



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
URBANIZATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

# Roadmap for Single Use Plastics, Marine Litter and Microplastics



## *Preface*

In the fight against plastic pollution, our country continues its environmental protection efforts by working together with the sector and all relevant stakeholders on national and international platforms. The European Union and other international organisations have taken important steps in this struggle by developing various strategies and regulations on plastic waste management. In this framework, Türkiye aims to contribute to a sustainable future by developing policies that support the transition to a circular economy.

In this context, a Roadmap for Single-Use Plastics, Marine Litter and Microplastics was prepared to contribute to Zero Waste Practices within the scope of waste management and circular economy principles, taking the priorities of our country into account.

The roadmap sets out actions to further help the plastics sector transition to a circular economy and close the life cycles of products, increase the quality and quantity of single-use plastic waste collected and recycled, prevent marine litter inputs to the ecosystem, including microplastics, and significantly reduce existing marine litter.

The implementation of the relevant roadmap will be carried out under the coordination of the Ministry and all stakeholders will be co-operated with in line with the scope of the actions.

I would like to thank all public institutions and organisations, non-governmental organisations, academicians and private sector representatives who contributed to the preparation of the Roadmap on Single Use Plastics, Marine Litter and Microplastics for their contributions and wish it to be beneficial for our country.

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Director General of Environmental Management



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# List of Abbreviations

EU	European Union
ECHA	The European Chemicals Agency
PE	Polyethylene
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PP	Polypropylene
PU	Polyurethane
PS	Polystyrene
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization





## 1. INTRODUCTION

Plastics have been widely used throughout the world in the last century as they offer numerous advantages, including light weight, flexibility, thermal and electrical insulation properties. Due to these advantages, it is used in many sectors such as packaging, food and beverage containers, construction, transport, electronics, agriculture, health, sports and energy production. Global plastics production **increased to approximately 1.5 million tonnes in 1950 and 400.3 million tonnes in 2022**<sup>1</sup>.

In the Global Plastics Outlook Report, it is stated that the global plastic production amount will **triple to 1231 million tonnes in 2060** compared to 2019 and **the amount of plastic waste generated will reach 1014 million tonnes**<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Circular Economy for Plastics, A European Analysis, March 2024. Available at: [https://plasticseurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CEreport\\_fullreport\\_2024\\_light-1.pdf](https://plasticseurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CEreport_fullreport_2024_light-1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options Report. Available at: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/f9c3a6c4-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/f9c3a6c4-en>

The global growth of the plastics industry also affects the plastics sector in the European Union (EU). **In 2021, the European Union's plastics production reached 57.2 million tonnes**<sup>3</sup>.

Since the production rate of the plastics industry and the reuse and effective recycling of plastic products and packaging do not progress at the same rate, and more importantly, plastic products are not designed for reuse and recycling, these products are economically lost at the end of their useful life.

**According to the Global Plastics Outlook Report, only 9% of 77 million tonnes of plastic waste was effectively recycled**, 19% was incinerated for energy generation, about 50% was sent to sanitary landfills, and the remaining 22% was disposed of by sending it to irregular dumping sites, burning it in open areas or dumping it directly into the environment<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Plastics Europe, Plastics-the Facts 2022 (Plastic-Facts 2022). Available at: <https://plasticseurope.org/knowledge-hub/plastics-the-facts-2022/>

<sup>4</sup> Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options Report. Available at: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/f9c3a6c4-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/f9c3a6c4-en>

In order to end global plastic pollution, the **United Nations Environment Assembly** decided in March 2022 to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the development of an **internationally binding legal instrument** to combat plastic pollution.

**Negotiations on the instrument**, which has been in progress since March 2022 and **will include legally binding provisions**, continue on the basis of environmental, social and financing mechanisms.

**Published in 2015, the first EU Circular Economy Action Plan includes a commitment to develop a strategy to tackle the problems caused by plastics along the value chain, taking their life cycle into account.**

Following this development, the **“European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy”** was adopted in 2018, aiming to create a competitive, low-carbon, circular and sustainable economy for plastics, while at the same time promoting growth and job creation, taking into account long-term and societal objectives. The Plastics Strategy plays a key role in the EU's transition to a carbon neutral and circular economy. Furthermore, the Strategy contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement and the EU's industrial policy objectives.

