

Frequently Asked Questions

About joining the Circular Plastics Alliance

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What are the costs incurred by joining the Alliance? Are there membership fees?

There is no fee to pay to join the Circular Plastics Alliance.

By signing the declaration, an organisation commits to share the vision of the Alliance and contribute actively to the operational work to deliver the commitments described in the declaration of the Alliance ([summary of the commitments and deliverables here](#)). This may involve non-negligible resources in the form of time devoted to working together with other signatories and/or trips to Brussels for meetings.

Our organisation is not responsible for what happens in other steps of the value chains. We cannot commit to contribute to some actions of the Alliance that are beyond our remit and area of competence.

As clearly stated in the declaration of the Alliance, signatories "commit to work together, each within [their] own competencies, statutory mandates (where applicable) and responsibilities, to deliver the content of this declaration".

Signatories commit to "do their share", meaning that they contribute actively to the work within their area of competence and responsibility and to the extent necessary in order to ensure that the content of the declaration is delivered. Signatories are expected to focus their efforts where they can best contribute.

The Alliance is a collective endeavour to reach a common target (10 million tonnes of recycled plastics used in the EU by 2025). A signatory cannot be held responsible for inaction by other signatories in other steps of the value chains. Some signatories may be more active than others depending on the topic, e.g. not all signatories may be equally active on collection and sorting of plastic waste. But all signatories are expected to contribute to the work because the signatories would be regarded as collectively responsible if the Alliance fails to deliver its commitments.

Is the signature of the declaration of the Alliance a legally binding commitment? Could the non-delivery of the commitments of the Alliance lead to sanctions?

The declaration of the Alliance is of a voluntary nature. It is not a legally binding contract and therefore the non-delivery of the commitments included in the declaration could not lead to sanctions imposed on the signatories.

However, this is a serious and public commitment. The signatories commit collectively to take action to reach the EU target that 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics are used in the EU by 2025. Each

signatory should "do their share ", i.e. contribute within their own competencies and responsibilities to the extent necessary in order to ensure that the content of the declaration is delivered.

Annex III of the European Plastics Strategy (COM 2018 28 final) also states that, if the 10 million tonnes target is not reached by 2025, the Commission "will work on possible next steps, including regulatory action".

Is the Circular Plastics Alliance open to any kind of signatory?

The Circular Plastics Alliance is open to all public and private actors active in the plastics value chains in the European Union. This may include industry, academia, public authorities or any other public or private stakeholder that can contribute actively and directly to the work of the Alliance.

How many meetings will we have to attend, if we join?

The number of meetings depends on the degree of involvement of each signatory. Signatories have access to all working groups and are free to choose in which ones they want to participate.

All signatories are invited to the General Assembly, once a year in Brussels.

The working groups meet on average twice a year in Brussels and also work via phone or video calls.

The Steering Committee meets twice a year in Brussels.

What are the working groups of the Alliance?

The Alliance has organised its work through 5 sectorial and 1 horizontal working groups, namely:

- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Construction
- Electronic and Electrical Equipment
- Packaging

And

- Monitoring

In addition, thematic coordinators coordinate the work on the four major crosscutting issues relevant to all working groups, namely:

- Design for recycling
- Collection and sorting of plastic waste
- R&D and investments, including chemical recycling*
- Recycled content

If we join the Alliance, how do we get access to the full information?

Signatories have access to a specific online platform where all the information is available.

What is the difference between making a pledge and joining the Alliance?

All companies and business organisations producing or using plastics can make a pledge to produce or use more recycled plastics by 2025. They shall submit this pledge to the European Commission (here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/PlasticsStrategyPledge2018template>). This does not entail that they automatically join the Circular Plastics Alliance or should contribute to the work of the Alliance. Conversely, signatories of the Alliance are not obliged to make a pledge, as some of them do not produce or use plastics (e.g. academia, public authorities involved in plastic waste collection). The Alliance is however expected to encourage new and increased pledges.

The Commission has published an [assessment report on the pledges](#) received in March 2019 and will update it periodically.

Is the declaration of the Alliance open to signature by companies or by business organisations?

Both can sign (including the business organisation and the member companies).