## Public consultation on new product priorities under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

#### Introduction

#### 1.1 Background to this consultation

A proposal for a Regulation on <u>Ecodesign for Sustainable Products</u> (ESPR) was adopted by the Commission in March 2022. The ESPR is a framework for setting ecodesign requirements on products to improve their circularity, energy performance and other environmental sustainability aspects. While the ESPR proposal provides a general framework for setting rules, the actual product requirements will be adopted only in a second stage. The Commission should therefore adopt and regularly update a working plan, setting out product priorities for which ecodesign requirements should be laid down.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather your views on what the new product priorities under the ESPR should be.

The questions build on preliminary assessments (see <u>here</u>) carried out by the Commission's <u>Joint</u> <u>Research Centre</u> (JRC), which has identified several product groups and horizontal measures that *may* be suitable candidates for prioritisation under the ESPR, once it enters into force. The responses of the public to this questionnaire will help the Commission to further refine this analysis, close information gaps and build consensus on future action under the ESPR.

A key methodological starting point for the JRC's preliminary assessments was **Article 16** of the <u>ESPR</u> <u>proposal</u>, which requires the Commission to prioritise products and horizontal measures based on a set of criteria pertaining in particular to the *potential contribution that could be made to the EU's climate, environmental and energy objectives*, as well as the *potential for improving* the product aspects identified by the proposal from an environmental point of view, *products' market share* and the *distribution of product impacts across the value chain*. Factors such as products' environmental, sustainability and circularity impacts, improvement potential from an environmental sustainability point of view, and as well as existing policy gaps and proportionality of costs related to the improvement potential were therefore amongst the considerations taken into account.

The ESPR proposal builds on the existing <u>Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC</u>, which currently covers energyrelated products only. It should be clarified that this consultation focuses on identifying 'new products' that are *not* currently within the scope of Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC. The future ESPR working plan will nevertheless cover both new and energy-related products. (Please note: the Commission will carry out a separate initiative to prioritise requirements for energy-related products, for which it will be necessary to take the progress in implementing the <u>Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2022-2024</u> into account.)

Given the wide scope of the ESPR, some products identified in this questionnaire will also be subject to separate product-specific or horizontal legislation at EU level. For these products, as a general principle the ESPR will only intervene when the environmental sustainability dimensions of those products cannot be fully and appropriately addressed by other instruments. For example for **chemicals**, ESPR could only take action where needed on aspects *not* dealt with under existing chemicals regulation (e.g. <u>Regulation (EC)</u> <u>No 1907/2006</u>); for **packaging**, it could only act where needed on *targeted aspects* specifically related to a packaged product covered by its measures, leaving <u>revised Packaging and Packaging Waste rules</u> to cover stand-alone packaging; for **construction products**, it could take action if the environmental sustainability dimensions of these products could not be fully and appropriately addressed by the <u>revised Construction</u> <u>Products Regulation</u> (with the exception of energy-related construction products, for which the ESPR will be the main regulatory instrument). As the ecodesign requirements that ESPR will set will help strengthen the EU's general circularity framework, including by improving product recyclability (including of the critical raw materials contained in products), it will also synergise with key pillars of <u>upcoming EU initiatives in the area</u> of **Critical Raw Materials** (CRMs).

The <u>JRC report</u> underpinning this consultation includes a preliminary assessment of product-specific legislation in this respect. However, a more precise assessment of the ecodesign requirements to be potentially laid down under ESPR, and their added-value in comparison with product-specific legislation, will be undertaken in a second stage, following adoption of the ESPR working plan, in the context of the preparatory studies foreseen. Questions on potential measures identified at this stage are therefore preliminary. Before adopting all rules under ESPR, the Commission will undertake thorough impact assessments and further consultations will also be held.

While the ESPR proposal is yet to be adopted by the co-legislators, and is therefore subject to further change, it is hoped that the results of this consultation will be able to feed into preparation of the new product priorities under the ESPR.

