



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Closing the loop

The European Plastics Strategy & Single Use Plastics Directive

*DG ENVIRONMENT
01 10 2019*

SDGs



Circular Economy





Economy

Environment



Transition
towards a
Circular
Economy

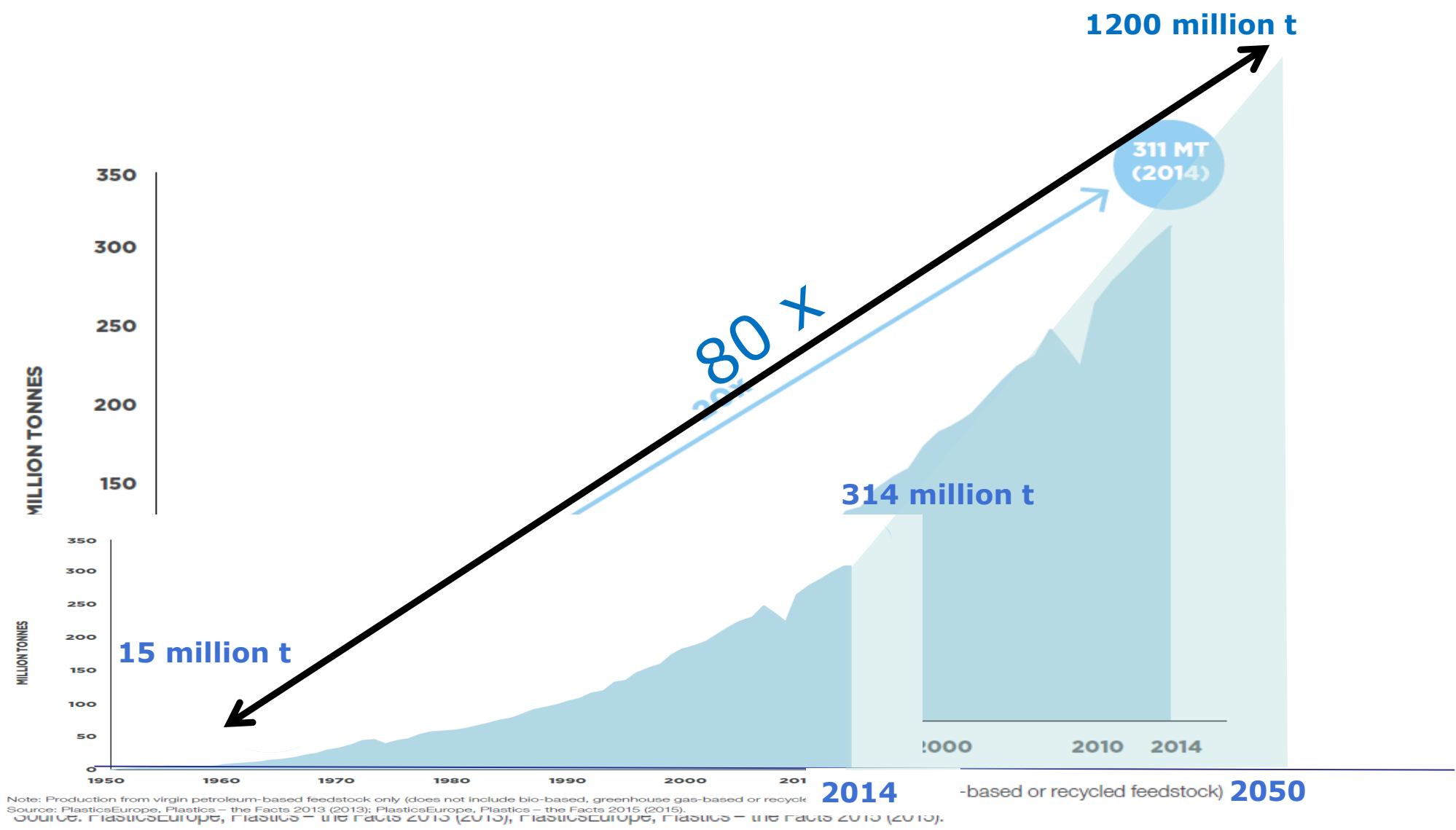
Maintaining the **value** of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible

Minimising **waste generation**

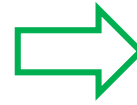
Boosting our **competitiveness** with new business opportunities and innovative products and services

