoring methods, interpreting data on the indicators and reporting on progress towards the objectives.
4. In order to keep the tasks of management and monitoring separate, the Progress Committee will be independent of the Steering Group. The Progress Committee:
 - a. will become active as soon as possible after the Plastics Pact comes into effect;
 - b. can advise the Parties based on its findings;
 - c. will receive data, reports and other information on progress from individual Parties and/or sectors;
 - d. can itself collect data in order to better determine progress. To this end it may ask the Parties to supply additional information. In this way the Progress Committee provides assurance of the quality of the data and reports.

³¹ A notification procedure may again be necessary in this case.

- e. will convene regularly to discuss the progress being made on all the agreements, resulting in an advisory opinion to be issued to the Steering Group;
 - f. will monitor whether any adverse effects arise from the agreements made in the Plastics Pact and will advise the Steering Group and Parties accordingly;
 - g. will report to the Steering Group and Parties and will account for its activities and expenditure.
5. If there are differences of opinion within the Progress Committee with regard to the evaluation or findings thereof, the report will note these different views.
 6. The Progress Committee will announce the results of the baseline measurement over 2017 no later than 1 November 2019.
 7. The Progress Committee will present its report to the Parties by 1 January each year.

Article 13. Confidentiality of information disclosure

1. Each Party undertakes not to disclose to third parties, in any way, any information (including commercial information) derived from its involvement in the implementation of the Plastics Pact and which it knows or may reasonably be expected to know is confidential, except in so far as it is compelled to divulge such information under a statutory regulation or court ruling. This clause will continue to apply until one year after the expiry of the Plastics Pact.
2. With regard to information disclosure, the Parties will draw up one or more protocols containing arrangements for sharing information and complying with the applicable legislation, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Government Information (Public Access) Act.
3. Information disclosure between the Parties must not result in the exchange of competitively sensitive information, either directly or indirectly through the involvement of the Steering Group or the Progress Committee.

Final provisions

Article 14. Implementation in accordance with the law

The agreements set out in the Plastics Pact and their further elaboration will be implemented in accordance with Dutch and European Union law, in particular EU and Dutch legislation on procurement, competition, state aid and technical standards and regulations.

Article 15. Amendments

1. Any Party can request the other Parties in writing to amend the Plastics Pact.
2. Any amendment requires the agreement of central government and 75% of all the other Parties present at the annual meeting as referred to in article 11, paragraph 3.
3. Copies of the amendment and statements of agreement must be appended to the Plastics Pact and published in the Government Gazette ('Staatscourant').

Article 16. Accession of new Parties

1. New parties may accede to this Plastics Pact.
2. New parties can submit a request to accede to the Plastics Pact by uploading a completed and signed digital form on the relevant page on the website www.circulairondernemen.nl. In this request they must indicate in what capacity they wish to contribute to the Plastics Pact, affirm that they endorse the objectives and principles of the Pact, and indicate which activities they will develop and/or participate in.
3. The Steering Group as referred to in article 10 will approve the accession of new parties within one month of receipt of the request, based on the following criteria:
 - a. the new party endorses the general objectives and activities of this Plastics Pact as set out in articles 1 to 7;
 - b. the new party demonstrably contributes to the joint objectives as set out in article 1 of this Plastics Pact through its own objectives and activities as set out in the submitted request form;
 - c. the Ministry has not revealed good grounds for doubting the party's integrity.
4. Appendix 1 of this Plastics Pact contains an up-to-date list of Parties and will be published on the website www.circulairondernemen.nl. Any amended versions will be published every six months in the Government Gazette.
5. The Parties consent to the use of their official name and logo on the website referred to in article 8, paragraph 3.

Article 17. Termination

1. Any Party can terminate its participation in this Plastics Pact at any time subject to a four-week notice period. The Steering Group will publish the notice of termination on the website.
2. A Party's participation in this Plastic Pact will be terminated if and when the Ministry has reasonable grounds to attribute to the Party a lack of integrity which could negative affect the implementation of the Plastic Pact.

Article 18. Compliance and resolution of disputes

1. The Parties agree that compliance with the agreements in this Plastics Pact is not legally enforceable.
2. The Parties will seek to resolve any disputes relating to this Plastics Pact in mutual consultation. Failing this, the Parties can present their dispute to the Steering Group.
3. In seeking to resolve the dispute, the Steering Group will give the Parties involved an opportunity to present their views. If after six month the dispute has not been resolved, the Steering Group will issue an advisory opinion/its findings to the Parties involved.
4. In so far as the dispute relates to a Party's failure to comply with its obligations under this Plastic Pact, the Steering Group may demand that this Party comply with its obligations within three months or terminate its participation in the Plastics Pact.

5. If at the end of the period referred to in the previous paragraph the Party has not complied with this demand, the Steering Group will request the other Parties to terminate this Party's participation in the Plastics Pact. If a two-thirds majority of the Parties agrees, the Steering Group will inform the non-compliant Party that its participation in the Plastics Pact has been terminated by the other Parties and that it can no longer derive any rights from the Plastics Pact.

Article 19. Dissolution

The Plastics Pact can be dissolved at the request of either central government or a two-thirds majority of the other Parties. A signed request for dissolution, giving reasons, must be submitted to the Steering Group and put on the agenda of the next meeting between all the Parties subject to a four-week notice period.

Article 20. Duration, notification to the European Commission and entry into effect

1. This Plastics Pact applies from the date on which it enters into effect until 31 December 2025.
2. The Plastics Pact will be deemed not to have been adopted and will not enter into effect until three months after the date of receipt by the European Commission of the communication as referred to in article 5, paragraph 1 of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (OJEU, L 241), provided the Commission or another member state does not deliver a detailed opinion during that period.
3. The Parties will begin implementation of all the agreements in this Plastics Pact as soon as possible after its entry into effect.
4. The duration of this Plastics Pact may be extended. The Parties will begin talks about the continuation of this Plastics Pact no later than six months before 31 December 2025.

Article 21. Short title

This voluntary agreement may be cited as Plastics Pact NL.

Article 22. Publication

After the period referred to in article 20, paragraph 2 this Plastics Pact will be published in the Government Gazette and by other means, so that others can take note of the Plastics Pact NL.