#### 1.2 Structure of this questionnaire

You are invited to respond to the questionnaire regardless of your level of expertise. You can save your answers as draft and finish the survey later if necessary. The questionnaire is available in all languages. The questionnaire comprises the following sections:

- 'About you': general information about you, the respondent, to better understand your perspective
- End-use products: including general questions and questions per product group
- Intermediate products: including general questions and questions per product group
- Horizontal measures: including general questions and questions per horizontal measure
- Final remarks: allows you to provide final remarks and/or upload a document that you think is relevant to your views

Please note that all sections (with the exception of the 'About you' section) are optional: you can

choose which you wish to complete, depending on your main area(s) of interest.

If you have any questions, please contact ENV-PRODUCT-POLICY@ec.europa.eu

Your opinion matters and we are grateful to you for taking the time to complete this consultation. The results of the consultation will be published on Have your say.

For further information, please see the following background information:

- Consultation webpage
- JRC background work and analysis
- ESPR proposal
- ESPR impact assessment

#### About you

\*Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian

- Spanish
- Swedish
- \* I am giving my contribution as
  - Academic/research institution
  - Business association
  - Company/business
  - Consumer organisation
  - EU citizen
  - Environmental organisation
  - Non-EU citizen
  - Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
  - Public authority
  - Trade union
  - Other

Please specify your sector

- Agriculture,
- Ceramic products
- Chemicals and chemical products
- Computers, electronic and optical products
- Construction
- Cosmetics
- Electrical equipment
- Energy-related products, including ICT and electronics
- Fixtures (e.g. toilets and urinals)
- Food, feed and drink
- Forestry and fishing
- Furniture
- Hygiene products
- Materials (e.g. metals, plastics, paper)
- Office equipment
- Other [please specify]
- Packaging
- Retail & wholesale trade

Textiles and footwear

Transport equipment

#### Free Text Question

Text of 1 to 50 characters will be accepted

rubber and tyres

(**For industry stakeholders**) Please indicate the type of **product** your organisation produces or represents:

Absorbent Hygiene Products

- Agricultural products
- Aluminium
- Bed Mattresses
- Ceramic products (including toilets and urinals)
- Chemicals
- Construction products
- Cosmetic Products
- Detergents
- Energy-related products, including ICT and electronics
- Fishing Nets and Gears
- Food, feed and drink
- Furniture
- Glass
- Iron and Steel
- Lubricants
- Non-ferrous metals
- Office equipment
- Other (please specify)
- Packaging
- Paints and Varnishes
- Paper, Pulp Paper and Boards
- Plastic and Polymers
- Textiles and Footwear
- Toys
- Transport equipment

**V** Tyres

(**For industry stakeholders**) Please indicate the level of the market(s) you are active on:

- Local market
- Regional market
- EU market
- Non-EU market
- Worldwide market
- Not applicable

#### \* First name

Alex

#### \*Surname

van Gelderen

#### \* Email (this won't be published)

a.vangelderen@etrma.org

#### \*Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

European Tyre and rubber manufacturers' Association

#### \*Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

#### Transparency register number

#### 255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the <u>transparency register</u>. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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### \*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

| of | the        | entities mentioned. It is a | a ha       | rmonisation of often diver | gen | t lists and practices. |            |                  |
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| Denmark                             | Liberia                   | Saint Lucia  |

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

#### \* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

#### Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

### Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

### A. END-USE PRODUCTS

'End-use products' are products sold directly to consumers and that are ready for their intended use upon sale (i.e. they do not require further [professional] manufacturing and/or assembly processes before being ready for use).

Based on the approach outlined in the main introduction to this questionnaire, the following end-use products have been identified as <u>potentially</u> suitable for first action under the ESPR:

- Textiles and Footwear
- Furniture
- Ceramic products
- Tyres
- Detergents
- Bed Mattresses
- Lubricants
- Paints and Varnishes
- Cosmetic products
- Toys
- Fishing Nets and Gears
- Absorbent Hygiene Products

For each end-use product listed above, the **product scope** taken into account in the preliminary analysis outlined in the main introduction to this questionnaire is set out in the dedicated sections underneath. These scopes remain subject to further change, including based on the results of this consultation.

