



BLUE MANIFESTO THE ROADMAP TO A HEALTHY OCEAN BY 2030

2026 Assessment



1. Context

The Blue Manifesto, launched in 2020, is a joint initiative of more than 140 civil society organisations across Europe, providing EU policy- and decision-makers with a science-based, time-bound roadmap to achieve a healthy and resilient ocean by 2030. Framed as a call to action, this Manifesto outlines key milestones to be reached by specific years towards ensuring sustainable ocean governance, halting biodiversity loss and pollution, and supporting a just transition to a climate-resilient and nature-positive economy. The vision it promotes is one of systemic transformation, aimed at safeguarding marine ecosystems, while delivering a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

Previous assessments of progress under the Blue Manifesto have found that while some milestones were on track for partial delivery, the majority had not been fully met. This assessment of the updated Blue Manifesto roadmap provides a critical evaluation of the milestones scheduled for completion in 2024 and 2025, and an initial review of progress towards 2026 objectives. As many legislative proposals are still expected by year-end, assessment of the 2026 milestones remains preliminary. Consequently, the analysis focuses on the trajectory of ongoing legislative processes and the general direction they are taking, acknowledging that final proposals and the outcome of the inter-institutions negotiations that will follow will be necessary to fully assess their potential impact.

2. Results

Overall, the results are deeply concerning: while the ecological crisis is accelerating and the EU has committed to take action at the UN Ocean Conference in 2025, only a few targets have been met or are on track. Irreversible losses in ecosystem resilience and services are already underway, risking substantial social consequences if the widening gap between policy and implementation is not urgently addressed.

However, the EU now holds a critical opportunity to reverse this trajectory. The ongoing revision and drafting of key texts, including the Ocean Act, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and the Multiannual Financial Framework, combined with the Commission's seriousness regarding enforcement of existing and future obligations, will determine whether the EU can finally bridge the implementation gap and align its domestic actions with its international ambitions.

3. Methodology

Each milestone has been evaluated using a traffic-light scoring system:

- **dark green** indicates that the requested outcome has been delivered in substance
- **light green** indicates that part of the desired outcome has been delivered with important elements remaining outstanding
- **yellow** is used for areas where no substantive action has been taken yet or where developments are underway and therefore impossible to assess as of now

- **orange** indicates that action has been taken but it is insufficient, delayed, or moving away from the requested outcome
- **Red** indicates that the deadline has passed without delivery, that no relevant action has been taken, or that action directly contradicts the requested outcome

4. Overall progress 2024 – 7 milestones

Achieved: 1

On track: 2

Not addressed/pending: 0

Off-track: 2

Not achieved: 1

Milestone 2024	Text with targets & score explanation	Overall score
Ocean Governance	The European Commission publishes an "Ocean Deal" communication, outlining a policy roadmap to achieve healthy, clean and resilient marine ecosystems by 2030. This plan ensures a coherent and balanced framework for reaching the EU's climate, zero pollution, and biodiversity goals, while also guaranteeing a just and socially fair transition. 🔍 The EU Ocean Pact sets a strong policy foundation, showing partial alignment with the Blue Manifesto and seeking improved policy coherence. If well drafted, the announced Ocean Act has the potential to provide the necessary legislative framework to tackle ocean pressures and achieve Good Environmental Status (GES). This transition from declaration to regulation marks a decisive step forward. It remains to be seen whether the Ocean Act (expected by the end of 2026) will deliver the promised results upon publication.	
Ocean Governance	The European Commission establishes an Ocean Commissioner. 🔍 The reconfiguration of a "Commissioner for Fisheries and Ocean" fails to establish a truly cross-cutting marine portfolio, instead fragmenting governance by separating the environment portfolio from fisheries and oceans. This restructuring undermines the continuity of the previous mandates where these domains were integrated in a single portfolio. Despite the establishment of new bodies like the European Ocean Board, the renewed institutional divide between DG MARE and DG ENV exacerbates policy fragmentation, leaving the mandate largely rooted in traditional fisheries governance despite the critical dependence of all blue economy sectors on healthy marine and coastal ecosystems.	

