Implementing the EU Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation ESPR

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23 April 2024
ESPR quick links – ECOS resources

- Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation - [analysis of final text](#).
- [Recommendations for the Ecodesign Forum](#)
- Complete [our product interest survey](#) – or scan the QR code!
## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:05</td>
<td>Welcome and introduction</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 10:15 | Overview of ecodesign and framework  
  • How it works now (Ecodesign Directive)  
  • How it will work in the future (ESPR) |
| 10:30 | Products and timeline of working plan |
| 10:45 | Deep-dive in the Ecodesign Forum  
  • How the current Consultation Forum works  
  • ECOS recommendations for the Ecodesign Forum |
| 11:00 | What’s next and how to get involved  
  • The textile example |
| 11:10 | Open discussion |
| 11:25 | Concluding remarks and closure |
About ECOS
In a nutshell

International environmental NGO

Technical expertise

Network of members and experts
The ECOS method – how do we work?

- Standardisation
- Campaigns
- Policy & advocacy
ECOS hierarchy for product policies

- Sufficiency
- Circular Business Models
- Lifetime extension and durability
- Toxic-free products
- Design for circularity
- Reuse
- Repair
- Upgrade
- Refurbish
- Remanufacture
- Repurpose
- Recycle
- Compost
- Chemical recovery

- SUFFICIENCY
- Dematerialise and redesign
- Extend existing use-cycle
- Extend to new use-cycle
- Recover materials
ECOS vision for Circular Economy & Product Policies

- Cascading use of biological resources
- Contribute to ecosystem and natural cycles’ regeneration
- Absence of substances of concern – zero pollution
- Ban destruction of goods
- No data, no market – traceability and transparency
- Localised infrastructure and production
- Circular business models – optimised production/logistics/local value chains
- Quality – Durability
- Resource reduction
Who works on ESPR at ECOS?

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Overview of ESPR legislation and framework
How ecodesign works now
Push and pulls

2009
Ecodesign Directive
Pushes worst products off the market

2017
Labelling Regulation
Pulls consumers towards better products

ecos
Energy-related products
Ecodesign: A success story

... and energy bills savings up to €285 per year per avg. household
How it will work in the future
Why is the ESPR important?

ESPR focuses on enhancing product sustainability across the EU. It requires producers to integrate ecological considerations from design to disposal and mandatory product disclosures.

- **Opportunity to reform value chains** – essential rules for a circular economy
- **Setting a path and a direction**
- **Implementations will take years, with opportunities for continuous improvement**

Learn more in our analysis:
ESPR Main Features

- Applicable across **all product groups** except food, feed, military products, medicinal products, vehicles.

- **Ecodesign requirements** for more sustainable products: durability, repairability, reusability, upgradeability, absence of substances of concern.

- **Digital product passport** to share important information across the value chain - inform sustainability-relevant decision-making.

- Reporting and ban on the **destruction of unsold goods** - starting with textiles.

- Ensure consistency with other policies: GPP and more resources in the Commission for product policies.

Learn more in our analysis: ecostandard.org/publications/espr-analysis-eu-ecodesign/
Wins and lost battles

- Link objectives to key environmental parameters (carbon and material footprints).
- Key product groups & sectors identified, e.g. ICT, textiles, steel, cement.
- Ban the destruction of unsold goods – starting with textiles
- Transparency overall and transparency on substances + possibility to restrict on impacts on human health and environment.
- Social & due diligence: a pathway for inclusion in the review
- Performance requirements & product parameters: horizontal requirements encouraged and material footprint as an indicator.

- Creation of appropriate governance.
- Increase resources for policy makers, market surveillance and NGOs for the development of secondary legislation.

- Need for strong sanctions in cases of non-compliance.
- Ensure appropriate liability and enforcement for online sales.
- Removal of the possibility to create voluntary agreements.

Ultimately, the success of the ESPR depends on its implementation, including upcoming activities, secondary legislation, and the role of standardisation.
Ecodesign requirements include performance & information requirements. Where 2+ product groups show similarities: possibility of horizontal ecodesign requirements

- Durability
- Reliability
- Reusability
- Upgradability
- Reparability
- Possibility of maintenance & refurbishment
- Presence of substances of concern
- Energy use and energy efficiency
- Water use and water efficiency
- Resource use and resource efficiency
- Recycled content
- Possibility of remanufacturing
- Possibility of recycling
- Possibility of recovery of materials
- Environmental impacts, including carbon and environmental footprint
- Expected generation of waste

Learn more in our analysis: ecostandard.org/publications/espr-analysis-eu-ecodesign/
Product parameters

- Product requirements based on parameters (Annex I)- the specific features to be measured -while requirements are the performance targets those features must meet.

- Civil Society’s wins:
  - impact of *substances on human health and environment*,
  - the use or consumption of energy and water, emissions to air, water and soil,
  - the release of micro and nanoplastics,
  - *material footprint* of products.
Substances of concern in ESPR – our impacts

- Performance requirements should reduce “significant risks to human health or the environment”
- Substances hindering circularity under “standard technologies”
- Tracking of SoC throughout the life cycle of products
- Expanded definition to include substances identified as PoPs
- Product policy & restrictions: PPWR – PFAS restriction / halogenated flame retardants in displays
Key Opportunity for Chemicals in Products

- Elections + New Commission
- Shift in priorities and framing – circular economy
- REACH reform: pending...
- Key areas to improve:
  - Traceability and transparency
  - Address EDCs, SVHCs, and others not adequately addressed by REACH
  - Textiles, paints, detergents, tyres
Ensure the ESPR leads to material footprint reductions

The EU, which represents 6% of the world’s population, consumed 17% of all the raw materials that were extracted in 2019

Learn more in our joint letter and white paper: https://ecostandard.org/news_events/join-our-call-for-an-eu-directive-on-sustainable-resource-management/
The ESPR and Material Footprint

The main objectives of the Regulation:

- To improve the environmental sustainability of products
- To improve the functioning of the internal market

ESPR should also contribute to achieving:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Climate Law</th>
<th>8th Environmental Action Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A binding commitment of:</td>
<td>• By 2050 at the latest, Europeans live well, within planetary boundaries, in a well-being economy where nothing is wasted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• At least 55% of GHG emissions reduced by 2030</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Economy-wide climate neutrality by 2050</td>
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</table>
Products and timeline of working plan
ESPR: Tentative timeline

2024
- 23 April 2024: EP plenary vote on final ESPR text
- May 2024: Final Council endorsement
- May/June 2024: Publication of ESPR in the OJ
- June/July 2024: ESPR entry into force

Q3 2024
- Establishment of the Ecodesign Forum; calls for membership

Late 2024
- First meeting of the Ecodesign Forum

2025
- March 2025: Adoption of the first ESPR Working Plan
- Mid 2025: Acts on unsold goods destruction ban & exemptions

Late 2025
- Acts on DPP registry, service providers, data carriers, digital credentials

Q4 2025/Q1 2026
- Adoption of the first ESPR measures, e.g. textiles/steel

Mid 2027
- First product requirements start to apply
Process for adoption of Ecodesign measures
First working plan

- The European Commission will first focus on setting sustainability requirements for categories with the biggest environmental impact:
  - Intermediate products: e.g. iron, steel and aluminium, lubricants, and chemicals
  - Products: e.g. textiles (notably garments and footwear), furniture (including mattresses), tyres, detergents, paints, energy-related products, and ICT products/other electronics.

- The Commission must provide a justification if the WP list is changed (omission or addition).

- To be adopted no later than 9 months after the entry into force.
Methodology behind 1stWP priorities

Figure III. The 12 shortlisted end-use products.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Category</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Air</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Biodiversity</th>
<th>Wast</th>
<th>Climate Change</th>
<th>Energy Use</th>
<th>Human Toxicity</th>
<th>Material Efficiency</th>
<th>Lifetime Extinction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textiles &amp; Footwear</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceramics Products</td>
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<td>Tyres</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Detergents</td>
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<td>Mattresses</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lubricants</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Fishing gears</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absorbent hygiene products</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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JRC Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation - preliminary study on new product priorities
Start with the base: preparatory study

Purpose: to establish whether the product represents:

1. A significant volume of trade.

2. Significant environmental impact over its life-cycle.

3. Significant improvement potential without excessive costs, e.g. wide disparity in environmental performance between products of equivalent functionality.

Structure & methodology defined
What about standards?

They can play a significant role in its implementation. Industry can use standards to ensure their products meet the ESPR's goals and standardisers have all started preempting this work – crucial for us to be there.

- Standards provide a common technical language, can simplify compliance with ESPR and can promote consistency across the European market.
- Direct complementary role of European standards, which help ascertain conformity with requirements:
  - Allow manufacturers to prove conformity with requirements & affix the CE marking onto products which is necessary to sell in the EU;
  - Help market surveillance authorities to verify that requirements are met.
Deep-dive in Ecodesign Forum
Involvement of CSOs in Consultation Forum

Consultation Forum: stakeholders' repartition

- Trade and business associations: 63%
- NGOs: 49%
- Other Organisations: 4%
- Professionals' association: 7%
- Academia, Research Institute and Think Tanks: 22%
Our experience:
ECOS has 17 years' experience in the ED&EL CF

- Environmental stakeholders and consumers represented
- Focused discussions

- Chronic delays and multiplication of studies
- Limitation of 5 representatives per organisation
- Transparency
- Some stakeholders are not represented (e.g. Repairers)
Until 2030: CF & EDF

- Until 2030, Consultation Forum and Ecodesign Forum will co-exist in parallel, with limited role for CF from 2027 onwards.
- EDF responsible for work on products/ horizontal requirements in ESPR WP including new products and certain energy-related products for which measures are not yet in the pipeline.
Ecodesign Forum (EDF)- Role

- Prepares ecodesign requirements
- Prepares working plans
- Examines the effectiveness of MS mechanism
- Assesses self-regulation
- Assesses prohibition of destruction of unsold goods
Ecodesign Forum
**ECOS Recommendations**

**Process and transparency**
Ecodesign Forum and a Member State Expert group: no duplication & no delays
Expert Group - national experts without conflict of interest
Forum to be efficient & stay on schedule, more transparency along the way

**Inclusiveness**
Thorough & inclusive stakeholder involvement & consultation
Different products = different expert needs: product-specific sub-groups
Inclusion of repairers, circular operators, social enterprises, trade unions, importers, environmental & consumer organisations – positive signals in the final ESPR text

**Resources**
Ensure that relevant offices are fully staffed to manage the workload
Commission to secure sufficient resources and ensure that funding is in place for substantial, long-term and stable support for the effective involvement of civil society in the Ecodesign forum.
Ecodesign Forum (EDF) – Next steps

- EC decision to establish EDF including rules – Q3 2024
- Call for membership application - Q3 2024
- Rules of procedure adopted at the 1st meeting
- First meeting of Ecodesign Forum – before end of 2024
What’s next... and how to get involved
ECOS work on textiles

Durable, repairable and mainstream
How ecodesign can make our textiles circular

Working paper
Exploring sufficiency approaches to textiles policy
Dr. Katia Dayan Vladimirova, University of Geneva
Luca Bonidolo and Valeria Botta, ECOS

Deep dive: Standards to measure textile durability
Technical paper
Authors: Valeria Botta, ECOS; Ebba Magnusson, technical expert

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What’s next: Ecodesign for textiles

EU Textile Strategy sets the vision for 2030:

• “binding product-specific ecodesign requirements to increase textiles’ performance in terms of durability, reusability, reparability, fibre-to-fibre recyclability and mandatory recycled fibre content, to minimise and track the presence of substances of concern and to reduce the adverse impacts on climate and the environment”

• Revision of the EU Ecolabel criteria for textiles

• Introduction of mandatory criteria for green public procurement

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# JRC preparatory study - timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Topics addressed</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial questionnaire</strong></td>
<td>Definitions, scope, market analysis, user behaviour, ecodesign aspects, EU Ecolabel, EU Green Public Procurement</td>
<td>30 March 2023 – 8 May 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st milestone</strong></td>
<td>Scope, market, user behaviour, current EU Ecolabel criteria, current EU Green Public Procurement criteria</td>
<td>23 February to 22 April 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2nd milestone</strong></td>
<td>Technologies, and analysis of base cases from environmental and economic perspectives</td>
<td>Before the summer break 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3rd milestone</strong></td>
<td>Analysis of ecodesign aspects, design options, policy scenarios, and information requirements, including elements to be included in the Digital Product Passport</td>
<td>Before the end of 2024</td>
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</tbody>
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JRC preparatory study - scope

Included: apparel; sportswear and workwear → horizontal requirements

Excluded:

- Intermediate products → ECOS to advocate inclusion in the preliminary study for apparel
- Home textiles → new preliminary study to be launched
- Footwear → possible preliminary study if included in first workplan
- PPE, medical textiles, smart and electronic textiles
- Non-textile materials: leather, fur, down, feathers → ECOS to advocate inclusion in the preliminary study for apparel

Function: criterion for differentiating requirements within apparel subgroup
JRC preparatory study – key learnings

1. Numbers of preliminary studies are limited (resources)
2. Definitions are key to determine the scope of the requirements → avoid loopholes
3. Strong focus on the functionality of products to determine the scope → horizontal requirements
4. Industry uses complexity of supply chain and enforceability to avoid requirements on production
5. Strong focus on products and their physical characteristics → difficult to address overproduction
What’s next: Ecodesign for steel

- June 2024 approx. First consultation forum: presentation of progress on analysis under preparatory study.
- July 2025 (confirmed) target completion of preparatory study and beginning of consultation on proposed policy options (3-month duration, similar to an Inception Impact Assessment).
- End of 2025/early 2026 approx. publication of policy proposal and final approval via Delegated Act procedure.

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How to get involved

- Complete our product interest survey – scan the QR code
- Contact us – become an ECOS member!
- Register as a stakeholder – each product group requires its own registration
Thank you

Environmental Coalition on Standards

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