

# EU SURVEY on microplastics 2022

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Introduction

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### Background information

Microplastics are small pieces of less than 5 mm made of synthetic polymers that are becoming the most widespread and persistent contaminant in the environment.

Microplastics are ubiquitous and a cause of growing concern. They can be found in soil, air, water and living organisms. They can accumulate through the food chain and adsorb and transport other organic contaminants and their small size facilitates ingestion by organisms. They can contain a complex mixture of chemicals, which may subsequently be released in the environment and constitute new routes of exposure for organisms. Their ubiquity is amplifying concerns about their negative effects on vulnerable eco-systems (e.g. coral reefs, deep seas, polar regions), biodiversity (all marine life from plankton to large marine mammals) and human health. Moreover, the economic impact to terrestrial and marine ecosystems due to plastics releases in the environment is vast.

The [WHO](#) and [EC Chief Scientific Advisors](#) recommend applying the precautionary principle approaching the microplastic pollution. The European Green Deal, the Circular Economy Action Plan, marine environment legislation and the EU Plastics Strategy announced measures to tackle pollution from microplastics; EU requires that microplastics do not harm marine or coastal environment. The Zero Pollution Action Plan aims to reduce by 30% microplastics released into the environment by 2030. Coordination with these and other relevant initiatives needs to be ensured.

### Scope and objective

This public consultation aims to support the European Commission's initiative on [Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce impacts on the environment](#). This initiative focusses on microplastics that are unintentionally released into the environment such as resulting from the use of a product, for instance by fragmentation or abrasion. It focusses on the sources with the highest known releases:

1. from plastic pellets (intermediate materials used for the fabrication of plastic items),
2. from synthetic textiles,
3. from tyre abrasion,
4. from paints, including architectural and marine paints, road markings,
5. from geotextiles (used for civil engineering works such as road construction, coastal erosion prevention, drainage, etc.),
6. from detergent capsules for laundry and dishwashers.

While the initial scope was only on pellets, textiles and tyre abrasion, the impact assessment support study on '[Cost-benefit analysis of measures reducing unintentional releases of microplastics in the environment](#)' and stakeholder consultations called the attention to three additional sources: paints, geotextiles and detergent capsules.

This initiative does not address:

- intentionally added microplastics to products (e.g. cosmetics, detergents, fertilizers coatings): they are subject to a separate initiative under the [REACH Regulation](#);
- microplastics resulting from the fragmentation of macroplastics: they are addressed by existing legislation such as the Single Use Plastics Directive.

This public consultation will help gather data and information to close the gaps in knowledge related to the following:

- sources, pathways and impacts of microplastics on the environment and on human health;
- identification of measures to reduce the release of microplastics in the environment, e.g. labelling, standardisation, voluntary and regulatory measures, behavioural change;
- views on possible reduction measures.

### Guidance on the questionnaire

This public consultation has three parts:

- Part I: it includes some introductory questions on your profile
- Part II: no expert knowledge required to reply to this
- Part III (from A to F): expert knowledge required to reply to this
- Part IV: all addressed sources

### **Please note that you are not obliged to respond to all questions in the questionnaire.**

At the end of the questionnaire, you are invited to provide any additional comments and to upload additional information, position papers or policy briefs that express the position or views of yourself or your organisation.

The results of the questionnaire and the accompanying position papers and policy briefs will be published online. Please read the specific privacy statement informing on how the European Commission will deal with personal data and contributions.

## Part I.

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### About you

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#### \* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French

- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

\* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business organisation
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

\* First name

Anette

\* Surname

Michel

\* Email (this won't be published)

anette.michel@verkehrsclub.ch

\* Organisation name

*255 character(s) maximum*

VCS Verkehrs-Club der Schweiz

\* Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

\* Select for which of the source(s) below you want to answer specific questions

- Pellets
- Tyres
- Textiles
- Paints
- Geotextiles
- Detergent capsules
- None

\* If you are giving your contribution as a representative of a business, please provide the sector

- Tyre producer
- Car / vehicle producer
- Transport sector
- Not applicable

Transparency register number

*255 character(s) maximum*

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

\* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

- Afghanistan
- Åland Islands
- Albania
- Algeria
- American Samoa
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antarctica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bermuda
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Falkland Islands
- Faroe Islands
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- French Guiana
- French Polynesia
- French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macau
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Martinique
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Saint Martin
- Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Sint Maarten
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname

- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Bouvet Island
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Christmas Island
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Guatemala
- Guernsey
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Myanmar/Burma
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norfolk Island
- Northern Mariana Islands
- North Korea
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Svalbard and Jan Mayen
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Gambia
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom

