

Bisphenol A, R3PACK supports the ban for consumer products, calls for stricter protections

The R3PACK Consortium welcomes the recent Bisphenol A ban adopted by the European Commission, and also strongly urges policymakers to prioritise protecting public health and the environment by fostering transparency in chemical management and risk analysis for environmental/food safety.

On the 19th of December 2024, the European Commission accepted a ban of Bisphenol A (BPA) in food contact materials within the EU, marking a win for European consumers in a years-long battle over the chemical. This follows from earlier [findings](#) of the European Environmental Agency in 2023 which found that approximately 92% of adult Europeans have high levels of BPA in their bodies, many of which exceed the recommended maximums established by the European Food Safety Agency.

BPA is a hazardous [chemical substance](#) used to manufacture certain plastics and resins used for protective linings in food and beverage packaging. Due to its use in containers and other food contact materials, it regularly migrates into foods and drinks, in so doing entering the human body.

The ban by the Commission responds to serious public health concerns related to Bisphenols in food contact materials, rightfully treating them with the severity they deserve. R3PACK recognises the importance of adopting the precautionary principle and implementing stricter requirements on chemicals to ensure the safety of consumers and the environment.

Furthermore, [studies have shown](#) that micro- and nano-plastics can contaminate agricultural soils, irrigation water, and oceans with BPA, which can in turn be absorbed by living creatures and enter the rest of the food chain. It is therefore a great achievement for the Commission to have banned the substance, protecting both the environment and the human food chain itself.

While the R3PACK Consortium celebrates the ban on Bisphenol A and other harmful substances from consumer products, we also strongly urge policymakers to prioritise protecting public health and the environment by fostering transparency in chemical management and risk analysis for environmental/food safety. Specifically, R3PACK stresses that:

- **A comprehensive approach is needed to not only address the presence of BPA, but also other harmful substances like per- and poly-fluoroalkyl (PFAS) and phthalates.** Such substances should be phased-out in primary articles to promote circularity and safety in recycling processes. The BPA ban and its new requirements focus specifically on bisphenols and their derivatives, not extending to other chemical categories.
- **Information should be freely available and transparent regarding the content of chemicals in products.** This empowers consumers to make informed decisions based on accurate information, which in turn supports sustainable consumption practices. The declaration of compliance in Annex III of the BPA ban is simply not enough to guarantee transparency.
- **Risk analysis should be improved by considering interactions between different hazardous substances present in both the environment and food.** Single-point risk analysis is insufficient to provide an accurate assessment of consumer exposure to dangerous substances, whereas a multi-faceted analysis system is far more accurate. The BPA ban remains focused on individual substances (e.g., Articles 6 and 9) and does not require assessment of combined effects or interactions.



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About R3PACK

R3PACK - Reduce, Reuse, Rethink PACKaging: towards novel fibre-based packaging and reuse schemes uptake is a project funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 101060806. The project aims to secure the fast and extensive uptake of industrially relevant, cross-sectorial, cost-effective innovative technologies allowing immediate substitution of complex multilayer plastic packaging with high performing fibre-based packaging and economical, industrial and environmental optimisation of reuse schemes demonstrated at large scale and transnationally in three EU countries by two major retailers, covering the needs of 13 different food product types.



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