



**CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Closing the loop

---

***The European Plastics Strategy &  
Single Use Plastics Directive***

*DG ENVIRONMENT  
5 11 2019*

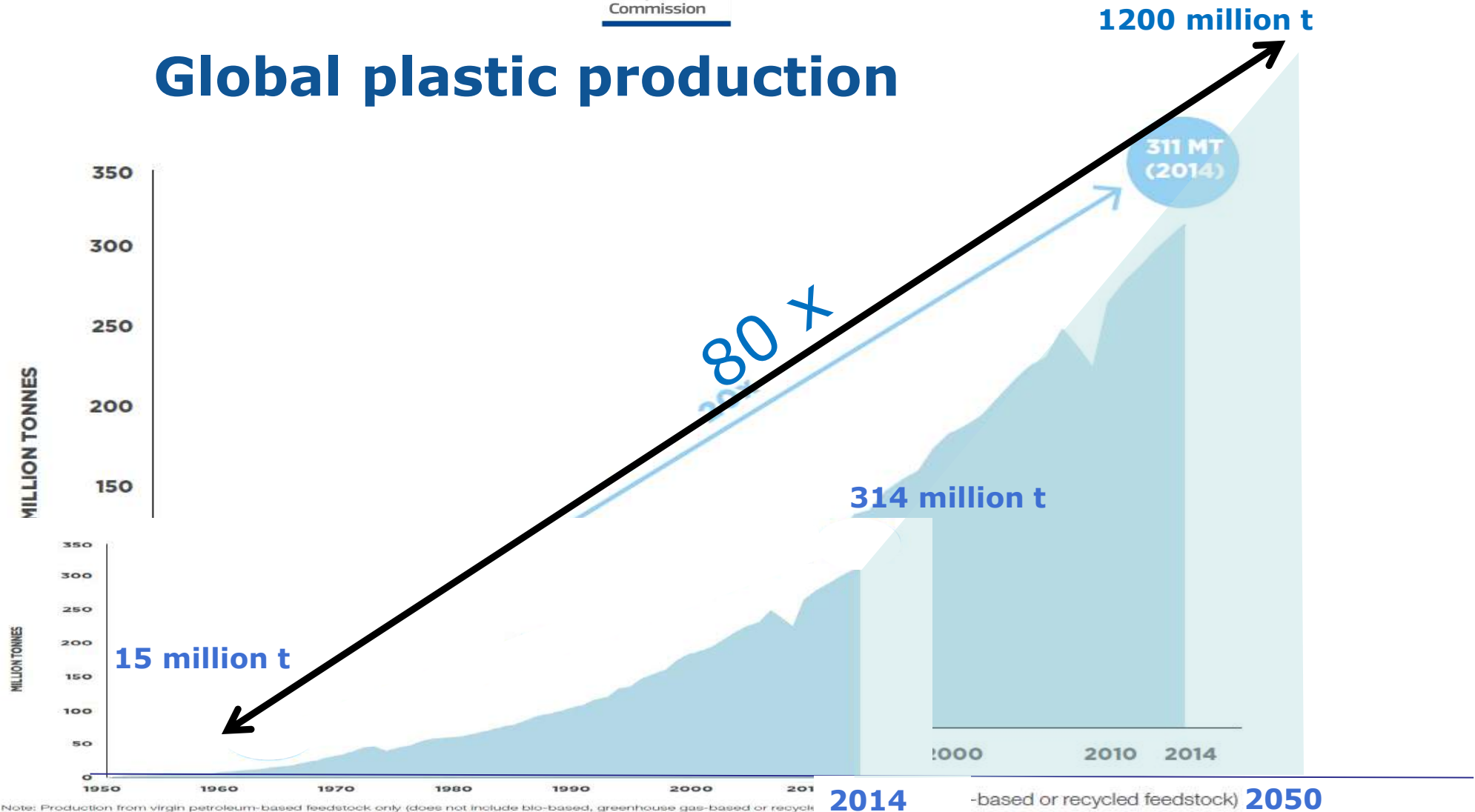
# SDGs



# Circular Economy



# Global plastic production

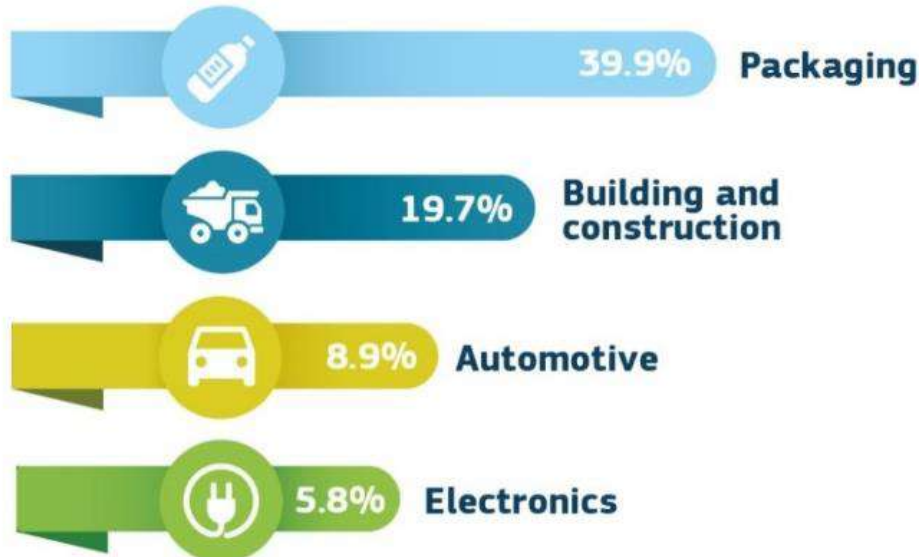


Note: Production from virgin petroleum-based feedstock only (does not include bio-based, greenhouse gas-based or recycled feedstock).  
 Source: PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2013 (2013); PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2015 (2015); PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2013 (2013); PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2015 (2015).

# Circular plastics?



49 million tonnes



31,1% collected for recycling (2016)

+79% in 10 years

# 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
- **Separate collection & sorting of waste** → Guidelines end 2019
- **Food-contact materials** – revision ongoing
- **Quality standards** (sorted & recycled plastics): CEN report
- **Recycled content**



Aim Plastics Strategy: **10 million tons of recycled plastics** in new products on the EU market by 2025

70 pledges: Supply side: 11 million tons ⇔ Demand side: 6.4 million tons

⇒ **Circular Plastics Alliance**

- To strengthen the match between supply & demand for recycled plastics
- Signature on 20 September 2019 by over 100 organisations
- Working groups : packaging, (+ other market segments)



- **Microplastics pollution:**

- Intentionally added to products → ECHA report: "health & environmental risks justify EU-wide restriction" → scientific committees → possible restriction by 2021
- Unintentional release, e.g. tyres, textiles, pellets, coating → Sector discussions ongoing
- Evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

- **Macroplastics: Directive on Single use plastics**

- **Regulatory framework for biodegradable plastics** → identifying applications with clear environmental benefit → Awaiting advise from Chief Scientific Advisers → by 2020





- **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 & cooperation funding**