The Single-Use Plastics Directive entered into force in July 2019 to implement the Plastics Strategy, an important element for the EU's transition to a circular economy. **The Directive aims to promote circular approaches that prioritize sustainable and non-toxic reusable products and reuse systems and reduce the amount of waste produced.** At the same time, **it aims to prevent and reduce the environmental impact of certain plastic products, in particular by limiting the placing on the market of single-use plastic products for which more sustainable alternatives are available and affordable**, and to accelerate the transition to circular economy across the EU by introducing a set of measures tailored to the products covered by the Directive.

As marine litter is a transboundary pollution, the Directive aims to reduce the amount of lost and/or abandoned fishing gear, as well as single-use plastic products, which are frequently found in European coasts and seas. **According to beach litter counts in the European Union, 80 to 85% of marine litter detected is plastic; single-use plastic materials account for 50% of total marine litter, while fishing-related waste accounts for 27%**<sup>5</sup>.

To ensure that efforts are focussed where they are most needed, the Directive **covers single-use plastic products as well as fishing gear made of plastic and products made of oxo-degradable plastics.**

The European Commission published the **“New Circular Economy Plan”** in **March 2020**. In the

Action Plan;

- The proposed Eco-Design Directive, which aims to reduce the negative life cycle impacts of products and improve the functioning of the internal market, emphasises the **“release of microplastics”** and **“waste generation, including plastic waste, packaging waste and hazardous waste”**.
- The Plan includes **measures related to the packaging and plastics value chains; two of the seven high-impact sectors** identified in the Plan.

In 2017, the European Commission initiated work with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for regulatory action within the EU on synthetic polymer microparticles intentionally added to products. As envisaged in the EU Plastics Strategy, **a comprehensive restriction on microplastics in products** placed on the European Union/European Economic Area market to prevent or reduce releases to the environment **was adopted on 25 September 2023 under EU REACH Regulation.**

<sup>5</sup> EU Commission, Single-Use Plastics Directive, 2019. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/904/oj>





legislative arrangements to be taken in order to reduce the negative effects of single-use plastic products on the environment, including plastics and microplastic-containing products that cause marine litter.

In this context, with the increasing importance of circular economy studies in our country and in the world, a roadmap for single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastics was prepared within the scope of the “**Technical Assistance for the Assessment of Türkiye’s Potential on Transition to Circular Economy Project**” with the funds of the European Union within the scope of IPA II.

### 1.1. Objective and Scope

Single-Use Plastics and Marine Litter Roadmap is aimed;

- To support the comprehensive work on Türkiye’s transition to a circular economy,
- To further help the plastics industry’s transition to a circular economy and closing the life cycles of products,
- To reduce the consumption of single-use plastics and the generation of plastic waste,
- To increase the quality and quantity of single-use plastic waste collected and recycled,
- To prevent marine litter inputs to the ecosystem, including microplastics, and to significantly reduce existing marine litter,
- To alleviate marine litter pressure on marine and coastal ecosystems,
- To raise awareness on single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastics,
- To achieve a cultural and behavioural change in society in terms of attitudes towards single-use plastic products.

The actions in the roadmap cover single-use plastics (including fishing gear), microplastics and marine litter management. Within this scope, in particular the following EU policy frameworks are taken into account:

- European Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy (16 January 2018)
- Single-Use Plastics Directive (Directive (EU) 2019/904 on Reducing the Environmental Impact of Certain Plastic Products)
- Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2055 of 25 September 2023 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) with regard to Synthetic Polymer Microparticles

The implementation of the roadmap will be carried out under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change and cooperation will be made with other official institutions in line with the scope of the actions. The involvement of the private sector, research organisations and civil society is equally important for the successful implementation of the roadmap as described in each action.

In our country, as in the global scale, the manufacture of plastic products has increased and the manufacture of plastic products has reached 10.5 million tonnes as of 2022. Approximately 4.2 million tonnes of the 8.5 million tonnes of domestic consumption of plastic products in 2022 was indirectly exported in the form of semi-finished and finished products through exporting sectors such as automotive, packaging, construction and electronics<sup>6</sup>. The remaining 4.3 million tonnes was consumed directly by consumers<sup>7</sup>. In 2022, out of the total production of 10.5 million tonnes of plastic products, plastic packaging materials ranked first with approximately 4.41 million tonnes, followed by plastic construction materials with 2.1 million tonnes.

