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*Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*

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**2023/0373(COD)**

2.01.2025

### **COMMITTEE DRAFT REPORT**

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution (COM(2023)0645 – C9-0378/2023 – 2023/0373(COD))

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Rapporteurs: Jorge Buxadé and João Albuquerque

**(Joint committee procedure - Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure: in the event of a procedure with joint meetings of committees, the respective co-Rapporteurs shall draft up a single draft report, which shall be examined and voted on by the committees involved, under the joint chairmanship of the committee chairs.)**

## **Introduction and explanatory statement**

Over the years, extensive research has provided substantial evidence on the severity of microplastic contamination in our ecosystems. Current data estimates indicate that over 2 million tonnes of microplastics are circulating in our oceans today. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), over 430 million tonnes of plastics are produced annually, with two-thirds classified as temporary products that rapidly become waste, polluting waterways and entering human food chains. Within the European Union alone, 57 million tonnes of plastic pellets are produced each year, with losses equivalent to 7,300 truckloads of pellets occurring annually. These losses, primarily arising from deficiencies in production, handling, and transportation processes, have been explicitly highlighted in the Commission's Impact Assessment and are widely acknowledged by industry stakeholders.

From the moment microplastics enter our land and marine environment, it is nearly impossible to collect them. Consequently, dispersed microplastics have detrimental effects on our biodiversity, ecosystems and essential economies, in addition to our food chains and human health. They raise carbon emissions and adversely affect organisms in charge of collecting carbon in our marine life. Next to that, the small size (no larger than 5mm) adds to their high-level mobility, allowing them to be easily transported by a variety of ways including air, land, surface waters and marine currents. Microplastics can also contaminate (agricultural) soils, either directly or indirectly through the repurposing of leftover water for farming, which is harmful to the quality of our food, and ultimately our human health. Given these concerns, urgent efforts must focus on (a) monitoring and (b) prevention to mitigate all avoidable losses.

There is scientific consensus that plastic pellets constitute the third key source of unintentional microplastic pollution. Other sources in this category are paints, tyres, textiles, geotextiles and detergent capsules. The proposal put forward by the Commission intends to fill a legal gap and targets the explicit pollution caused by the losses of plastic pellets into nature. It will be supplemented by existing pivotal EU regulations including the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Plastics Strategy, and EURO 7. Next to this, it will be aligned with the REACH regulation, which primarily targets microplastics intentionally added to products.

Taking into account the adverse impacts of plastic pellets in our environment, and the avoidable character of its losses, the Rapporteurs highly welcome the Commission's proposal. Based on a comprehensive Impact Assessment (IA), the strategy offers a well-developed framework for addressing the core challenges associated with processing and transporting plastic pellets. The proposal opts for the development and implementation of efficient monitoring, reporting, and certification methodologies to provide a clearer assessment of total losses. It also outlines specific procedures and obligations for stakeholders across the entire plastic pellet supply chain, including producers, operators, carriers, and the competent authorities of EU Member States. In addition, the proposal sets targeted objectives tailored to the size and production capacity of enterprises, ensuring exemptions and cost-effective compliance practices for SMEs.

Nonetheless, the Rapporteurs believe that the proposal would benefit from further refinement, as highlighted by several member states. While the regulation is expected to receive general support from the ENVI committees, substantial amendments are anticipated to strengthen and expand the initial proposal. The environmental crisis in December 2023,

where 26 tonnes of plastic pellets washed ashore on the beaches of Galicia, demonstrated the devastating impact of a single container spill. This incident has intensified discussions among MEPs, driving calls for a more ambitious regulation that encompasses all plastic pellet polluters, including maritime carriers and international transport. Furthermore, NGOs have advocated for measures to monitor pellet spills at sea and enhance accountability for polluters, aiming to safeguard marine ecosystems from future environmental harm.

Overall, the extent to which SMEs will be exempted is expected to be a key point of discussion. The Rapporteurs stress that exemptions should consider not only the size of the enterprise, but also the volume of plastic pellets handled. Enterprises operating facilities that process more than a thousand tonnes of pellets annually should, as a rule, not qualify for lighter requirements. To support the effective implementation of the regulation, exemptions should be strictly limited to micro-enterprises, aligning with the approach outlined in the OSPAR Recommendation. At the same time, micro, small, and medium enterprises must be granted adequate transition periods to adapt their operations once the regulation takes effect, ensuring they are not subjected to excessive economic burdens.