Ocean Governance	The European Parliament establishes a forum for all matters related to maritime activities and marine ecosystems, such as an inter-group or a gathering of MEPs from relevant Committees, including Fisheries, Environment, and Transport and Tourism.	
	🔍 The re-establishment of the SEArica intergroup has been a positive development as it provides a space for cross-party coordination and dialogue, while helping to elevate seas, ocean, and coastal issues on the European political agenda. Since 2024, it has also fostered open dialogue among marine stakeholders through the creation of the Blue Alliance, a positive step for cross-sector engagement. While the group has been actively engaging on the EOP, Multiannual Financial Framework and upcoming Ocean Act, the absence of a unified and coordinated parliamentary voice on other relevant files limits the initiative's institutional weight and its capacity to drive coordinated policy action.	
Ocean Governance	Each Presidency of the Council of the EU holds a joint ocean meeting attended by Environment, Climate, Energy, Fisheries and Transport ministries, with stakeholder representation at all meetings.	
	🔍 Since 2024, no formal joint meeting of the Environment, Climate, Energy, Fisheries, and Transport Ministers has been convened. Instead, the French Minister established an informal "Friends of the Ocean" group to bring together EU country ministers in support of ocean-related priorities, ahead of the Ocean Act. However, the extent to which this initiative has gained political traction remains uncertain. Strong and sustained high-level political leadership will be indispensable to reverse current trends, improve coherence across EU marine policies, and translate political ambition into tangible progress towards ocean health and resilience.	
Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries	From 2024 onwards, the Council of the EU establishes sustainable, ecosystem-based and precautionary limits on fishing opportunities in line with the Common Fisheries Policy and the best available scientific advice in an era of climate change.	
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	🔍 Despite longstanding legal obligations under the CFP, the EU continues to fall short of ending overfishing. Recent Council decisions have not systematically applied ecosystem-based or precautionary approaches to setting fishing opportunities.	
Pollution	To tackle Ocean pollution and finalise the work of the 2019-2024 mandate, the European Parliament and Council of the EU adopt the regulations on preventing plastic pellets losses, Packaging and Packaging Waste, the revised Urban Wastewater Treatment	

Directive, and the revised list of surface and groundwater pollutants.

Q Several important legislations have entered into force, including the Plastic Pellets Regulation, which introduces preventive measures across the supply chain to tackle a major source of microplastic pollution, and the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), applicable from August 2026. The PPWR introduces binding measures to reduce packaging waste, increase reuse and refill, restrict certain single-use formats and PFAS in food-contact packaging, and improve packaging design. Additionally, the revised lists of pollutants in surface and groundwater now encompass additional harmful substances, including PFAS, pharmaceuticals and pesticides such as glyphosate. Progress remains fragile, however. While the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive entered into force in January 2025, recent industry pressure has led the EU Parliament to request a temporary suspension of quaternary treatment obligations and related Extended Producer Responsibility scheme pending a new Commission assessment. Across these files, the primary challenge now lies in ensuring the timely and ambitious implementation of these measures by Member States and maintaining rigorous monitoring by the Commission to prevent delays or weakening of agreed standards.

Pollution	The European Commission advocates for an ambitious Global Plastic Treaty that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics, including
International Leadership	single-use plastics, microplastics and fishing gear, as well as hazardous chemical additives and upstream measures focusing on plastic production and reduction.

Q The EU and several EU Member States continue to lead on the high-ambition coalition. So far, both single-use plastics and microplastics are being considered in terms of prevention measures.



5. Overall progress 2025 – 26 milestones

Achieved: 0

On track: 4

Not addressed/pending: 6

Off-track: 8

Not achieved: 8

Milestone 2025	Text with targets & score explanation	Overall score
Ocean Governance	From 2025 onwards, the European Commission increases resources for compliance and enforcement units to address potential marine-related legislation violations and enhances the capacity of units dealing with international negotiations on the ocean. 🔍 While the Commission has stated implementation to be a priority, no increase in resources for compliance and enforcement has been announced.	
Ocean Governance	The European Commission establishes an EU Ocean and Seas Agency or a cooperation mechanism between Agencies and ocean-related monitoring systems that streamlines ocean data and knowledge collection, ensures open access, and issues regular reports on the environmental and climate status of the ocean. 🔍 The Commission has launched the Ocean Eye initiative, which could help close data gaps and support better decision-making. However, it falls short of establishing a broader coordination framework akin to an Ocean Agency or cross-agency governance structure.	
Ocean Governance	The European Commission strengthens the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by tightening the link with the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD), establishing legally binding targets and thresholds, introducing criteria for a non-deterioration principle, reinforcing cross-border cooperation, enforcing nature restoration and marine protection measures as well as climate adaptation and resilience targets and measures, and ensuring strong enforcement provisions.	