<sup>6</sup> PAGEV, Türkiye Plastik Sektörü İzleme Raporu 2022 (Turkish Plastics Industry Monitoring Report 2022). Available at: <https://pagev.org/upload/files/T%C3%BCrkiye%20Plastik%20Sekt%C3%B6r%C3%BC.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> PAGEV, Türkiye Plastik Sektörü İzleme Raporu 2022 (Turkish Plastics Industry Monitoring Report 2022). Available at: <https://pagev.org/upload/files/T%C3%BCrkiye%20Plastik%20Sekt%C3%B6r%C3%BC.pdf>

According to the report “Synopsis: Plastics in Türkiye”<sup>8</sup>, an annual average of 1 million 895 thousand tonnes of plastic waste was processed in Türkiye between 2017 and 2021. Of this, 37% is from the packaging sector, 22% from the manufacturing sector, 20% from household, leisure and sports activities, 16% from agriculture, 1% from construction, 1% from the automotive sector and 3% from other plastic wastes. Approximately 90% of packaging waste consists of PE/PA, PP and PET/PC. In 2020, 835 thousand tonnes of recycled plastic packaging waste was sent to recycling facilities to produce plastic raw materials in recycling facilities.

Within the data listed above in the global context and in the specific context of our country, it has become necessary to prepare a roadmap for single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastics regarding the measures and

<sup>8</sup> UNDP Türkiye, Synopsis: Plastics in Türkiye. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/turkiye/publications/synopsis-plastic-turkiye>





## 1.2. Methodology

In the preparation of the Single-Use Plastics and Marine Litter Roadmap, a three-step methodology was applied to provide an inclusive and informative framework by integrating information and data from various sources and stakeholders with a comprehensive approach.

For the preparation of the roadmap;

- **Desktop research** on policies and practices at EU level and policies and practices in Türkiye,
- **A consultation workshop** where various key stakeholders identified issues/needs related to single-use plastics and marine litter and proposed actions to address them,
- An **institutional survey and public survey** on single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastic was conducted

Within the scope of the roadmap preparations, concrete assessments, recommendations,

actions and stakeholders responsible for these actions were meticulously determined as a result of the three-step process and provided important inputs to the roadmap.

### 1.2.1. Desktop Research

Relevant **current policies, measures and progress identified under the Single-Use Plastics Directive, the EU Plastics Strategy and the REACH Restriction on Synthetic Microparticles and other relevant EU policies** were reviewed. In addition, **Türkiye's** policy and legislative documents **and existing practices on single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastics** in line with or corresponding to the relevant EU policies were analysed.

A **comparative analysis** of existing policies and legislation in Türkiye on single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastics has been carried out, mainly in comparison with the requirements of the Single Use Plastics Directive, the EU Plastics Strategy and the REACH Restriction on Synthetic Microparticles. In the comparative

analysis, the current situation was revealed, gaps and needs were analysed, and the identified needs were evaluated as the basic inputs of the roadmap.

### 1.2.2. Workshop on Single-Use Plastics and Marine Litter

The **Single-Use Plastics and Marine Litter Roadmap Workshop** was held in Istanbul between **6 - 8 March 2024**. A total of **112 participants** attended the workshop, including 52 from the MoEUCC and Provincial Directorates, 24 from public institutions and organisations, 5 from international organisations, 3 from academia and 28 from private sector representatives.

Working group sessions were organised on microplastics on the first day, on single-use plastics on the second day and on marine litter on the third day. In group work, the participants identified the **problems/needs** that form the basis of the roadmap, developed **action proposals for solution**, prioritised the actions developed and identified the **relevant stakeholders** and **expected outputs**.

### 1.2.3. Institutional Survey Study

Between **6 March - 5 April 2024**, an **Institutional Survey** was conducted to obtain the contributions of relevant stakeholders for the development of the Türkiye Single-Use Plastics and Marine Litter Roadmap. The structured questionnaire prepared for this purpose was answered by **657 participants** on the following topics.

Of the respondents, **85% represented governmental organisations** and **15% represented non-governmental organisations** (8% private sector, 3% academic institutions or research/training institutes, 2% non-governmental organisations, 1% chambers of industry or commerce, 1% umbrella sector organisations and the rest (<1%) fisheries cooperatives).