The Rapporteurs are confident that there is broad societal consensus and commitment to reduce microplastics in the environment. We strongly believe that implementing preventive measures and addressing identified shortcomings are not only environmentally responsible, but also more cost-effective for businesses. According to the United Nations Environment Assembly and the United Nations Environment Program, microplastic pollution and plastic pellet losses impose an annual economic burden of \$19 billion globally, affecting cleanup efforts, the marine industry, tourism, and infrastructure such as waterways (Xia et al., 2023).

This committee report by the Rapporteurs of ENVI I and ENVI II, will further elaborate on the subjects of discussion on the proposal of preventing plastic pellet losses. It includes recommendations by the EP Party Leaders and the Rapporteurs, and outlines a list of the amendments that are proposed at this state of the negotiations. In order to produce this report, the Party Group Leaders were consulted. We appreciate their collaboration and are eager to collaborate with the entire European Parliament to strengthen the proposal.

## **1. Scope of the regulation**

The proposal outlines its scope and objectives in Article 1, requiring adjustments to plastic pellet handling at all stages of the supply chain. These obligations apply to economic operators managing more than 3 tonnes of plastic pellets annually within the EU. The threshold of 3 tons threshold is appropriate, as it is essential to implement ambitious and legally binding preventive measures for all plastic pellet losses. However, the Rapporteurs propose that the goal should not merely be to prevent pellet losses, but also to strive for zero plastic pellet losses in the future.

In addition to operators, carriers also play an essential role in the supply chain. The proposal includes both EU and non-EU land carriers transporting pellets within the EU, as well as maritime carriers shipping pellets within the EU. This means that all regulations regarding carriers also apply to maritime pellet transporters, marking a notable expansion and sparking a controversial debate among stakeholders, MEPs, and member states. The Rapporteurs are convinced that the EU should take initiative and play a leading role in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to ensure better environmental protection against

plastic pellet pollution in marine environments. By including maritime trade in the regulation, a principal source of plastic pellet loss, stricter shipping and labeling requirements for pellets, as outlined in Annex III, can be enforced.

Article 2 introduces key definitions to clarify the regulation's scope. One key area for improvement, to avoid legal ambiguity, is the definition of microplastics. Both the scientific community and the OSPAR Convention agree that this definition should explicitly include powders, flakes, dust, and additives, as these have similar adverse effects on ecosystems as uniform pellets. Additionally, the IA highlights that 10% of pellets are produced from recycling plastic waste. As this practice is expected to grow, it should also be incorporated in the definition. Furthermore, the definition of plastic pellet loss should be expanded to include losses from maritime vessels, aligning with the proposal's broader inclusion of maritime trade.

## **2. General obligations and requirements**

Throughout Article 3, the proposal outlines the general obligations for economic operators, as well as EU and non-EU land and maritime carriers. All these actors must prevent potential plastic pellet losses and promptly clean up any incidents. The Rapporteurs propose an amendment to paragraph 1, stipulating that economic operators, EU carriers, and non-EU carriers shall notify the competent authority in the event of spills and losses, take immediate action to address these spills and losses, and restore the affected areas to their original condition.

To facilitate effective compliance monitoring, plastic pellet operators and carriers must report their implemented practices, updates, and changes to their national competent authorities. These authorities are then tasked with compiling the information into a public register. The Rapporteurs emphasize the importance of ensuring that this register is easily accessible, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in operations. Furthermore, the Rapporteurs fully support the proposal's emphasis on the authorities' responsibility to ensure that activities involving plastic pellets do not adversely affect future generations. If ecosystem damage occurs, authorities are required to take corrective actions under Articles 9 (Incidents and Accidents) and 15 (Penalties). Member States must also adhere to a specified reporting timeline, informing the Commission of their compliance efforts initially at 6 and 12 months, and then annually thereafter. afterwards annually. This reporting framework will boost accountability and ensure regular oversight of plastic pellet management practices.

Article 4 outlines the responsibilities of economic operators regarding plastic pellet handling, including risk assessments, safety measures, and reporting. Operators must proactively prevent pellet losses, implement effective risk management practices, and maintain transparent records. These reports, including risk assessments and self-declarations of conformity, will be publicly available.