🔍 The MSFD is currently under review, making it impossible to assess the impact of the proposed legislative changes until the official proposal is published. While the Commission has shown political will to strengthen implementation, enforcement, and climate integration, the suggested merger with the MSPD raises concerns regarding the potential dilution of the MSFD's environmental focus, increased governance complexity, and implementation delays. Furthermore, within a broader context of attempts to weaken environmental safeguards, the revision of this cornerstone text risks further undermining its impact and the prospects of achieving GES in the near term.

Ocean Governance The European Commission presents **an action plan for a just transition to a well-being blue economy that respects ecological limits**, promotes sufficiency principles over pure economic growth, enables a transition towards low-impact and regenerative activities, supports sustainable livelihoods, fosters social justice, health and well-being, and supports workers and communities affected by the transition.



🔍 The EOP underscores the need to align the blue economy with sustainability and scale up regenerative blue economy sectors. However, it lacks clear mechanisms to ensure a just transition and protect vulnerable coastal communities. Advances could be made with the proposal for a European Ocean Act this year.

International Leadership At UNOC 2025, the European Commission pledges its commitment to the **Ocean Deal and Ocean Fund and confirms its strong engagement for international ocean governance**, including by presenting a plan for the rapid implementation of the BBNJ High Seas Treaty and a long-term vision for Sustainable Development Goal 14.



🔍 The EOP was launched by the Commission during UNOC, promising an Ocean Act and taking a positive stance on international issues such as the BBNJ and deep-sea mining. Concerning the BBNJ, the Commission demonstrated leadership by proposing the adoption of an EU directive to incorporate key provisions of the BBNJ Agreement into EU law. However, this initiative was ultimately blocked by Member States in June 2026.

Ocean Governance The European Commission adopts a proposal for the **Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034** that transforms the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund into a much more substantial **Ocean Fund**, removes environmentally harmful subsidies, earmarks funding for the ocean in other related budget programmes, and ensures sufficient funding for related EU Agencies such as the Ocean Agency, European Environment



Agency and European Fisheries Control Agency. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.

Q The MFF proposal fails to ring-fence funds for nature protection and restoration and effectively discontinues the LIFE programme by removing its dedicated budget line, weakening a critical instrument for environmental action. The absence of specific funding for the transition to a low-impact blue economy further limits the plan's ability to drive necessary sectoral change. While the exclusion of funding for deep-sea mining and the mention of the EOP are positive signs, the proposal lacks biodiversity indicators to track targets and relies on expenditure tracking rather than on impact assessment.

**Climate
Change
Mitigation &
Adaptation**

The European Commission proposes **new legislation on ocean resilience and coastal adaptation** emphasising nature-based solutions for better preparedness for climate-related challenges and including an EU-wide and evidence-based monitoring system on **carbon sequestration in marine ecosystems** ("blue carbon"). For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.

Q In June 2026, the Commission published two non-binding strategies: one on resilient coastal communities and one on islands, acknowledging their high vulnerability to climate change. However, lacking concrete legislative measures, these strategies rely on references to existing legislation and fail to drive the deployment of nature-based solutions for adaptation. Furthermore, the Commission's confirmation of support for the development of a certification methodology for blue carbon ecosystems under the Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Regulation raises concerns, as it could pave the way for an EU-wide blue carbon credit market before adequate safeguards are in place.

**Sustainable
Seafood**

The European Commission proposes **new legislation to restrict the import and trade of aquatic food products** that cause harm to endangered species and bycatch of sensitive species. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.

**International
Leadership**

Q The Commission is assessing trade alignment with marine conservation under the Autonomous Tariff Quota (ATQ) regime, including measures to address bycatch, and plans to adopt specifications on the use of turtle excluder devices in certain tropical shrimp fisheries in 2026. However, as these measures will apply only to EU vessels and not to all imports entering the EU market, their overall impact remains limited.