Bringing economic, social and environmental **gains**

Global plastic production



The Plastics Industry of the future



**Smart
Innovative
Sustainable**



**ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES**



**SOCIAL
INNOVATION**



**PROTECT THE
ENVIRONMENT**

A EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PLASTICS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



**Improve
the economics
and quality
of plastics
recycling**

**Drive
investments
and innovation
towards circular
solutions**

**Harness
global
action**

**Curb plastic
waste and
littering**



All plastics packaging reusable or recyclable by 2030

- **Design for circularity** → **Essential requirements** in PPWD, incl. eco-modulation of producers' fees
- **Separate collection & sorting of waste** → Guidelines end 2019
- **Food-contact materials**
- **Quality standards** (sorted & recycled plastics): CEN report
- **Recycled content**



Circular Plastics Alliance

Aim Plastics Strategy: **10 million tons of recycled plastics** finding their way into new products on the EU market by 2025

70 pledges: Supply side: 11 million tons of recycled plastics

↔ **Demand side: 6.4 million tons expected**

⇒ **Circular Plastics Alliance**

To strengthen the match between supply & demand for recycled plastics

Signature on 20 September 2019 by over 100 organisations



- **Microplastics pollution:**

- Intentionally added to products → ECHA report: health & environmental risks justify EU-wide restriction → scientific committees
- Unintentional release, e.g. tyres, textiles, pellets, coating → Sector discussions ongoing
- Evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

- **Macroplastics: Directive related to Single use plastics**

- **Regulatory framework for biodegradable plastics** → identifying applications with clear environmental benefit → Awaiting advice from Chief Scientific Advisers



- **Strategic Research Innovation Agenda for Plastics** → Report published
- **Support the development of alternative feedstocks: lifecycle assessments** including **biomass** → By 2020
- **Chemical recycling**