Operators must develop a risk assessment plan for each installation, considering the size and scale of operations. The plan should detail preventive measures, safety protocols, and necessary equipment. After creating the plan, operators must notify the competent authority and submit a self-declaration of conformity. They must also update the plan regularly, incorporating lessons from past operations, and provide it to authorities upon request. Medium and large enterprises (handling over 1,000 tonnes of pellets annually) must update

their risk assessment and self-declaration every two years, while small and micro-enterprises must update theirs every five years. Authorities can request plan adjustments to ensure effective pellet loss prevention and may mandate specific actions outlined in Annex I. Operators and carriers must ensure staff are trained to handle potential pellet loss incidents. Records of compliance, including pellet loss estimates and total volume handled, must be kept for five years and made available to authorities upon request. Competent authorities will maintain a publicly accessible register of risk assessment plans and self-declarations.

Carriers, both EU and non-EU, must follow Annex III standards for pellet handling, focusing on spill prevention and containment. In case of a spill, operators and carriers must take immediate corrective actions, report significant issues to authorities, and follow up with necessary steps. Operators must conduct an annual internal assessment to evaluate compliance with the risk assessment plan, including loss quantities, preventive measure effectiveness, and equipment review.

The regulation also specifies requirements for certifiers of the risk assessment plans, their issued certificates, and the communication responsibilities to and from the member states in Article 5. Certifiers should carry out annual checks, updating the competent authorities about certification changes. The competent authorities should establish a register of these certificates, made publicly available by the Commission. This ensures continuous oversight, traceability and accountability, and promotes reactivity to potential plastic pellet risks. Making the certificates publicly accessible will promote openness for all stakeholders.

Article 6 will most likely be non-controversial and states that economic operators registered under the community eco-management and audit scheme are exempt from the notification and compliance obligations in Articles 4(2) and 5(1) and (2) if their environmental management system meets the requirements in Annex I and has been verified by an accredited environmental verifier. In such cases, the verifier must report the operator's compliance status with these obligations to the national authorities.

### **3. Exemptions for SME's**

The proposed amendments of Article 4, regarding the distinction between differently sized entities, clarifies the size definitions based on EU standards, such as defining micro, small, medium, and large enterprises according to their number of employees and annual turnover. Currently, micro and small enterprises, and companies producing less than 1,000 tonnes per year are subject to different obligation criteria. They are exempt from: a) developing training and awareness programs, b) conducting risk assessments, c) performing internal assessments, and d) obtaining third-party certification. The Rapporteurs recommend including SMEs within these requirements to create a more robust and comprehensive regulation. Exemptions should be limited to micro-enterprises only. The regulation could introduce scaled obligations, where large enterprises with over 1,000 tonnes of pellets handled per year would have annual risk assessment updates, while small and medium-sized enterprises would update every two years. Micro enterprises could have simplified reporting requirements, with risk assessments updated every five years and fewer documentation obligations for spill losses.

Article 5 further presents the implementation phase for the certification requirements. Large-scale companies handling more than 1000 tonnes of plastic pellets a year get a

maximum of 24 months after the regulation's entry into force to prove their compliance with the risk assessment (Annex I) and obtain certification from an official certifier. Annual updates are required thereafter. Similarly, medium sized enterprises producing over 1000 tonnes of pellets/year will follow the same transition period, but their certifications will remain valid for two years. In line with the previous stance, the Rapporteurs support the inclusion of all small-sized enterprises producing over 1000 tonnes of pellets/year within the process of third-party certification to strengthen the robustness of the proposal, with the same transition period as medium-sized enterprises.

#### **4. Certification and compliance system**

Regarding the accreditation of certifiers, Article 7 stipulates that certifiers must remain fully independent and uphold professional integrity towards the economic operators it will be evaluating. Certifiers will receive specialized training from the responsible authorities appointed by the Commission. A particularly contentious issue is the provision that, for the first three years (with a potential for renewal), certifiers will receive funding from the European Union Budget equal to 10% of their annual operational expenses. The renewal happens in conditionality with yearly financial reports issued by the certifiers in question, 4 months after the regulation's entry into force. Renewal is contingent on adherence to the reporting timeframe set by the competent authorities to the Commission, as specified in Article 3(6). This performance-based funding model promotes a strong incentive and capacity building to accredit certifiers, while ensuring monitoring through the annual reports. To ensure fairness and accountability of the Commission in the case of disputes, installing appeal mechanisms after denied financial support is proposed. Article 7 also highlights that certifiers cannot delegate their responsibilities to a third party. This helps to ensure independence, traceability of decisions, and avoidance of conflicts of interest. While the principle of transparency remains essential, the Rapporteurs welcome limited subcontracting amendments that seek to reduce the burden on SME's, provided they do not compromise accountability or create opportunities for loopholes or misuse

