

# **Eurosim 2025 Program Guide and Work Program: Microplastics and Macro-strategy**

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Eurosim 2025 will focus on environmental regulation and strategy. The primary focus will be deliberations on the proposed Regulation on Preventing Plastic Pellet Losses to Reduce Microplastic Pollution. This proposal will be addressed through the ordinary legislative procedure: the European Commission has drafted it, and the Environment Council and the European Parliament will co-decide on its adoption. The European Council will deliberate on several larger, strategic questions. This guide sets out a basic framework for the program.

## **A breakdown of role categories and tasks**

European Council: The European Council forges the Member States' common positions on strategic issues and advises the Environmental Council regarding the proposed regulation. Its primary task at Eurosim will be to address three strategic topics: competitiveness and industrial strategy in the wake of the Draghi Report; Ukraine strategy amid eroding political and military circumstances; and EU environmental leadership in the face of US withdrawal. A decision on this negotiating agenda will be taken by consensus. Participants include the heads of government (HoGs) of the EU Member States; the President of the European Commission; the President of the European Parliament; and the Director of General and Institutional Policy in the Council Secretariat. In standard format, the European Council discusses items on the agenda as laid out by the President of the European Council, António Costa.

Environment Council: The Environment Council is the central body for intergovernmental negotiation of the proposed legislation. Its members will deliberate on, among other things, national reporting requirements to the Commission, funds to facilitate compliance, and penalties for noncompliance. Decisions will be taken by qualified majority. Participants include the environment ministers of each EU Member State; the Director of Environment in the Council Secretariat; and the Commissioner, DG Environment from the European Commission. In standard format, Environment Council meetings will be chaired by Poland's Minister of Climate and Environment, Paulina Hennig-Kloska.

### European Parliament: Committee on Environment – Group 1 (ENVI I)

The ENVI 1 subcommittee will lead European Parliament (EP) deliberations regarding compliance with the proposed regulation, emphasizing differential expectations for firms of different sizes. Decisions will be taken by majority. Participants include the designated Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and a designated representative of the European

Commission. In subcommittee format, meetings will be chaired by Lena Schilling, when present, and by Alexandr Vondra, when Ms. Schilling is not present.

European Parliament: Committee on Environment – Group 2 (ENVI II)

The ENVI 2 subcommittee will lead European Parliament (EP) deliberations regarding defining the scope of European Commission authority to ensure compliance with the regulation.

Decisions will be taken by majority. Participants include the designated Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and a designated representative of the European Commission. In subcommittee format, meetings will be chaired by Antonio de Caro, when present, and by Ondřej Knotek when Mr. de Caro is not present.

European Parliament plenary: The European Parliament’s ENVI Committee will meet in plenary Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to debate and vote on the amended legislation. All full committee meetings will be chaired by Antonio de Caro.

European Parliament Party Groups: The MEPs will meet for party coordination sessions at the start and middle of the simulation. Each session will be chaired by the party coordinator.

European Commission: The European Commission produces the proposal for the microplastics regulation, and its members offer technical guidance to and objective mediation among members of the Councils and EP Committees during their deliberations.

Special Roles: NGOs: NGOs articulate their organizations’ preferences regarding the microplastics regulation and seek to attend meetings and consult with relevant policymakers to encourage their adoption in the Council decisions and regulations or their inclusion in the EP resolution. The actors and experts from this group may be invited by the Councils and EP Committees to deliver short presentations and offer clarifications on relevant topics.

Special roles: industry representatives: Like NGOs, industry representatives articulate their member firms’ preferences regarding the microplastics regulation and seek to attend meetings and consult with relevant policymakers to encourage their adoption in the Council decisions and regulations or their inclusion in the EP resolution. These representatives may be invited by the Councils and EP Committees to deliver short presentations and offer clarifications on relevant topics.

Special Roles: Journalists: The role of journalists is to promote the flow and transparency of information within the negotiations and to produce stories informing all stakeholders of important developments. Journalists are welcome to use X (Twitter), Facebook page and other sources.

## **Tasks undertaken before Eurosim**

### European Commission

**By 15 November**, the European Commission shall produce a Proposal on Preventing Plastic Pellet Losses to Reduce Microplastic Pollution. The Proposal will include:

- an explanatory memo that identifies the context and objectives of the proposed regulation; its legal basis; and a basic overview of the key provisions
- a delineation of scope of the proposed regulation and definitions of relevant terms used therein; and
- the core text describing specific provisions to determine, among others, (1) firms' responsibilities under the regulation; (2) the regulatory roles of competent national authorities, certifiers, and the European Commission; (3) processes and penalties for noncompliance and infringement; and (4) complaints by interested parties.