Of the participants;

- **91%** consider **actions to reduce** the amount of single-use plastics in the environment “**necessary and urgent**”,
- **92%** considered taking action to reduce the amount of marine litter (including fishing gear) in the seas and on coasts as “**necessary and urgent**”.
- 66% stated that they would support the use of biodegradable/recyclable and reusable alternatives even if there was a small increase in prices and 24% of the participants stated that they would support the use of these alternatives only if there was no price increase.
- 81% stated that companies should contribute financially to the clean-up costs for discarded cigarette butts, wet wipes and balloons under Extended Producer Responsibility.

The first three additional measures needed to support the management of stranded and/or end-of-life fishing gear have been identified as follows.

- Deposit Refund System: tax on fishermen (70%)
- Extended producer responsibility, including tax on fishing gear (66%)
- Public funds (60%)

Measures with the potential to increase recycling rates of fishing gear were prioritised by the participants as follows.

- Implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility or bring-back programmes (Deposit Return System) (71%)
- Development of more infrastructure in the port to allow separate collection by fishermen and for other port activities (66%)
- Investment in recycling facilities (55%)





- Management of the transport of fishing gear from ports to waste treatment facilities (53%)
- Material change (replacement of fish storage boxes, etc.) (35%)

98% of respondents stated that action should be taken to reduce microplastic pollution. Respondents also prioritised the need for action at the level of industry, companies and citizens respectively for voluntary measures, and at the national, local/regional and international levels respectively for compulsory measures.

#### 1.2.4. Public Survey Study

Within the scope of the project, in November 2024, a **Public Survey** was conducted by TÜİK (Turkish Statistical Institute) with **2613 people over the age of 18 from all provinces of Türkiye** in order to receive their contributions to the development of the Türkiye Single-Use Plastics and Marine Litter Roadmap. The structured questionnaire on single-use plastics

prepared for this purpose was answered by approximately 73%. According to the results of the survey, 49.62 % of the participants were male and 50.38 % were female.

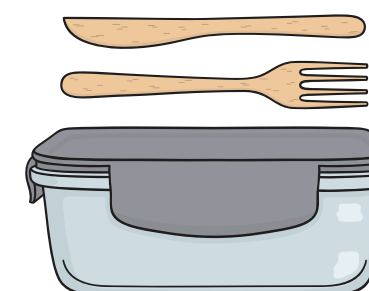
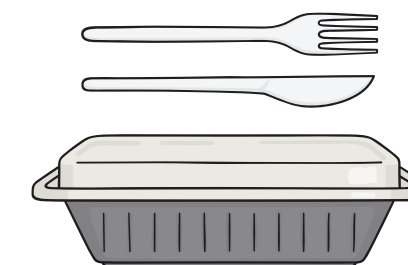
With the Public Survey Study, opinions on the effects of single-use plastics **on the environment and health, daily use and purchasing orientations, the effects of possible restrictions, the use of alternatives and the stakeholders responsible for reducing the impacts caused by these products** were investigated.

According to the results of a public survey of the participants;

- **82.15%** support the use of more environmentally friendly products that can be used multiple times instead of single-use plastic products, while 10.65% do not support this preference.
- 77.65% support less use of single-use plastics in their daily lives, while 9.99% disagree with this view.

- 72.52% support the tendency to buy less single-use plastic products in their daily lives, while 11.68% do not support this preference.
- 76.40% find it useful to restrict the use of some single-use plastics such as plastic straws, plates, forks, knives, spoons and cups, while 11.20% do not find this restriction useful.
- 60.02% find it useful to ban the use of some single-use plastics such as plastic straws, plates, forks, knives, spoons and cups, while 18.05% do not find this ban useful.
- 78.71% support the use of products made from alternative materials such as paper, cardboard and wood in the event that some single-use plastic products are restricted or banned, while 10.14% disagree with this view.
- 80.12% support the use of multi-use products such as metal, porcelain and ceramics instead of some single-use plastic products in case of restriction or prohibition, while 7.84% disagree with this view.
- 74.96% agree that single-use plastic producers should be held responsible for the reduction and recycling of these products, while 9.89% disagree with this view.
- 76.66% of the respondents agreed that businesses that provide services using single-use plastic products such as restaurants, cafes and hotels should be held responsible for the reduction and recycling of these products, while 9.63% disagreed with this view.