Article 8 on verification of compliance and reporting sets out that competent authorities are responsible for verifying compliance of economic operators and carriers through inspections and risk-based measures, based on the self-declarations of conformity (Article 4) and certificates (Article 5). The rapporteurs propose that competent authorities shall also carry out randomized environmental inspections, to ensure the regulation is applied consistently, not just during control periods. Member States must annually report to the Commission with data on the operators and carriers of plastic pellets, risk assessments, self-declarations, environmental inspections, incidents, and non-compliance actions, following a standardized format determined by the Commission. Regarding point 2(a), the Rapporteurs advise that economic operators and carriers should also report on the quantity of pellets produced and handled, categorized by polymer type, as well as on the estimated quantity of spills and losses, along with the number of incidents and accidents.

This standardized reporting process enables the Commission to consolidate information into a Union-wide compliance report, ensuring ensuring transparency and facilitating continuous improvement in regulatory enforcement. The Commission has the authority to modify or update the content of the implementing acts by issuing directives. The Rapporteurs propose that the Commission, within six months of receiving the annual reports, publish a report on

the implementation of this Regulation in the Union and best practices observed in the Member States. The Rapporteurs suggest that every three years, the Commission produce a synthesis report on compliance and reporting, outlining both qualitative and quantitative information on the Regulation's implementation.

In the event of significant incidents or accidents impacting public health or the environment, the regulation mandates immediate action. Operators and carriers must promptly notify local authorities, provide an estimation of the loss, and take measures to minimize harm and prevent recurrence. Authorities are empowered to impose additional requirements on operators as needed. In cases with cross-border implications, neighboring Member States must be informed and supported to address the situation effectively, as stipulated in Article 9. To strengthen compliance mechanisms, the Commission's proposal highlights the importance of harmonized procedures and collaboration between Member States. By fostering a unified approach to risk assessment, inspection, and enforcement, the regulation aims to minimize gaps in compliance oversight and improve the overall efficacy of the framework.

The Rapporteurs emphasize the necessity of providing sufficient resources to national competent authorities to ensure robust implementation of these measures. They also underline the need for clarity and accessibility in public registers of operators and incidents, enhancing accountability and trust among stakeholders.

Article 10 outlines the actions required in the event of non-compliance with the regulation. Economic operators, EU carriers, and non-EU carriers must immediately inform the competent authority, take necessary measures to restore compliance as quickly as possible, and comply with any additional measures set by the authority. If the infringement poses an immediate risk to human health or the environment, the competent authority has the power to suspend the operation of the installation until compliance is restored.

## **5. Power of the member states and the Commission**

Article 11 determines the powers and designation of the competent authorities. Member States have to designate one or more competent authorities, in consultation with the European Environment Agency. The rapporteurs support that relevant stakeholders, including environmental NGOs and industry representatives, are consulted to contribute their expertise and to ensure that the enforcement mechanisms are practical. Additionally, the authorities should coordinate with the European Commission and among national competent authorities and stakeholders to implement and enforce the regulation. The Rapporteurs emphasize that consistent enforcement of the regulation and the application of sanctions across all Member States is essential to avoid discrepancies and ensure uniform compliance.

Competent authorities are also granted powers such as accessing documents, requesting information, initiating inspections, and accessing installations related to possible infringements. Competent authorities may use all of the above mentioned information as evidence for environmental inspections or other verification mechanisms. The Rapporteurs highlight the need for transparency in the collection of evidence, with clear documentation of inspections and findings made publicly available, unless confidentiality is required.

Article 17 grants the Commission the power to adopt delegated acts to amend Annexes I to IV to reflect technical progress and scientific developments. In doing so, the Commission

must consider factors such as the experience gained from implementing Articles 4 and 5, relevant international standards, the specificities of various sectors, and the needs of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. The proposed amendments of Art. 17, regarding the mention of only small and medium-sized businesses ensure that the needs of micro enterprises are equally considered. For example, "the specific needs of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises", needs to be specified.