Biodiversity Protection	The European Commission proposes new legislation with binding 2030 targets for the effective management of at least 30% of EU seas, including at least 10% under strict protection, with a clear definition of “effective” (e.g. banning harmful activities) and “strict protection”. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.	
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	 No new legislative proposal or legally-binding definitions have been proposed to date, nor have specific measures for advancing MPA management been introduced. While the Commission has indicated an intention to include the 30x30 and 10% targets in the upcoming Ocean Act, it remains to be seen whether the final text will incorporate these and deliver on them.	
Biodiversity Protection	The European Commission proposes new legislation to ban destructive activities in all EU Marine Protected Areas including, but not limited to, bottom trawling. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.	
Destructive Activities	 No legislative proposal has been submitted to ban destructive activities within MPAs. The Commission has signalled that this is a low-priority issue for them, and has made no clear commitment to include such measures in the upcoming Ocean Act.	
Biodiversity Protection	In line with the EU Deep Sea Access Regulation, the European Commission adopts a delegated act to include seamounts in the list of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and a revised Implementing Regulation to protect deep sea VMEs in EU waters between 400m and 800m depth.	
Biodiversity Protection Decarbonising Maritime Industries Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries	 No delegated or implementing act has been adopted. Implementation of these measures has stalled, reportedly due to legal challenges, despite updated ICES advice issued in 2025. The revised advice expected in late 2026 presents a potential opportunity to advance this agenda in 2027. The European Commission proposes a revised Energy Taxation Directive (ETD) to phase out fuel tax exemption in fisheries and redirect funds to finance a just and fair transition in the fisheries sector. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.  The ETD negotiations are still stalled at the Council level, with a very low probability of finalisation in the foreseeable future. Consequently, the fisheries sector’s fuel tax exemption is unlikely to be phased out in the short term.	

Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries	The European Commission adopts delegated and implementing acts to strengthen the EU fisheries control system, including digital traceability of all seafood products, engine power monitoring, and Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) of vessels at high risk of violating EU fisheries rules. 🔍 Delegated acts on REM and engine power are expected after 2027. The implementing act for digital traceability is foreseen for 2026 or 2027.	
Sustainable Seafood	The European Commission introduces a legislative framework for the traceability and labelling of all seafood products in the EU to prevent sourcing from Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities and ensure environmentally and socially responsible practices. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027. 🔍 The traceability of seafood products will be substantially improved as part of a delegated act foreseen for 2027 under the revised Fisheries Control Regulation, which will enter into force in January 2029 and dictate additional traceability requirements for prepared and preserved products. However, the Commission has not yet proposed a framework to improve seafood labelling, though a revision of the Common Market Organisation (CMO) for fisheries products, which determines consumer information rules, may be considered in the future.	
Pollution	The European Commission proposes a revised Bathing Water Directive with high standards for safe access and high environmental and health criteria, including additional parameters for monitoring water quality and obligations to address identified pollution at its source. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027. 🔍 The Commission published its evaluation report on the Directive in March 2025. Although the conclusion indicated that a revision could better address emerging environmental and health challenges related to the management of bathing water quality, the Commission decided against a formal revision in the summer of 2025, opting instead to focus on improving the implementation of the Directive. No further announcements or updates on progress have been made since.	
Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries	Taking an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, particularly in the context of climate change, the European Commission seeks scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for setting Total Allowable	

	Catches that guarantee food supply for thriving predator populations. 🔍 The Commission has failed to introduce new ecosystem-based considerations when renewing its contracts with ICES.	
Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries	The European Commission ensures full public transparency on the allocation of fisheries opportunities either by publishing annual EU-level reports or by creating a new database with precise catch and effort data in a usable form per Member State. 🔍 Although the Commission published a Vademecum on the allocation of fishing opportunities in 2025, tangible progress remains limited. Key measures, such as ensuring full public transparency in the allocation of fishing opportunities, have not advanced, and the document lacks the binding force necessary to drive substantive change.	
International Leadership	The European Commission proposes a ban on deep-sea mining in European seas and advocates for the adoption of a moratorium within the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and other international ocean governance bodies. 🔍 The Commission reiterated its precautionary pause and made statements condemning unlawful mining by the USA outside the ISA jurisdiction. However, it has provided no explicit statement regarding whether deep-sea mining within EU waters should be advised against.	
Nature-Inclusive Energy	The European Commission assesses whether designation of suitable and acceleration areas for offshore renewable energy and permitting regimes fully comply with REDIII requirements, the Habitats and Birds Directives, the MSFD and other nature protection laws, and ensures that such projects are not developed within Natura 2000 sites or other MPAs and takes corrective actions when needed. 🔍 The Commission's EU Grids Package and Environment Omnibus risk weakening nature protection by redefining "deliberate" harm and extending administrative tacit approval. These proposals narrow the distinction between strict protection inside and outside renewable acceleration areas (RAAs), potentially allowing projects to bypass robust impact assessments and eroding the core safeguards of the Birds and Habitats Directives. At the same time, the stress-testing of these cornerstone directives, together with reopening the RED before full implementation of its current rules, weakens safeguards and threatens to undermine the EU environmental acquis.	