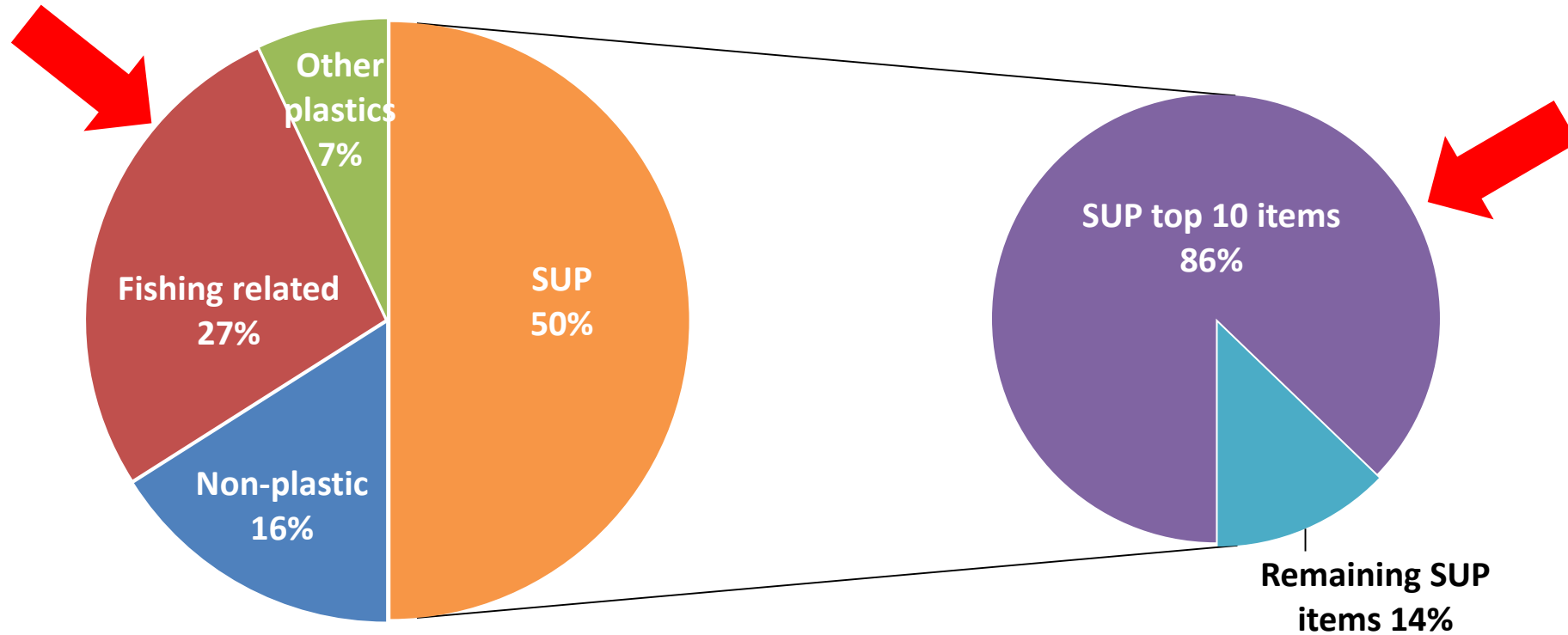


- **Support for multilateral initiatives on plastics**
 - **UNEA** ministerial declaration to "significantly reducing single use plastics by 2030"
- **International Maritime Organization** → action plan against plastic litter from ships
- **Basel Convention** → better control of international trade in plastic waste
- **Development in cooperation funding**