## **6. Enforcement provisions and penalties**

Article 14 establishes the process for complaint-handling and access to justice in the event of non-compliance with the Regulation. It allows individuals or organizations with a sufficient interest, such as NGOs focused on human health, the environment, or consumer protection, to submit substantiated complaints to competent authorities if they believe an economic operator, EU carrier, or non-EU carrier is not complying with the Regulation. Competent authorities must assess these complaints, take necessary actions, and inform the complainant of their decision. Additionally, Member States must ensure access to judicial review of decisions made by competent authorities and provide practical information on access to these procedures. The proposed amendments of Art. 14, regarding NGOs expands the criteria for determining "sufficient interest" to ensure broader participation of civil society organizations in holding operators accountable. This emphasize the importance of NGOs in promoting environmental and public health concerns, ensuring they have an accessible and transparent role in the complaint-handling process. It also ensures that the process is more transparent.

Article 15 addresses penalties for non-compliance with the Regulation. It requires Member States to establish rules on penalties for infringements, ensuring they are effective, proportionate, and dissuasive. Penalties include fines that are proportional to the turnover or income of the infringing party and increase for repeated offenses. The penalties must consider factors such as the nature, gravity, and impact of the infringement, as well as the financial situation of the responsible party. The proposed amendments of Article 15, regarding fines, ensures that penalties escalate in severity with each subsequent infringement, creating a strong disincentive for recurring violations and introduce a requirement for long-term environmental and public health assessments when determining penalties, to ensure that the full impact of an infringement is considered over time. This would reflect the potential ongoing effects of environmental damage and human health risks caused by violations, leading to more tailored and effective penalties. Another option is that member states shall establish an environmental fund using the revenue collected from penalties. This would enable them to allocate a portion of the funds to support initiatives focused on cleaning up areas contaminated by plastic and addressing plastic pollution.

Article 16 ensures that individuals affected by damage to human health due to an infringement of the regulation have the right to seek compensation from the responsible parties, including economic operators and competent authorities. Non-governmental organizations may also represent affected individuals and bring collective actions for compensation. Member States must ensure that the procedures for claiming compensation are accessible and not excessively difficult. The burden of proof lies with the infringing party to demonstrate that their actions did not cause the damage. The limitation period for compensation claims must be at least five years. The proposed amendments of Art. 16,



regarding the competent authority accountability, ensure that competent authorities are held accountable in cases of negligence or failure to act in a timely manner, especially if their inaction contributes to the damage. This would strengthen the responsibility of public bodies in preventing harm and providing redress and further clarify that, when evidence of a causal link between the infringement and damage is presented, the onus should be on the responsible party (including competent authorities, if applicable) to demonstrate that their actions did not contribute to the damage, ensuring fairness and accountability in compensation claims.

## **7. Assistance to SME's**

Article 12 on compliance assistance outlines initiatives to help enterprises, carriers, and certifiers implement the plastic pellet regulation. The Rapporteurs strongly encourage these support mechanisms. However, for paragraph 1, the Rapporteurs propose that the Commission develop these support mechanisms within a specific time frame after the entry into force of the Regulation, in consultation with civil society representatives (from industry, workers, and environmental fields). Furthermore, the article ensures that micro and small enterprises (SMEs) receive training and awareness programs from the European Commission, as well as support from Member States to provide open access to information and promote the effective implementation of the regulation. This support can include financial assistance, access to finance, specialized management, staff training, and organizational or technical support. These measures should include detailed provisions to ensure accessibility and prevent them from being overly complex for small businesses.

Member States must also ensure that medium and large-sized companies have access to information to promote compliance with the regulation. This may include specialized training and organizational assistance. While we believe that medium and large-sized enterprises should not receive preferential treatment in terms of resources, they should still have access to the necessary information and support to ensure consistent compliance across the board. Member States are also required to provide training programs for the certification of certifiers.

## **8. Standardized methodology**

Article 13 presents a standardized method for estimating losses to be developed using harmonized standards under Regulation (EU) No. 1025/2012. If no organization agrees to create the standard, or if the proposed standard does not meet the requirements set out in this regulation, the Commission will establish the methodology through an Implementing Act. It is important to address the 'measurement issue' and emphasize the need for reliable official data to effectively track and regulate the vast quantities of plastic pellets manufactured and shipped throughout Europe. The Rapporteurs also urge the Commission to evaluate the possibility of introducing chemical traceability of plastic pellets.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Commission's proposal for the regulation on plastic pellet handling represents a significant step towards addressing the environmental risks posed by plastic pellet pollution and ensuring greater accountability within the industry. While the proposal tackles several critical issues, there are still important areas that require further examination and refinement to fully achieve its objectives. However, the Rapporteurs expect that

discussions on potential changes will be necessary to improve the proposal and ensure that it is both effective and applicable. The European Parliament must engage in a thorough debate to refine the proposal and define its position for the upcoming negotiations. Sound cooperation within the Parliament will be essential to strengthen our collective approach and ensure that the final regulation reflects the diverse interests and concerns of all stakeholders involved.

## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION (AMENDMENTS, ANNEX I)

### Chart Legend:

Omissions in the are highlighted in ***bold italics*** (middle column)

Additions in are highlighted in ***bold italics*** (right column)

Amendment article	Party/rapport eurs	Text proposed by the commission	Amended text or goal of the amendment
Article 1 - paragraph 1	Rapporteurs	“This Regulation lays down obligations for the handling of plastic pellets at all stages of the supply chain to prevent losses”	“This Regulation lays down obligations for the handling of plastic pellets at all stages of the supply chain to prevent <b><i>and eliminate pellet</i></b> losses”
Article 2(a)	Rapporteurs	“‘plastic pellet’ means a small mass of preformed polymer-containing moulding material, <b><i>having relatively uniform dimensions in a given lot</i></b> , that is used as feedstock in plastic product manufacturing operations”	“‘plastic pellet’ means a small mass of preformed polymer-containing moulding material, <b><i>regardless of its shape and form, and including powders, flakes, dust and additives</i></b> , that is used as feedstock in plastic product manufacturing and <b><i>recycling</i></b> operations”.
Article 2 - paragraph c	Rapporteurs	“‘loss’ means a one-off or prolonged escape of plastic pellets <b><i>from</i></b> installation’s boundary to the environment or from road vehicles, rail wagons or inland waterway vessels transporting plastic pellets”	“‘loss’ means a one-off or prolonged escape of plastic pellets at any stage of the supply chain, from any installation’s boundary to the environment <b><i>or from any carrier, including road vehicles, rail wagons, inland waterway vessels, and maritime vessels, transporting plastic pellets</i></b> ”
Article 3 - paragraph 1	Rapporteurs	“Economic operators, EU carriers and non-EU carriers shall ensure that losses are avoided. Where losses occur, economic operators, EU carriers and non EU carriers shall take immediate action to clean-up those losses”	“Economic operators, EU carriers and non-EU carriers shall ensure that losses are avoided. Where losses occur, economic operators, EU carriers and non EU carriers <b><i>shall notify the competent authority in case of spills or losses</i></b> , take immediate action to clean-up those <b><i>spills</i></b> and losses and <b><i>return the</i></b>

			<b><i>affected spaces to their original condition</i></b>
Article 3 - paragraph 4	Rapporteurs	“Competent authorities shall establish and maintain a <b>public</b> register containing the information they have received in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4.”	“Competent authorities shall establish and maintain a register containing the information they have received in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4. <b><i>That register shall be public and easily accessible</i></b> ”
Article 4 - paragraph 1	Rapporteurs	addition to 1 (a)	<b><i>“Article 4 shall be interpreted in accordance with the definitions set forth in Article 2.”</i></b>
Article 4 - paragraph 7 (a)	Rapporteurs	“(…) and execute the procedures set out to ensure compliance with this Regulation;	“(…) and execute the procedures set out to ensure compliance with this Regulation. <b><i>For micro-sized enterprises, training and awareness programs shall be simplified in scope and adapted to their operational scale.</i></b> ”
Article 5 - paragraph 2	Rapporteurs	“(…) that are medium sized enterprises shall demonstrate that each installation where plastic pellets in quantities above 1000 tonnes have been handled in the previous calendar year.”	“economic operators that are <b><i>small and medium-sized enterprises</i></b> shall demonstrate that each installation where plastic pellets in quantities above 1000 tonnes have been handled in the previous calendar year.”
Article 7(g)	Rapporteurs	“(…)The Commission reserves the right to deny financial support in case the certifier fails to sufficiently comply with the obligations set out in Article 3(6) of this Regulation”	“(…)The Commission reserves the right to deny financial support in case the certifier fails to sufficiently comply with the obligations set out in Article 3(6) of this Regulation. <b><i>In addition, the Commission should install an appeal mechanism for enterprises in case of potential disputes</i></b> ”.
Article 8 - paragraph 1	Rapporteurs	“(…) The competent authorities shall carry out environmental inspections and other verification measures, following a risk-based approach”	“(…) The competent authorities shall carry out <b><i>planned and randomized</i></b> environmental inspections and other verification measures, following a risk-based approach”
Article 8 - paragraph 2(a)	Rapporteurs	“(…) and per economic activity, their installations, and of the EU land and maritime carriers and their means of transport allocated to transporting plastic pellets”	“(…) and per economic activity, their installations, <b><i>the quantity of pellets produced and handled based on the polymer type</i></b> , and of the EU land and maritime carriers and their means of transport

			allocated to transporting plastic pellets. <b>Additionally, all operators and carriers must report on the estimated quantity of spills and losses and the number of incidents and accidents</b> ".
Article 8 - paragraph 3	Rapporteurs	"(...)The Commission reserves its right to update the content of the implementing acts through directives. Introduction of new content shall always take place in accordance with the Regulation (EU) No 182/2011".	"(...)The Commission reserves its right to update the content of the implementing acts through directives. Introduction of new content shall always take place in accordance with the Regulation (EU) No 182/2011. <b>The Commission shall, within six months of receiving the annual reports, publish a report on the implementation of this Regulation in the Union and best practices observed in the Member States. Additionally, every three years, the Commission produces a synthesis report on compliance and reporting, outlining qualitative and quantitative information on the Regulation's implementation</b> ".
Article 10 paragraph 1	Rapporteurs	"(a) inform the competent authority; (b) take the measures necessary to ensure that compliance is restored within the shortest possible time"	"(a) inform the competent authority <b>without delay</b> (b) <b>take the necessary measures within a specific and reasonable timeframe, as determined by the competent authority, to ensure compliance is restored</b> "
Article 12 - paragraph 1	Rapporteurs	"The Commission shall develop awareness raising and training material on the sound implementation of the obligations laid down in this Regulation in consultation with representatives of economic operators, carriers, and certifiers, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and in collaboration with competent authorities"	"The Commission shall develop awareness raising and training material on the sound implementation of the obligations laid down in this Regulation, <b>6 months after the entry into force of this regulation</b> , in consultation with representatives of economic operators, carriers, and certifiers, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, <b>and civil society representatives</b> and in collaboration with competent authorities"

Article 13 - paragraph 2	Rapporteurs	“Where no European standardisation organisation accepts the request to draft a harmonised standard or where the Commission considers that the proposed standard does not satisfy the requirements as stated in Article 13(1) of this Regulation, the Commission shall establish the methodology by means of an Implementing act”	“(…) the Commission shall establish the methodology by means of an Implementing act. <b><i>The Commission shall also investigate whether it is possible to submit a report on the chemical traceability of plastic pellets</i></b> ”.
Article 14 - paragraph 1	Rapporteurs	“Natural or legal persons or organisations regarded under national law as having a sufficient interest.”	“Natural or legal persons or organisations regarded under national law as having a sufficient interest, <b><i>including non-governmental organisations</i></b> ”
Article 14 - paragraph 2	Rapporteurs	“(…) with a view to verifying those complaints.”	“(…) with a view to verifying those complaints. <b><i>The competent authorities shall proactively notify the complainant about the progress of the investigation and the outcomes, ensuring transparency throughout the process.</i></b> ”
Article 15 - paragraph 2	Rapporteurs	“(…) the maximum amount of such fines shall be at least 5% of the economic operator's annual turnover in the Member State concerned in the business year preceding the fining decision.”	“(…) the maximum amount of such fines shall be at least 5% of the economic operator's annual turnover in the Member State concerned in the business year preceding the fining decision. <b><i>An exponential increase in fines for repeat offenders is applied, ensuring that penalties escalate in severity with each subsequent infringement.</i></b> ”
Article 15 - paragraph 3 (c)	Rapporteurs	“(c) the population or the environment affected by the infringement, bearing in mind the immediate and long-term impact of the infringement on the objective of achieving a high level of protection of human health and the environment;”	“(c) the population or the environment affected by the infringement, bearing in mind the impact of the infringement on the objective of achieving a high level of protection of human health and the environment, <b><i>including the requirement for long-term environmental and public health assessments when determining penalties.</i></b> ”