Nature-Inclusive Energy	The European Commission publishes an implementing act on auction design criteria for offshore renewable energy auctions under the Net Zero Industry Act requiring Member States to introduce mandatory non-price criteria (NPC) on biodiversity, social aspects and circularity, and conduct annual assessments of those criteria.	
	🔍 The Commission published implementing acts on the incorporation of NPC in auction design and updated State Aid rules for renewable energy, both encouraging the inclusion of biodiversity and sustainability criteria. However, their application is not mandatory and the Net Zero Industry Act requires only a biennial review.	
Destructive Activities	The European Commission proposes a ban on all new offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction, and a strategy to phase out offshore oil and gas drilling. For adoption by EP and Council in 2027.	
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	🔍 The Commission has not proposed a ban on new oil and gas fields and is currently reviewing whether to lift its existing moratorium on Arctic exploration. This potential policy shift is being considered within the framework of the new EU Arctic Strategy, scheduled for release in 2026.	
Pollution	To reduce chemical pollution in our seas, the European Commission proposes revisions to the REACH Regulation and Cosmetic Products Regulation that accelerate the ban on harmful substances. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.	
	🔍 In April 2026, the Commission announced that the REACH Regulation would not be reopened. The Cosmetic Products Regulation was included in the Commission's Chemical Omnibus package, alongside rules on CLP (classification, labelling and packaging) and fertilising products. While not yet formally adopted, the agreed text extends timelines for removing products containing CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic) substances, but rejects exemptions for these substances based on oral or inhalation exposure.	
Biodiversity Protection	On the topic of bycatch of sensitive species and mobile bottom fishing in MPAs, the European Commission oversees implementation of the Marine Action Plan, taking emergency	
Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries	measures if Member States miss deadlines to adopt national measures or submit joint recommendations, and initiating enforcement actions if environmental obligations are not met.	

🔍 No progress has been made on the Marine Action Plan, at either Member State or EU level. The launch of the stress-testing of the Birds and Habitats Directives, as part of a broader deregulation agenda, poses a significant risk to the Plan's enforcement, as it heavily relies on the legal framework these directives provide.

Pollution

The European Commission sets guidelines for Member States to effectively implement threshold values for all descriptors of **Good Environmental Status under the MSFD** by 2030, including for example underwater noise pollution.

🔍 The MSFD is currently under review, with the stated objective of accelerating progress towards GES. Further assessment cannot be made until the proposal is published



Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries

Instead of reopening the CFP Basic Regulation, the European Commission revises the Multi-Annual Plans of Fisheries Management to include **legally-binding measures for an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management**, strengthened provisions to safeguard fish populations, and clear and binding deadlines for the Joint Recommendation process.

🔍 The EOP mentions a potential reopening of the CFP, and the Commission has not yet ruled out a revision, despite its own CFP evaluation finding the framework fit for purpose. At the same time, the Commission has announced a revision of the fisheries Multiannual Management Plans (MAPs), aimed not at strengthening ecosystem-based fisheries management but at removing precautionary provisions.



Pollution

The European Commission **proposes legislation on unintentionally released microplastics in the environment**, notably from textiles, geotextiles, paints, tyres, detergents, construction materials and the shipping industry. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.

🔍 Textiles, paint and tyres have been included in the EU action plan for the implementation of the Ecodesign Framework for Sustainable Products (ESPR), but to date no requirement has been set to prevent microplastic emissions.