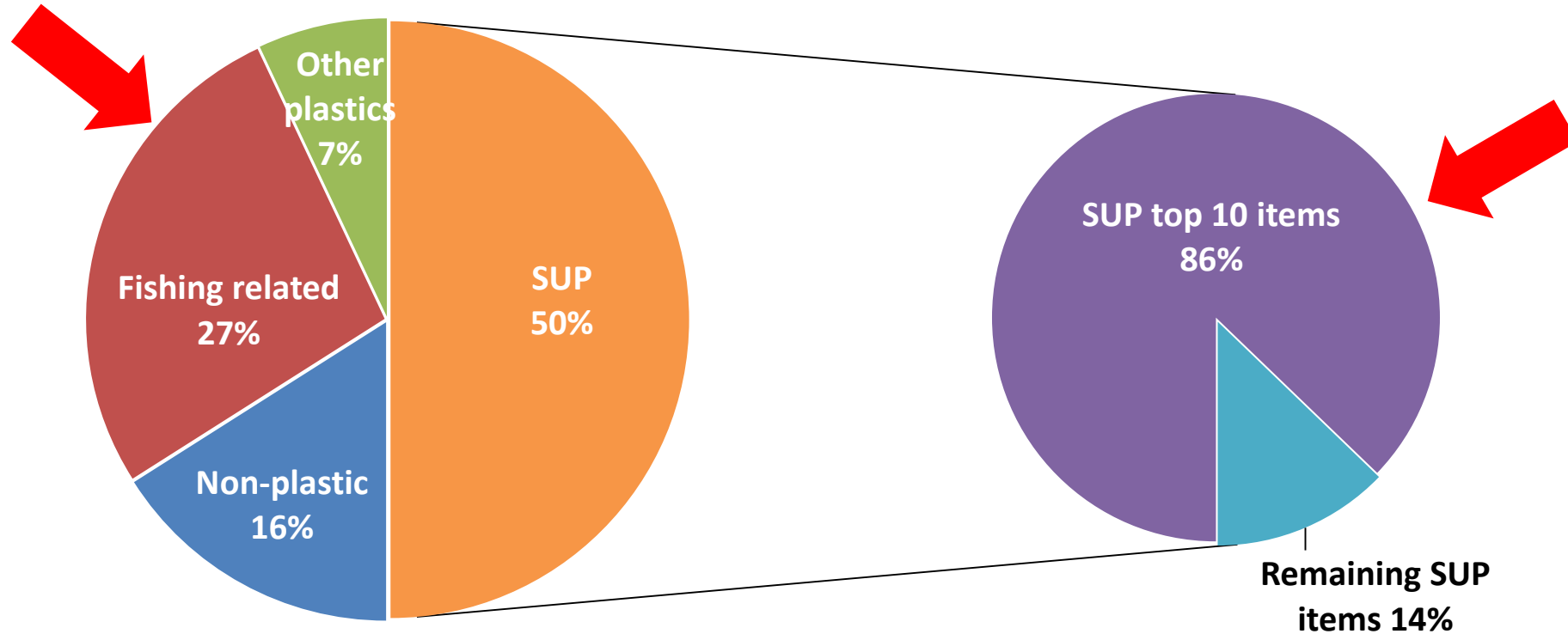
## Global impact

- **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

## *Tackling marine litter*



## Most found marine litter items on European beaches

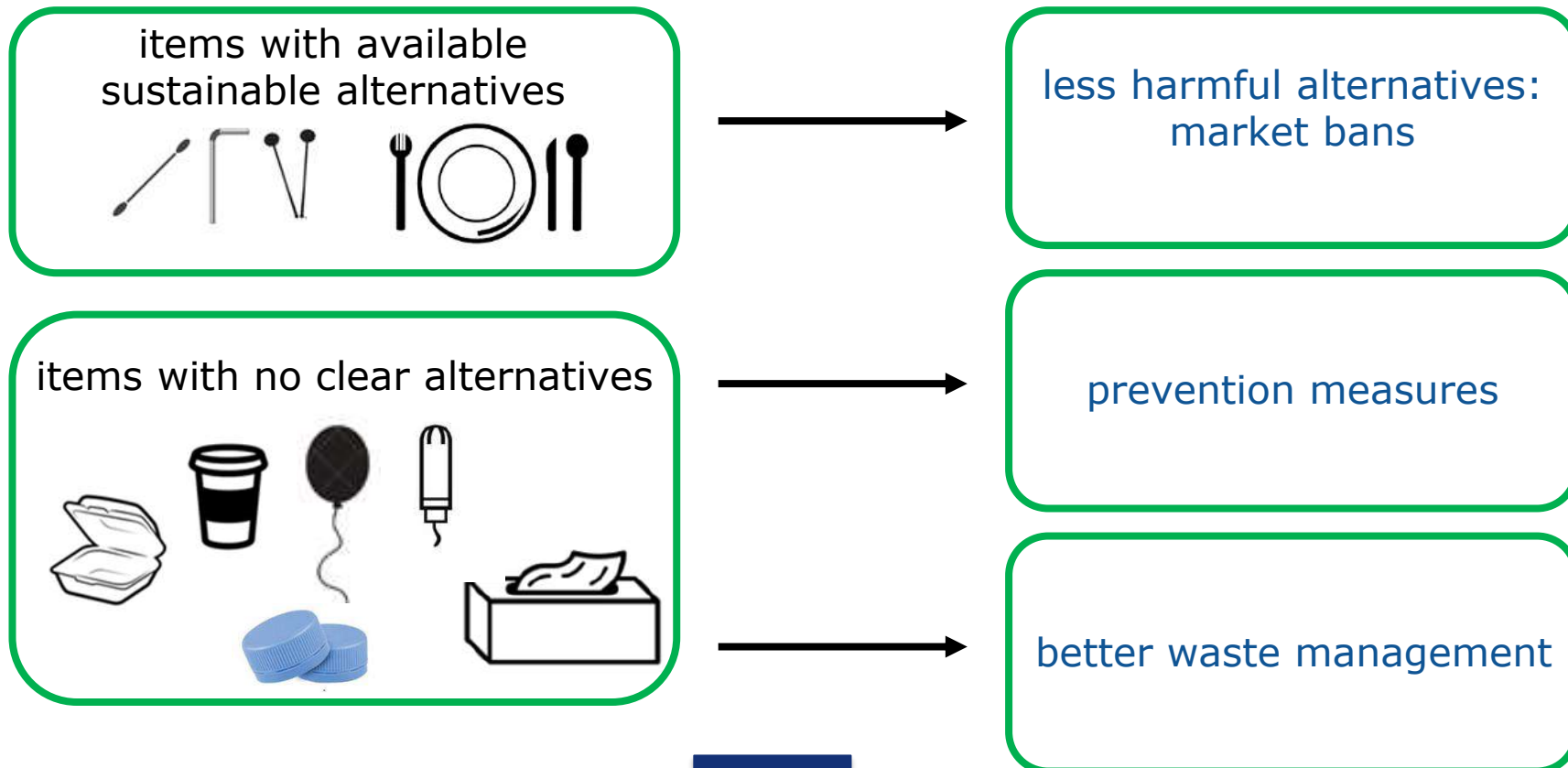


70% covered of all marine litter: top 10 SUP (43%) + fishing gear (27%)

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***

Entry into force: 5 June 2021



# Consumption reduction



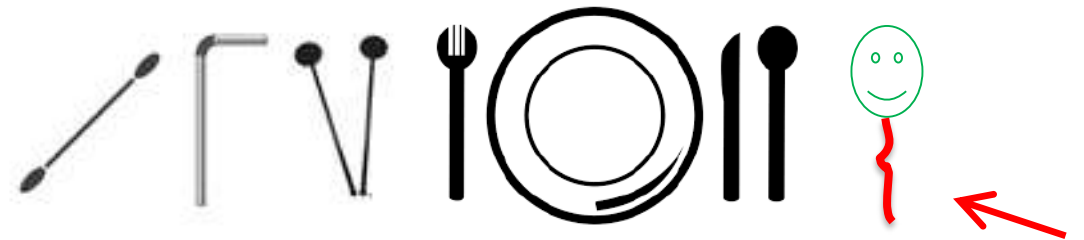
- Food containers
- Cups for beverages (incl. covers and lids)



# Market restriction/bans

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 ( $\leq 3$  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

## 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 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 disruptors”



[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)