Tackling marine litter



Most found marine litter items on European beaches

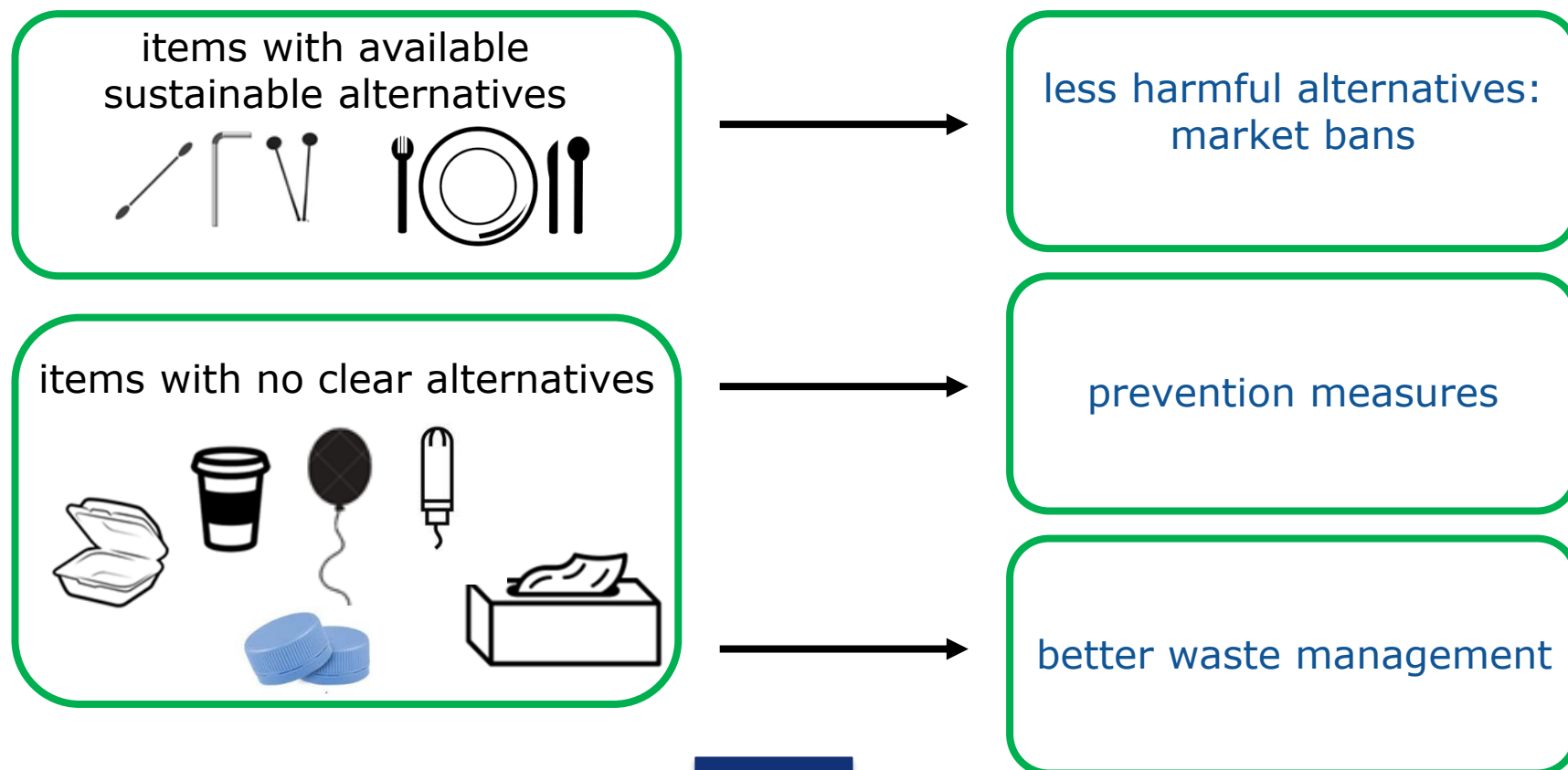


70% covered of all marine litter: top 10 SUP (43%) + fishing gear (27%)

Sources : Marine Strategy Framework Directive - Joint Research Center - European Regional Seas Conventions

Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

Published: 12 July 2019



Consumption reduction

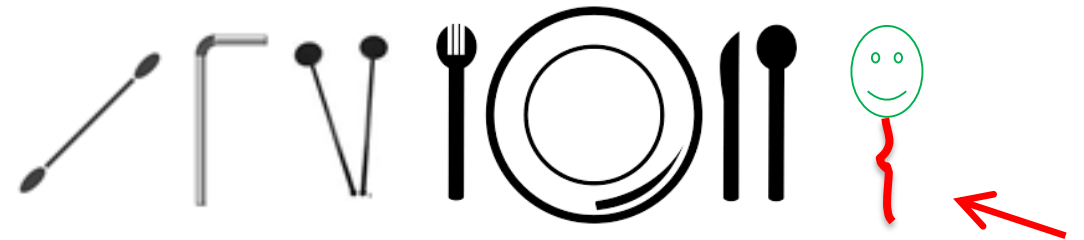


Market restriction/bans

- Food containers
- Cups for beverages (incl. covers and lids)

Restrictions on plastic content,
not the product

- **All products made of *oxo-degradable* plastic**
- **Cups, food and beverage containers made of *EPS***
- And:





Tethered caps and lids:

To remain attached to beverage containers & bottles (≤ 3 l)



Recycled plastic content:

for single use **beverage bottles**, as an average per MS

- **25%** by 2025 for PET bottles,
- **30%** by 2030 for all plastic bottles



Food & beverage containers, cups, packets & wrappers, light weight carrier bags, tobacco products with filters

Producers to help cover the costs of:



- waste prevention (awareness raising)
- waste management
- litter clean-up
- data gathering



! Wet wipes & balloons: waste prevention & litter clean-up costs



EPR schemes to cover the costs of separate collection and further treatment of waste fishing gear



Member States to set a **national collection target and monitor** fishing gear with a view to a later EU-wide collection target



Work on **harmonized standards** for the circular design of fishing gear

Separate collection



Separate collection target for
plastic beverage bottles
~ deposit



→ **77% by 2025**
→ **90% by 2029**



**For the whole directive, with a challenging timeline:
9 implementing acts + 2 guidelines + 2 standardisation requests**

Global impact

- **India:** ban single use plastics from 2022
- **Canada:** action on single use plastics based on the EU Directive
- **China:** Strategy on Plastics including action on single use plastics
- **World:** 68% of the countries have in place restrictions on the use of plastic bags
- **Cities:** many are restricting the use of single use plastics & promoting alternatives

Global recognition



Ombudsman Award for Good Administration 2019:

A comprehensive strategy for reducing plastics pollution





Our upcoming mission: a **green deal** for Europe

“a future-ready economy, our new industrial strategy”
“a **world leader in circular economy** and clean technologies”

“a **New Circular Economy Action Plan** focusing on **sustainable resource use**, especially in **resource-intensive and high impact sectors** such as textiles and construction”

“Europe to **lead on the issue of single-use plastics**”
“fight against plastic waste by tackling **micro-plastics**”

“towards a **zero-pollution ambition**”
“a cross-cutting strategy to **protect citizens’** health from environmental degradation and pollution, addressing air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, industrial emissions, pesticides and endocrine disrupters”



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm