

# Legal obstacles for plastic recycling

## Aim

There is a great variety of EU laws regulating chemical substances which are used in plastics. Despite recent attempts to consolidate and simplify them, the impression of a regulatory patchwork remains. Moreover, the recent tendency to integrate a life-cycle approach in policy and law, is not yet sufficiently achieved. For instance, legal problems still remain when plastics are recycled.

In the light of closing the life-cycle of plastics (recycling), the purpose of this research is to map this tipping point, to assess the legal obstacles and to seek ways of resolving them.

## Content

The applicable laws shall be generally introduced in the context of the life-cycle approach, with particular emphasis on the 'usual suspects': Regulation 1907/2006 of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and Directive 2008/98 of 19 November 2008 on waste (Waste Framework Directive).

Subsequently, the legal obstacles being encountered are defined when recycling plastics. One might think of the coming End-of-Waste criteria for plastic under the Waste Framework Directive and the information requirements under REACH. Both issues deal with the chemical composition of the (recycled) waste plastics. How do we know their exact composition?

We will also shed light on the implementation of the relevant laws into Flemish law, with a view to identifying possible shortcomings or 'gold plating' (stricter requirements than requested under EU law) in Flanders, by way of example.

We conclude with possible solutions to the problems identified.

## Time frame

The predicted period of time: 40 days.

## Supporter

Essenscia, <http://www.essenscia.be/en>