**When the results of the public and institutional surveys are evaluated**, it is observed that there is a **high level of consensus** on the need to take measures to prevent the negative effects of single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastics on the environment and there is support for taking measures on the issue.





## 2. ROADMAP

The roadmap has been prepared to guide the work of institutions and organisations with duties and responsibilities on the themes of single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastics. The roadmap consists of **44 actions** on the themes of single-use plastics, marine litter and microplastics. The realisation period of the issues addressed in the roadmap is foreseen as **short term 3 years, medium term 8 years** and **long term over 8 years**.

### 2.1. Single-Use Plastics

#### Short Term (2025-2027):

1. Preparation of the national plastics strategy and action plan,
2. Preparation of legislation on single-use plastics within the scope below;
  - a. Restrictions and/or prohibitions for single-use plastic products to be listed,
  - b. Reduced consumption for food packaging and beverage containers,
  - c. Preparation of fee-based Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for many materials (packages and packaging paper, wet wipes, tobacco products, etc.), including waste management costs,
  - d. Specific design requirements for beverage containers and bottles will be identified, including the integration of recycled and recyclable content and the attachment of the cap to the container will be ensured.
3. Supporting voluntary programmes promoting the use of sustainable alternatives, reusable and refillable packaging in the HOREKA and tourism sectors,

4. Establishment of awareness and consciousness raising activities and multi-directional communication campaigns addressing all ages and segments in order to raise public awareness on single-use plastics and their effects in cooperation with the public, private sector, industry and NGOs will be ensured.

#### Medium Term (2028-2032):

1. Revision of Regulation on Control of Packaging Waste in line with the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Packaging and Packaging Waste,
2. Within the scope of the legislation to be prepared on single-use plastics;
  - a. Meeting the requirements for separate collection of first 77 % and then 90% of PET beverage bottles placed on the market,
  - b. Ensuring labelling requirements for beverage containers, single products, wet wipes and tobacco products, including the presence of plastic and its impact on the environment,
  - c. Awareness raising measures on the environmental impacts of single-use plastics and promotion of reusable alternatives will be ensured.
3. Regulation for prioritisation and measures (restrictions, reusable products, non-plastic disposable products, etc.) for domestic and imported single-use plastic products that are outside the scope of the Single-Use Plastics Directive and offered for sale in the Turkish market, taking their consumption in the HOREKA, tourism, textile, retail, transport and agriculture sectors into consideration,

4. Providing high quality drinking water to rural and urban areas by improving drinking water facilities to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles,
5. Establishment of a digital data collection infrastructure for production, consumption and waste generation by sectors, import and export quantities in order to establish effective measures for the management of single-use plastics will be ensured.

#### Long Term (2033 and beyond):

1. Dissemination of circular business models such as reuse and refilling and good practices,
2. Development of the capacity to test for biodegradability and compostability in accordance with international standards and conditions and encouragement of the testing,
3. Encouraging R&D and P&D activities and innovations to design alternative products to single-use plastics to be reusable, refillable, to use alternative inputs or recycled materials or to be recyclable,
4. Adding single-use plastic product alternatives to Green Public Procurement Strategies in line with the Twelfth Development Plan's call to update national public procurement policies to include Green Public Procurement (GPP) principles will be ensured.

**Relevant Stakeholders:** Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change, Turkish Environment Agency (TÜÇA), Presidential Directorate of Strategy and Budget, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Turkish Accreditation Agency (TÜRKAK), Turkish Standards Institute (TSE), Public Procurement Authority (PPA), Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Industry and Technology, Local Authorities, TÜİK, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB),

*Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Higher Education Council (YÖK), Union of Municipalities of Türkiye, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure*

### 2.2. Marine Litter

#### Short Term (2025-2027):

1. Harmonisation of national legislation in line with the Directive 2019/883 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Waste Reception Facilities for Waste Reception from Ships,
2. Expanding The Ghost Gear Project carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in order to reduce the damage caused by abandoned fishing gears, protect aquatic biodiversity and raise public awareness in all regions,
3. Mainstreaming marking applications for the tracing of fishery and aquaculture materials and utilization of the economic instruments to support recycling/reuse of wastes from those activities,
4. Risk assessments to identify areas where abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear that poses an environmental threat should be removed,
5. Implementation of the 'Fishing/Hunting for Litter' programme to promote the proper collection, sorting and environmentally sound disposal of marine litter during active fishing,
6. Establishment of a centralised and integrated national marine litter database will be established at national level in order to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation,
7. Awareness raising on marine litter in fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and maritime sectors and dissemination of good practices will be ensured.