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|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Clipperton                       | <input type="radio"/> Jamaica    | <input type="radio"/> Peru  | <input type="radio"/> United States                        |
| <input type="radio"/> Cocos (Keeling) Islands          | <input type="radio"/> Japan      | <input type="radio"/> Philippines                                       | <input type="radio"/> United States Minor Outlying Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Colombia                         | <input type="radio"/> Jersey     | <input type="radio"/> Pitcairn Islands                                  | <input type="radio"/> Uruguay                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Comoros                          | <input type="radio"/> Jordan     | <input type="radio"/> Poland  | <input type="radio"/> US Virgin Islands                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Congo                            | <input type="radio"/> Kazakhstan | <input type="radio"/> Portugal  | <input type="radio"/> Uzbekistan                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Cook Islands                     | <input type="radio"/> Kenya      | <input type="radio"/> Puerto Rico                                       | <input type="radio"/> Vanuatu                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Costa Rica                       | <input type="radio"/> Kiribati   | <input type="radio"/> Qatar   | <input type="radio"/> Vatican City                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Côte d'Ivoire                    | <input type="radio"/> Kosovo     | <input type="radio"/> Réunion   | <input type="radio"/> Venezuela                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Croatia                          | <input type="radio"/> Kuwait     | <input type="radio"/> Romania   | <input type="radio"/> Vietnam                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Cuba                             | <input type="radio"/> Kyrgyzstan | <input type="radio"/> Russia  | <input type="radio"/> Wallis and Futuna                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Curaçao                          | <input type="radio"/> Laos       | <input type="radio"/> Rwanda  | <input type="radio"/> Western Sahara                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus                           | <input type="radio"/> Latvia     | <input type="radio"/> Saint Barthélemy                                  | <input type="radio"/> Yemen                                |
| <input type="radio"/> Czechia                          | <input type="radio"/> Lebanon    | <input type="radio"/> Saint Helena<br>Ascension and<br>Tristan da Cunha | <input type="radio"/> Zambia                               |
| <input type="radio"/> Democratic Republic of the Congo | <input type="radio"/> Lesotho    | <input type="radio"/> Saint Kitts and Nevis                             | <input type="radio"/> Zimbabwe                             |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark                          | <input type="radio"/> Liberia    | <input type="radio"/> Saint Lucia                                       |  |

\* If you are responding to questions from the perspective of a country other than your country of origin, please indicate it here:

*100 character(s) maximum*

\* If you are giving your contribution as a civil society organisation or a public administration, please indicate your main area of focus or your area of competence:

*100 character(s) maximum*

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its**

**transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.**

Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

### \* **Contribution publication privacy settings**

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

**Anonymous**

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

**Public**

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Part II. General public

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1) Please indicate to which extent you agree with the following concerns as to microplastic pollution.

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
Microplastics can contain and accumulate hazardous chemicals	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Microplastics are transported over long distance and adsorb and transport other contaminants	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Microplastics are persistent in the environment (they do not biodegrade)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Microplastics harm human health via ingestion and inhalation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Microplastics harm animal health	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plants assimilate microplastics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Microplastics harm the economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

2) To reduce microplastics pollution, how and at what level should the action be taken?

	Yes	No	I don't know/Not applicable
No action needed	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Voluntary measures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legislation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International action	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 2.A) Voluntary measures

	Yes	No	I don't know/Not applicable
At citizen level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At the level of companies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At the level of industry sector	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 2.B) Legislation

	Yes	No	I don't know/Not applicable
At local/regional level	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At Member State level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
At EU level	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3) To what extent would you agree to buy a product that releases less microplastics, even if it costs more?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know/Not applicable
Clothing	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carpets, sofas	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tyres	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paints	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product that is painted	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Detergent capsules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

## Part III. Expert section

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Part III contains questions for which expert knowledge is required, but all types of respondents are welcome to respond. It includes questions on the sources of microplastics pollution being assessed by the European Commission (pre-production pellets, tyre wear particles, synthetic textiles, paints, geotextiles and detergent capsules) and on the policy measures reducing unintentional release of microplastics.

### Part III. B. Tyre wear Particles

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7) To what extent would you agree with the following measures to reduce microplastic emissions from tyres?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
Tyre design in order to reduce abrasion	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal limit on tyre abrasion	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labelling of tyres in terms of abrasion	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requirements on road infrastructure to reduce abrasion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improve capture and treat road run-off water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve road cleaning in high emission hotspots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Higher fees in Extended Producer Responsibility for less performing tyres	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Artificial intelligence and advanced driver assistance systems in vehicles to reduce abrasion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Please explain

*500 character(s) maximum*

Tyre abrasion should also be reduced by tackling vehicle weight, e.g. by introducing a weight limit for cars, or by promoting light cars (which are also energy efficient and less damaging in accidents).

A legal limit for tyre abrasion could be introduced based on the energy label for tyres (ecodesign) and additionally by considering release of particulate matter by Euro 7.

In general: microplastic pollution should be tackled at its source - that is product design.

## Part IV. All addressed sources: pellets, synthetic textiles, tyres, geotextiles, detergent capsules and paints

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16) How much do you agree with the following measures to reduce microplastic pollution in general?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know /Not applicable
Common system to monitor and report microplastics releases along the life cycle	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specific waste water treatments in urban waste water treatment plants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specific waste water treatments in recycling plants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International agreement	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17) Please provide any additional information regarding microplastics and the reduction of emissions, in particular for paints, geotextiles and detergent capsules?

*2500 character(s) maximum*

18) Please provide any information if a significant fraction of the release might be in form of very fine particles (smaller than 1 micron, also called nanoplastics), either in general, either for one of the specific sources, and which consequences that might have on possible measures?

*2500 character(s) maximum*

## **Contact**

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