

POLICY LANDSCAPE

EU LEVEL

In 2015 European Commission adopted the **Circular Economy Action Plan**, which included comprehensive measures addressing waste management. The EU laws set minimum recycling, landfilling, material recovering and renewable energy consumption targets. Among other initiatives introduced in the plan is the plastics strategy which aims to ban and reduce consumption of certain types of single-use plastic. France transposes EU legislation on CE timely and performs relatively well in attaining its targets. **New Circular Economy Action Plan** adopted in March 2020 will aim among others to facilitate circularity in textile industry and production of electronic equipment.

CURRENTLY MAIN EU TARGETS INCLUDE:

- min. 65% of municipal waste to be recycled by 2035
- min. 70% of all packaging waste to be recycled by 2030
- max. 10% of municipal waste to be landfilled by 2035
- certain types of single use plastic products will be prohibited to place on market as of July 2021
- min. 32% of the Union's gross final consumption of energy to originate from renewable sources by 2030

NATIONAL LEVEL

The **Law on energy transition for green growth** has set targets for GHG reduction, fossil fuels and renewable energy consumption. In this law, car, naval, wood, chemical, waste, construction and demolition industries are all identified as having strongest potential to increase material efficiency. The law strengthens France's energy independence and give businesses and citizens access to energy at a competitive cost. The new Law on fighting waste and the circular economy, adopted March 2020, aims to phase out single-use plastics by 2040, minimize waste generation, improve reuse and recycling and requires to provide consumers with information about compostability. It also aims to encourage industry to change production methods, notably through broadening the EPR scheme and creation of a bonus system that rewards producers for designing environmentally friendly products. The **Law against food waste** sets five priorities to reduce food waste: prevention, transformation or donation of unsold articles, upcycling into fodder, composting or methanation.

FACTS & FIGURES

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- Population (2019): 66.99 mln
- Nominal GDP (2018): €2,353,090 million, world rank: 6th
- Purchasing power (2018): €39,691
- Import from the NL (2018): €39.1 milliard
- Economic growth (2018): 1.7%
- Ease of doing business rank (2020): 32/190
- Corruption index: 23/180
- Unemployment rate (2019): 8,5%
- Currency: Euro
- Time difference NL: +0.00 hrs

CE INDICATORS

- Global innovation index (2019): 16/129
- Municipal waste recycling rate (2018): 44%
- Circular material use rate (2017): 18.6%

CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY

The national Roadmap for circular economy was adopted in 2018. It contains five main objectives:

- 30% reduction of resource use and consumption by 2030
- 50% reduction of non-hazardous waste in landfills by 2025
- 100% recycling of plastic waste by 2025
- reduction of GHG emissions through plastic waste recycling
- creation of 300.000 new jobs

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

France is known internationally as a leader on EPR. EPR schemes cover a total of 20 in 15 sectors, including those required by EU directives and two voluntary ones. France is the only country to date to implement an EPR policy for end-of-use clothing, linen and shoes. The policy has contributed to a 150% increase in the collection rate of post-consumer textiles since 2007, which is estimated to be about 35% of all textile waste generated in France.

SELECTED PRIORITY AREAS

TEXTILES & FASHION

France-Dutch collaboration might open up great opportunities for making the industry more sustainable and circular. Fashion is one of the French hallmarks and the sector that excels in fundamental research on textile and material development. The Netherlands is advanced in applied research, chemical recycling, bio-based materials, design thinking and has a strong collaborative approach. Combining strengths of both countries could accelerate the transition to a sustainable fashion industry. The French textile sector has already in great part shifted its production to technical textiles and the interest in new technologies motivated by the prospects for creating economic and environmental sustainability is growing. In 2019 France has initiated **Fashion Pact** which was signed by 30 leading fashion houses, representing 147 brands, that vowed to pursue common sustainability goals. Among the areas for potential collaboration are circular value chain, sustainable and biotech material, the knowledge area which is seen by fashion brands and luxury conglomerates as having a high potential.

PLASTICS

Both France and the Netherlands set ambitious national targets for plastics recycling and initiated the **European Plastics Pact**. Still, for France waste management recycling of plastic packaging represents one of the major challenges: in 2018 only about 26% of this type of waste was recycled. The ongoing Corona crisis is exacerbating the problem causing huge increase in use of single-use plastics and decreasing recycling rates of packaging due to decline in oil price. Chemical recycling is seen by a number of French companies including Total, Nestlé and Mars as one of the solutions to achieve the goal of having 100% plastic waste being recycled by 2025. Complimentarily, chemical industry is one of the Dutch top sectors, which might open opportunities for collaboration in this area since Dutch expertise could offer support for French waste management initiatives in attaining the target.

AGRICULTURE

France is the largest agrofood producer of the EU and the sixth largest agrofood exporter in the world. With a share of 9%, it is one of the major export markets for Dutch agrofood and high quality and sustainable products, technologies and knowledge. There is potential for France-Dutch cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of AgTech, precision farming and circular agriculture, as France has a strategy for circular agriculture, like the Netherlands. Among the areas where collaboration between the countries could be especially mutually beneficial are innovations for livestock farming and horticulture. Also even though agricultural cooperatives represent the majority of the farmers in France, there is also a strong start-up ecosystem which is open to international collaboration.

REPORTS & LINKS

Reports

- 10 key [indicators](#) for monitoring the circular economy
- [Country in the Spotlight – France On a slippery path](#)
- [Eco Innovation in France](#)
- [Circular Economy Update](#)
- [Textiles and the environment in a circular economy](#)
- [Circular Fashion Advocacy](#)
- [Innovation and sustainability in French Fashion Tech outlook and opportunities](#)
- [The Role of EPR for the circular economy in the Netherlands](#)

Links

- [Zakendoen in Frankrijk](#)
- [NLinBusiness Library](#)
- [Blog Innovatie-Attaché Nederlandse ambassade in Parijs](#)
- [The New Market Tool](#)
- [NLexporteert](#)
- [Subsidies of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency \(RVO\)](#)
- [Fashion for Good](#)

RELEVANT NETWORKS

CE THINK TANKS & RESEARCH INSTITUTES

[INEC](#) (Institut National de l'Économie Circulaire)
[Orée](#) (Holland Circular Hotspot partner)
[ADEME](#) (l'Agence de la transition écologique)

BUSINESS NETWORKS

[Zakelijk netwerk en contacten in Frankrijk](#)
[Business France](#)
[Franse Kamer van Koophandel in Nederland](#)
[French Network of the Circular Economy](#)

EMBASSIES

[Netherlands embassy in Paris](#)
[French embassy in The Hague](#)

MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS

- 20 November bilateral Erasmus-Descartes conference on sustainable fashion in the Lille region
- 1 - 4 December 2020 [Pollutec](#)
- January - June 2022 French EU presidency
- Summer 2024 [Olympic Games in Paris](#)
- [Netwerk Internationaal Ondernemen events overview](#)