**Medium Term (2028-2032):**

1. Preparation of a National Marine Litter Action Plan,
2. Identifying and incentivising good management practices for reporting abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, retrieving it if safe to do so and delivering it to port waste reception facilities,
3. Identification and regular monitoring of the amount and types of marine litter emitted from land- and marine-based sources and strengthening of regional mapping of hotspots in order to establish effective mitigation measures,
4. Effective cooperation and awareness raising activities for existing marine litter action plans,
5. Establishment of marine litter monitoring programmes such as Adopt-a-Beach to enhance the participation role of individuals in marine litter management will be ensured.

**Long Term (2033 and beyond):**

1. Extending feasible systems for preventing the entry of litter into the marine environment through sewers, storm water channels, wastewater treatment plants, surface run-off and waterways,
2. Encouragement of R&D and innovation for innovative materials for fisheries and aquaculture equipment that are fully biodegradable and harmless to the ecosystem will be ensured.

**Relevant Stakeholders:** Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), Local Administrations, NGOs, , Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Higher Education Council (YÖK), Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), Union of Municipalities of Türkiye, Ministry of Health

**2.3. Microplastics****Short Term (2025-2027):**

1. Harmonisation with Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2055 of 25 September 2023 amending Annex XVII of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) with regard to Synthetic Polymer Microparticles and updating The Chemicals Help Desk to include information on microplastic regulations,
2. Within the scope of the Regulation on the Quality and Treatment of Drinking Water Supply Waters and the Regulation on Water Intended for Human Consumption, updating regulations on monitoring of microplastics in line with the EU legislation,
3. Using common methodologies in national studies for monitoring microplastics and expanding these studies to the national level by establishing standardised laboratories,
4. Preparation of awareness and consciousness raising activities and multi-faceted communication campaigns for all ages, all segments and professionals and cooperation with the public, private sector, industry and NGOs in order to promote public awareness on microplastics,
5. Prohibition of the sale of rinsable products intended for removal after application to skin, hair or mucous membranes (except those containing microbeads for exfoliation, polishing or cleaning purposes),
6. Prohibition of the sale of detergents, candles, polishes and air fresheners, fertilisers and other products for agricultural and horticultural purposes, unless they contain microbeads will be ensured.

**Medium Term (2028-2032):**

1. Preparation of the legislation to prevent microplastic pollution caused by plastic pellet losses, taking the EU legislative proposals into account,
2. Determination of the amount of microplastics released from land-based and marine-based sources, regular monitoring and regional mapping of hotspots in order to establish effective mitigation measures,
3. Development of institutional and technical capacity on microplastics in public institutions, academia, private sector and NGOs,
4. Banning synthetic polymer microparticles for the encapsulation of fragrances, non-rinse-off products intended for prolonged contact with skin, hair or mucous membranes, and medical devices without microspheres,
5. Banning plant protection products and seeds treated with these products and biocides and granular fillers for use on synthetic spore surfaces
6. Prioritization of infrastructure and sectors that are sources of microplastics, monitoring of microplastics from these sources/development of the monitoring network, development of a separate monitoring program for each sea will be ensured.

**Long Term (2033 and beyond):**

1. Adding criteria for restricting microplastics in procurement to the Green Public Procurement Strategies mentioned in the Twelfth Development Plan,
2. Establishment of research programmes to fill the gaps in scientific knowledge on microplastics,
3. Banning lip products, nail products and make-up products containing microbeads,
4. Updating Regulation on Water Pollution Control and Regulation on Urban Wastewater Treatment to include microplastics among the monitoring parameters and to be in line with the EU legislation,
5. Legal arrangements for the monitoring of microplastics in domestic and urban sewage sludge will be ensured.

**Relevant Stakeholders:** Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), Turkish Standards Institution (TSE), Turkish Accreditation Agency (TÜRKAK), Ministry of Industry and Technology, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Public Procurement Authority (PPA), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Trade, Higher Education Council (YÖK), Local Authorities, Ministry of National Education, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB)









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