# 1. Do you <u>agree</u> with the identification of the following end-use products for p otential first action under the ESPR?

|                            | Agree | Disagree | No opinion |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|------------|
| Textiles and Footwear      | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Furniture                  | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Ceramic products           | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Tyres                      | ۲     | 0        | 0          |
| Detergents                 | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Bed Mattresses             | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Lubricants                 | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Paints and Varnishes       | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Cosmetic products          | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Toys                       | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Fishing Nets and Gears     | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Absorbent Hygiene Products | 0     | 0        | 0          |

## 2. Are there any <u>other</u> end-use products you believe should be added to this list?

100 character(s) maximum

no comment

3. The implementation of the ESPR and setting of ecodesign requirements will happen over time. Even among the products finally selected, an order of priority will need to be decided.

Please <u>rate the priority</u> of the below products from 1 to 3, with 1 denoting the lowest importance and 3 the highest:

|                       | 1 (low importance) | 2 (medium importance) | 3 (high importance) |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Textiles and Footwear | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |
| Furniture             | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |
| Ceramic products      | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |

| Tyres                      | ۲ | 0 | 0 |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Detergents                 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bed Mattresses             | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lubricants                 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Paints and Varnishes       | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cosmetic products          | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Toys                       | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fishing Nets and Gears     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Absorbent Hygiene Products | O | 0 | 0 |

### II. QUESTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL END-USE PRODUCT GROUPS

Please select the end-use product group(s) on which you would like to provide input:

- All 12 end-use product groups identified
- Textiles and Footwear
- Eurniture
- Ceramic products
- **V** Tyres
- Detergents
- Bed Mattresses
- Lubricants
- Paints and Varnishes
- Cosmetic products
- Toys
- Fishing Nets and Gears
- Absorbent Hygiene Products

#### **TYRES**

**Product scope:** Products included are car (C1) tyres, van (C2) tyres and heavy-duty vehicle (C3) tyres.

# 1. Should certain elements be <u>added</u> to or <u>removed</u> from the above scope description?

I agree with the product scope description as set out above

- Elements should be added
- Elements should be removed

2. Tyres can be very different from one another. In order to be able to set effective requirements under the ESPR, the appropriate level at which to do so needs to be chosen.

## <u>At what level</u> do you believe ecodesign requirements for tyres should be laid down?

at most 1 choice(s)

- Across all tyres (i.e. applicable i at general level to all products falling within this product group)
- At the level of individual articles (e.g. requirements specifically for heavy-duty vehicle tyres)
- Other

#### Please specify

Text of 1 to 100 characters will be accepted

see position paper

### 3. Do you believe that action under the ESPR would <u>contribute to better</u> <u>addressing</u> the environmental sustainability aspects of tyres, compared to existing EU level legislation/initiatives?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

## 4. For tyres, which of the following <u>products aspects</u> do you believe will be the most important to regulate under ESPR?

at most 3 choice(s)

- Improving durability and reliability
- Ease of repair and maintenance
- Ease of recycling of materials
- Ease of refurbishment, remanufacturing and upgradability
- Resource use or resource efficiency
- Use or content of recycled materials
- Presence of substances of concern

- Energy use or energy efficiency
- The lifecycle environmental impact, including carbon footprint
- Expected generation of waste, such as release of microplastics
- Other

#### Please specify

Text of 1 to 100 characters will be accepted

see position paper

#### 5. Do you wish to add comments on tyres?

500 character(s) maximum

The questionnaire doesn't allow to correctly express ETRMA's position. The ETRMA answer to the first question for tyres in the General Part would have been a 'partly agree' if that option would have been available. There are many elements that must be taken into consideration before tyres are included in the first group of products under ESPR. Please see the attached position paper for our views. This also includes an Annex that reflects our argumentation regarding the answers to the questions.

### **B. INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS**

'Intermediate products' are products placed on the market as final products, but which require further (professional) manufacturing and/or assembly processes before being ready for their end-use.

Based on the approach outlined in the main introduction to this questionnaire, the following intermediate products have been identified as <u>potentially</u> suitable for first action under the ESPR:

- Iron and Steel
- Non-Ferrous Metals
- Aluminium
- Chemicals
- Plastic and Polymers
- Paper, Pulp Paper and Boards
- Glass

For each intermediate product listed above, the **product scope** taken into account in the preliminary analysis outlined in the main introduction to this questionnaire is set out in the dedicated sections underneath. These scopes remain subject to further change, including based on the results of this consultation.