#### European Council

**By 1 December**, the President of the European Council shall produce a brief memo setting an agenda for discussing its agenda items.

#### Environment Council

**By 1 December**, the President of the Environment Council shall produce a brief memo establishing a basic work plan to deliberate on, propose amendments to, and vote upon the various dimensions of the Commission proposal.

#### European Parliament ENVI committee

**By 1 December**, the Chair of the ENVI committee shall, in consultation with the sub-committee chair and the two rapporteurs, produce a brief memo outlining a basic plan to deliberate on, propose amendments to, and vote upon the various dimensions of the Commission proposal.

### **A note on voting rules**

This regulation falls under the ordinary legislative procedure. In practice, this means that, after the European Commission submits its proposal for a regulation, the Environment Council and European Parliament co-decide on amendment to and adoption of that proposal.

In the Environment Council, decisions will be taken by qualified majority. As such, a minimum of 55% (or 15 of 27) of Member States, which collectively represent 65% of the EU's population, must support a proposal for it to be adopted. An abstention is equivalent to a vote against. Member States may not exercise a veto to block the legislation.

In the European Parliament, decisions will be taken by majority of the Members present, both in committee and in plenary. (A meeting of the entire ENVI committee will constitute a parliamentary plenary.)

In the European Council, decisions will be taken by consensus.

## **Overview of Eurosim schedule**

### *Thursday, 2 January*

Eurosim formally begins on Thursday afternoon with an opening plenary session for all participants. This session will feature welcoming remarks, logistical information, and reminders about the simulation program.

Thereafter, the first meetings will take place in nonstandard format. National delegations will meet in subgroups to discuss priorities for and build coalitions on the plastic pellets legislation and the execution of the European Council's agenda. Simultaneously, the European Student Director will meet with members of the secretariats and the Commission to ensure that these leaders can assist in the smooth running of the simulation program, including attention to deadlines for decision making and optimal use of different platforms (WhatsApp, etc.) to promote interaction and discussion. Students with special roles will convene in their subgroups (NGOs, journalists) to discuss their plans for influencing the proceedings, emphasizing the use of WhatsApp groups and informal communications.

### *Friday, 3 January*

Throughout the day, the European Council, Environment Council, and ENVI subcommittee meetings will take place in standard format. Members of the European Council will begin discussions on the President's agenda. Members of the Environment Council and ENVI subcommittees will undertake their initial readings of the proposal, seeking clarification from Commission representatives as necessary. Throughout the simulation, chairs may elect to invite NGOs and/or industry groups to observe and speak at meetings.

As throughout the simulation, break/flex time may be used for representatives to consult one another regarding developments via their WhatsApp groups.

After lunch there will be a plenary session, in which participants will receive substantive and logistical updates and a panel of Eurosim faculty members will discuss transatlantic relations after the return of Donald Trump to the US presidency.

Standard meetings resume in the afternoon. At the end of the day, representatives of the Environment Council and the ENVI Committee will confer on developments in their respective forums, seeking a degree of coordination of their agendas for the next day's meetings.

### *Saturday, 4 January*

This day's meetings begin once again in standard format. After a break, meetings will take place in the same nonstandard configurations as Thursday evening—with Member State groups, parliamentary party groups, special roles, and simulation coordination—so participants can confer on strategy.

After lunch, participants will convene in the third plenary to receive an update on deliberations from the presidents of the European Commission, European Council, JHA Council and European Parliament, as well as logistical updates from the European and American student directors.

After the plenary, participants will resume meetings in standard format. The European Council will continue working toward agreement on a new set of strategic priorities. The Environment Council will continue its work, debating and voting on proposed amendments to the proposed legislation; the two ENVI subcommittees will merge and do the same. In the second set of meetings, the Environment Council and ENVI will complete their respective drafts.

*Sunday, 5 January*

The first meetings will consist of members of the trilogue, who will seek workable compromises between the existing Environment Council and ENVI texts, with the assistance of Commission officials. The European Council will meet in pursuit of compromises on its positions.

In the second meetings of the day, the Environment Council and ENVI will each deliberate on the compromise text produced by the trilogue. At the end of these meetings, the Environment Council will take a straw vote; ENVI will formally vote on the legislation. The European Council, for its part, will seek a final consensus and vote on its joint statement.

During final plenary, the president of the European Council will report on the details of its joint statement. The Commission, EP, and Environment Council presidents will then report on the legislative agreement reached in the trilogue, and the president of the EP will report the results of the parliamentary vote. The president of the Environment Council will then call the vote on the final legislation.

With the simulation complete, the US and European student directors will offer their closing remarks, and will recognize the winners of prizes for best negotiators. Professor Peter Bursens and TACEUSS directors will offer their closing remarks and thanks to the participants.