

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Ms Teresa Ribera
Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition

Mr Stéphane Séjourné
Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy

Ms Jessika Roswall
Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience, and a Competitive Circular Economy,

Mr Wopke Hoekstra
Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth

Mr Valdis Dombrovskis
Commissioner for Economy and Productivity

4th of December 2025, Brussels

Material Footprint Targets: The Missing Pillar of Europe's Competitiveness and Strategic Autonomy

Dear President,
Dear Vice-Presidents,
Dear Commissioners,

Europe's prosperity depends on materials, yet our current resource-intensive model leaves our economies dangerously exposed. The EU consumes over **14 tonnes of materials per person each year**, much of it imported from third countries and unsustainable sources. This not only drives environmental breakdown but also creates economic and geopolitical vulnerabilities that threaten Europe's long-term resilience and competitiveness.

The **Circular Economy Act** (CEA) offers a once-in-a-generation chance to make Europe stronger by doing more with less. However, the draft CEA currently under preparation risks becoming a wasted opportunity rather than the transformation Europe needs. Yes, recycling strengthens material efficiency, but without curbing total material use, these gains are counterbalanced by rising demand.

This is why we, undersigned Members of the European Parliament, call on the European Commission to include **binding material footprint targets** in the CEA.

Reducing material use is not a sacrifice - it's a strategy for resilience. Every tonne of material Europe doesn't import or waste strengthens our autonomy by shielding supply chains from price shocks, saving costs for companies and creating thousands of jobs in circular sectors (e.g. repair, reuse and remanufacturing).

A wide array of actors have called for material footprint targets, such as the [European Parliament \(2021\)](#), The [International Resource Panel \(2024\)](#) and the [Environment Council \(2024\)](#). We further note that the [European Environmental Agency](#) as well as numerous stakeholders strongly support this call, as evidenced by the submissions to the public consultation.

The time is ripe for the EU to lead by example and make materials stewardship a cornerstone of its competitiveness strategy. Europe cannot compete globally by clinging to a wasteful, outdated economic model. Instead, sustainable resource governance will make our economy fit for the 21st century.

Yours sincerely,

MEPs

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Anna Cavazzini (Greens/EFA)

Bruno Tobback (S&D)

Dario Tamburrano (The Left)

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