### I. GENERAL QUESTIONS ON INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS

1. Do you <u>agree</u> with the identification of the following intermediate products for potential first action under the ESPR?

|                       | 1     |          |            |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|------------|
|                       | Agree | Disagree | No opinion |
| Iron and Steel        | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Non-Ferrous Metals    | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Aluminium             | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Chemicals             | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Plastic and Polymers  | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Pulp Paper and Boards | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Glass                 | 0     | 0        | 0          |

# 2. Are there any <u>other</u> intermediate products you believe should be added to this list?

100 character(s) maximum

3. The implementation of the ESPR and setting of ecodesign requirements will happen over time. Even among the products finally selected, an order of priority will need to be decided.

Please <u>rate the priority</u> of the below products from 1 to 3, with 1 denoting the lowest importance and 3 the highest:

|                       | 1 (low importance) | 2 (medium importance) | 3 (high importance) |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Iron and Steel        | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |
| Non-Ferrous Metals    | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |
| Aluminium             | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |
| Chemicals             | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |
| Plastic and Polymers  | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |
| Pulp Paper and Boards | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |
| Glass                 | 0                  | 0                     | 0                   |

#### II. QUESTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL INTERMEDIATE PRODUCT GROUPS

Please select the intermediate product group(s) on which you would like to provide input:

- All 7 intermediate product groups identified
- Iron and Steel
- Non-Ferrous Metals
- Aluminium
- Chemicals
- Plastic and Polymers
- Paper, Pulp Paper and Boards
- Glass

## C. HORIZONTAL MEASURES

The ESPR proposal includes the possibility, when needed, of setting horizontal measures – in other words, cross-cutting measures applicable to two or more product groups sharing common characteristics.

Based on the preliminary analysis described in the main introduction to this questionnaire, five areas for horizontal measures which may be suitable candidates for prioritisation under the ESPR have been identified: Durability, Recyclability, Post-Consumer Recycled Content, Lightweight Design, and Sustainable Sourcing. After assessment, three of these aspects were retained for consultation:

- **Durability**: for the purposes of this consultation, 'durability' covers the aspects of 'reliability', 'reparability', 'reusability' and 'upgradability'.
- **Recyclability**: for the purposes of this consultation, 'recycling' means recovery operations of any kind via which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances, whether for the original or other purposes, excluding energy recovery.
- **Post-Consumer Recycled Content**: for the purposes of this consultation, 'post-consumer recycled content' refers to the amount of post-consumer recycled material that goes into the manufacturing of a new product.

The remaining two (Lightweight Design and Sustainable Sourcing) require further elaboration before drafting of the ESPR working plan, and are therefore not covered by this questionnaire.

The three horizontal measures retained for consideration are accompanied by sets of suggested provisions via which they could be concretely implemented. While this approach would entail alignment of certain definitions, principles, regulatory formulations and verification procedures, the exact content of the provisions could differ and be adapted, depending on the characteristics of the product categories to which they would apply.

### I. GENERAL QUESTIONS ON HORIZONTAL MEASURES

# 1. Do you <u>agree</u> with the horizontal measures identified for potential first action under the ESPR?

|                                | Agree | Disagree | No opinion |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------|------------|
| Durability                     | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Recyclability                  | 0     | 0        | 0          |
| Post-Consumer Recycled Content | 0     | 0        | 0          |

## 2. Are there any <u>other</u> horizontal measures you believe should be added to this list?

Yes

No

### II. QUESTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL HORIZONTAL MEASURES

Please select the horizontal measure(s) on which you would like to provide input:

- All 3 horizontal measures identified
- Durability
- Recyclability
- Post-Consumer Recycled Content

### D. FINAL REMARKS

#### If you wish to add further information or elaborate on your views, please do so here:

1000 character(s) maximum

For a full explanation of  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{ETRMA}}\xspace's views please see the attached position paper$ 

If you wish to upload a supporting document, please do so here:

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

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