Article 16 - paragraph 1	Rapporteurs	“(a) from the relevant natural or legal persons; (b) from the competent authorities in case of negligence.”	“(a) from the relevant natural or legal persons; (b) from the competent authorities in case of negligence. <b>Authorities are held accountable in cases of negligence or failure to act in a timely manner, especially if their inaction contributes to the damage.</b> ”
Article 16 - paragraph 4	Rapporteurs	“ Member States shall ensure that the onus is on the person responsible for the infringement to prove that the infringement did not cause or contribute to the Damage.”	“Member States shall ensure that the onus is on the person responsible for the infringement to prove that the infringement did not cause or contribute to the damage. <b>When evidence of a causal link between the infringement and damage is presented, the onus shall be on the responsible party (including competent authorities, if applicable) to demonstrate that their actions did not contribute to the damage.</b> ”
Article 17 (d)	Rapporteurs	“(d) the specific needs of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.”	“(d) the specific needs of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, <b>ensuring that the needs of micro enterprises are equally considered, recognizing their unique challenges and providing appropriate support.</b> ”
Article 15 - paragraph 3(d)	S&D	“(d) the financial situation of the economic operator, EU land carrier , non-EU land carrier, EU maritime carriers, and non-EU maritime carriers held responsible.”	Note: Provision ties penalties to the financial situation of the economic operator. This approach could create loopholes as larger industries might exploit to reduce high penalties. The robustness must be reconsidered to ensure resistance against any form of misuse.
Annex III - paragraph 2	S&D	“For storage: Microplastic pellets are to be stored in enclosed areas, and in the case of marine vessels below deck. Microplastic pellets shall be transported in tear- and impact-resistant packaging that can withstand degradation in aquatic environments”	Note: Requirement to store microplastics under deck can pose challenges as containers are usually stored above deck. This, as it stands, risks impacting the economic efficiency of marine carrier vessels. We must explore solutions that ensure safe transportation while

			maintaining a high economic efficiency of during marine transportation.
Article 3 - paragraph 6	Renew Europe	“Competent authorities shall report to the Commission all action undertaken in reference to the obligations set in this regulation.”	“Competent authorities shall report to the Commission all action undertaken in reference to the obligations set in this regulation. <b>The report shall contain also detailed information of the activities realized by the competent authority.</b> ”
Article 4 – paragraph 2	Renew Europe	“Micro and small-sized enterprises regardless of production levels, shall update their self-declaration every 5 years.”	“Micro and small-sized enterprises regardless of production levels, shall update their self-declaration every <b>3 years.</b> ”
Article 10 – paragraph 1	Renew Europe	“In the event of an infringement of the rules laid down in this Regulation, economic operators, EU land carriers, non-EU land carriers, EU maritime carriers, and non-EU maritime carriers shall immediately: (a) inform the competent authority. This shall include an assessment of the damage to environment done by the infringement;”	“In the event of an infringement of the rules laid down in this Regulation, economic operators, EU land carriers, non-EU land carriers, EU maritime carriers, and non-EU maritime carriers shall immediately: (a) inform the competent authority. This shall include a <b>detailed and independently verified assessment</b> of the damage to environment done by the infringement;”
Annex III Point (2) Article 4 – paragraph 2	Renew Europe	addition	<b>“It is recommended that plastic pellets be packed in good quality packaging that is strong enough to withstand the shocks and loadings normally encountered during transport. Packaging should also be constructed and closed to prevent any loss of contents which may be caused under normal conditions of transport by vibration or acceleration forces.”</b>
Article 3 - paragraph 3	European Conservatives	“Economic operators, EU land and non-EU land, EU maritime, and non-EU maritime	“Economic operators, Eu land, non-EU maritime and non-Eu Maritimes

		carriers shall notify the competent authorities of the Member State.	carriers shall notify the competent authorities of the Member State <b>with strictly defined time period.</b>
Article 4 - paragraph 2	European Conservatives	“shall notify the competent authority of an updated risk assessment plan for each installation and update their self-declaration every 2 years.”	“shall notify the competent authority of an updated risk assessment plan for each installation and update their self-declaration every <b>3</b> years.”
Article 7 (f)	European Conservatives	“(f) certifiers shall be accredited to a financial support of 10% of their yearly operating costs”	“(f) certifiers shall be accredited to a financial support of <b>5 %</b> of their yearly operating costs”
Article 16 - paragraph 5	European Conservatives	“Member States shall ensure that the limitation periods for bringing claims for compensation referred to in paragraph 1 are not shorter than 10 years.”	“Member states shall ensure the limitation periods for bringing claims for compensation referred to in paragraph 1 are not shorter <b>than 6 years. However, in exceptional cases, when harm may be manifested over a longer timeframe, the limitation period shall be exceeded.</b> ”

**INPUT RECEIVED (ANNEX II): List of persons from whom the rapporteurs received input**

- Helène Fritzon, S&D
- Katri Kulmuni, Renew Europe
- Jacek Ozdoba, European Conservatives