

Mainstreaming coherent and effective sustainable consumption and production policies, including through circular economy models: Best practices and recommendations

A project funded by the European Commission



Online consultations with Member States

Agenda

10.30 am – 10.40 am Introduction on the mandate of the UNEA-4 Resolution on SCP, and on the key components of the follow-up
Presentation of the consultation objectives and key questions
Claire Thiebault, Associate Programme Officer, UNEP Economy Division

10.40 am – 10.55 am Examples of product policies & innovative design practices
Vasileios Rizos, Head of Sustainable Resources & Circular Economy, CEPS

10.55 am – 11.30 am Discussion on the Canadian experience

Support the implementation of the UNEA-4 resolution on SCP

UNEP/EA.4/RES.1 on Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production

Operative paragraph 15 requests “the Executive Director to submit a report providing an overview of best practices, including their impact on the design of products and services, minimizing harmful environmental impacts, and coherent product policies to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation through sustainable consumption and production, and providing recommendations for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its fifth session”

Key components of the follow-up to the Resolution 1 on SCP

Deliverables to inform UNEA-5 discussions

1. **A global inventory of coherent product-policies** to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation through sustainable consumption and production;
2. **Collection of good examples of design practices of products/services and their impact**, which minimize harmful environmental impacts;
3. **Formulation of recommendations** on the potential of coherent product-policies and innovative design practices of products & services to support the transition to sustainable consumption and production – in view of informing UNEA-5 discussions.

Definition of ‘product policies’

“**Product policies**” refer to the policy instruments which aim at **minimizing the negative impacts of a product throughout its lifecycle** (i.e. during design, extraction of natural resources, production, distribution, use, end-of-use).

Product policies include policy instruments on:

- ✓ extraction of natural resources,
- ✓ eco-design, green technology, use of chemicals, industrial symbiosis,
- ✓ consumer information, eco-labels, sustainable/green public procurement,
- ✓ waste management, extended producer responsibility schemes, single-use products ban,
- ✓ and any other policy supporting driving the demand and/or supply sides towards more sustainability.

Product policies encompass both voluntary and mandatory instruments.

Key consultation questions

For an interactive discussion

(1) Product policies

How **product policies** in your country have been instrumental to preserve the environment?
What are the enabling conditions for higher impact of product policies?
How to create further coherence among product policies?

(2) Innovative design practices

How is your country performing in identifying and taking up innovative **design practices of products/services**, which minimize harmful environmental impacts?
What are the requirements to implement, replicate and scale up such design practices?

(3) Role of the international community

What role should UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?

Examples of product policies in the pan-European region

Selected collected information

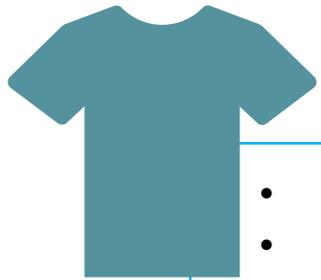
Country	Policy framework	Product policies
Flanders (Belgium)	Circular Flanders	Circular purchasing, financing instruments for circular projects, development of circular toolkit for entrepreneurs, circular city applications
Netherlands	Circular Economy Programme for the Netherlands, 2050 (priority sector plastics)	Use of recycled content in design, reducing production and consumption, and recycling of waste
Netherlands	Circular Economy Programme for the Netherlands, 2050 (priority sector construction)	Circular procurement, strengthening of transparency and information exchange
Finland	More from less – wisely	Eco-labels, pilot-projects on sustainable housing and eating, green public procurement, economic incentives for material efficiency audits
France	Circular Economy Roadmap	Policy approach relies strongly on binding legal commitments. The CE roadmap measures have been transformed into a binding Circular Economy legal act
Sweden	Strategy for sustainable consumption	Lowering VAT for certain repair, consumer campaigns, phasing out harmful chemical
Scotland	Making Things Last - A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland	Focus on avoiding waste, design, reuse, repair, remanufacturing, and recycling
Germany	National Programme on Sustainable Consumption (NPNK)	Sustainable public procurement, strengthening of environmental and social labelling, promotion of sustainable ICT products, ambitious eco-design
Georgia	Waste Management Code	Extended producer responsibility scheme gradually introduces in packaging, tires, vehicles, batteries and accumulators, WEEE, used oils
Albania	National Strategy and National Plan on Waste Management 2010-2025	Objectives to develop markets for recycled materials and provide waste minimization advice to businesses

Examples of product policies in the North American region

Selected collected information

Country	Policy framework	Product policies
Canada	Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (2016-2019)	Voluntary and partnership agreements, economic instruments in the form of taxes and levies and eco-labelling programs and toolkits.
Canada	Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (2009)	Extends industrial producers' responsibility of a product to the post-consumer stage.
Canada	Canada-Wide Strategy for Sustainable Packaging	Builds on the Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility and includes voluntary certifications, eco-labelling and reduction agreements.
Canada	Integrated strategy on plastic waste	Eliminating certain single-use plastic products by 2021. Measures include performance standards, recycled content requirements, expansion of current EPR-scheme under the objectives of prevention, collection, innovation and value recovery of plastic waste.
United States	EPA Sustainable Materials Management Program Strategic Plan (2017-2022)	Voluntary standards, information sharing and guidance and technical assistance. Focus on waste reduction through source reduction, reuse, recycling and prevention.

Overview of good examples of design practices in the in the pan-European and North American region (2/2)



Teemill

- Rethinking clothing
- 100% recyclable
- Printed in real time on demand
- Takeback system w/ integrated QR code

- Key challenges: linear economy, cost, awareness, lack of mono-material waste
- Key enablers: technology, systemic approach, takeback system

- Scalability: yes



Fairphone

- Rethinking mobile phones
- Modular design for longevity and repair
- Fair/recycled materials

- Key challenges: recycled materials, short term thinking in supply chain, typical start-up issues
- Key enablers: consumer awareness, small and flexible operations, modularity

- Scalability: yes

Interactive discussion

(1) **Product policies**

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Interactive discussion

(2) Innovative design practices

How is your country performing in identifying and taking up innovative design practices of products/services, which minimize harmful environmental impacts?

What are the requirements to implement, replicate and scale up such design practices?

Interactive discussion

(3) **Role of the international community**

What role should UNEP, the UN system and the wider international community play in addressing gaps and challenges highlighted during the above discussions?

Feedback options, until 30th October

- A. Share details and/or relevant reports on your **national and/or state product policies**, with Vasileios Rizos, CEPS, vasileios.rizos@ceps.eu
- B. Share **good examples of design practices**, and send supporting material/link/contact details to Vasileios Rizos, CEPS, vasileios.rizos@ceps.eu
- C. Submit **written inputs to the key consultation questions**: Claire Thiebault, UNEP Economy Division, Claire.Thiebault@un.org; Hilary French, UNEP North America Office, Hilary.French@un.org

Thank you for your participation



Hilary French
UNEP North America Office
Hilary.French@un.org

Claire Thiebault
UNEP Economy Division
claire.thiebault@un.org

Vasileios Rizos
CEPS
vasileios.rizos@ceps.eu

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552 – 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

www.unep.org