6. Overall progress 2026 – 11 milestones

Achieved: 0

On track: 2

Not addressed/pending: 1

Off-track: 6

Not achieved: 2

Milestone 2026	Text with targets & score explanation	Overall score
Cross-cutting	From 2025 onwards, the European Commission increases resources for compliance and enforcement units to address potential marine-related legislation violations and enhances the capacity of units dealing with international negotiations on the ocean. 🔍 The Ocean Pact does not address the lack of capacity within Commission enforcement units, and does not propose guidance to clarify implementation where inconsistencies exist between environmental and sectoral legislations. The Enforcement Strategy originally present in the first version of the EOP was removed.	
Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries	As requested by citizens in the European Citizens Initiative, the European Commission proposes legislation addressing the international shark fin trade. 🔍 The Commission failed to produce an impact assessment to assess this measure by the end of 2025, as stated in its response to the European Citizens Initiative. While work on the impact assessment is ongoing, no clear timeline for follow-up action has been given to citizens.	
Pollution	The European Commission enforces a ban on Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to prevent further ocean pollution under the REACH Regulation. 🔍 In March 2026, the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) adopted its final opinion on an EU-wide PFAS restriction, while the Socio-Economic Analysis Committee (SEAC) submitted its draft opinion for consultation. The SEAC's final opinion is expected by the end of 2026, which will conclude the ECHA's scientific evaluation before the Commission proposes a restriction for discussion and vote in the REACH Committee. Statements made this year by high-level Commission representatives raised serious concerns as	

	suggestions were made to limit the restriction to consumer uses of PFAS or allow unjustified derogations.	
Destructive Activities	The European Commission ensures marine geo-engineering (MGE) technologies and practices are excluded from the Carbon Dioxide Removal Certification Framework (CRCF) and 2040 EU Climate Target, enforces the moratorium on geo-engineering under the Convention of Biological Diversity and supports efforts to regulate additional marine geo-engineering technologies under the London Convention and Protocol, proposes a ban in European seas, and refrains from funding research on marine geo-engineering. The CRCF regulation, as adopted in 2025, includes marine activities were as admissible. The EU still supports a de-facto moratorium on marine geoengineering in the London Convention, but there is no EU policy to enforce a moratorium in European waters, and funding for research continues.	
Destructive Activities	The European Commission prohibits carbon storage in the water column and at the seabed, halting Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in sub-seabed geological formations until there is proof of no environmental harm.  The Commission has funded CCS through schemes such as the Innovation Fund and the Connecting Europe Facility (for example the Port of Rotterdam's Porthos project). It has also included CCS in its 2024 Net Zero Industry Act, which includes a chapter on creating carbon storage capacity and a target injection capacity of at least 50 million tonnes of CO₂ in geological storage sites by 2030.	
Pollution	The European Commission adopts delegated acts establishing eco-design requirements for textiles, furniture, tyres, and paints, including a zero-emission target for microplastics, in accordance with the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation.  This process is delayed, and no mandatory requirement for textiles has been agreed to date. Furthermore, no performance requirements are foreseen by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), which is in charge of the Impact Assessment.	
Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries	To reduce the risk of IUU fish entering the EU market , the European Commission encourages swift implementation of the mandatory IT CATCH system, taking action against Member States that fail to implement the new requirements.	

🔍 Use of CATCH became mandatory for EU importers on 10 January 2026. Despite initial pushback from industry and several Member States, and early technical issues for unprepared operators and administrations, the system appears to be functioning normally. The Commission's reporting of technical issues are being resolved, uptake has been positive, and Member States are already submitting more verification requests than before the system was introduced, suggesting increased scrutiny of catch legality. It is still early to fully assess CATCH's functioning and impact, but it should improve import controls across the board.

Pollution

The European Commission proposes a **revised Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive**, expanding the scope and introducing additional measures to reduce SUP production and consumption. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2028.



🔍 The SUPD evaluation process has highlighted the Commission's efforts to identify both challenges and successes in the Directive's implementation. There are however concerns that any potential revision could undermine the legal certainty established by the Directive, particularly if settled provisions, including key definition, are reopened. Similarly, there are concerns that the Directive's overarching objective could be revised in a way that allows the substitution of single-use plastics with other single-use materials, such as so-called marine-biodegradable materials, paper or cardboard.

Fair & Low-Impact Fisheries

To prevent profits from illegal fishing flowing back to the EU and allow more equitable access to marine resources, the European Commission **publicly discloses ownership of fishing vessels** by EU citizens, both within the EU and worldwide.



🔍 No progress has been made since the launch of the Blue Manifesto.

Biodiversity Protection

The European Commission fully **monitors National Restoration Plan implementation** by Member States, evaluating effectiveness and **using its enforcement powers** to ensure the goals of the Nature Restoration Law will be achieved in time.



🔍 Actual enforcement will follow the completion of the planning phase, which is still ongoing. The Commission has begun evaluating the draft National Restoration Plans

submitted by Member States, marking the initial phase of monitoring ahead of final plan adoption next year. However, some plans are still missing, and full enforcement will only commence once plans are finalised.

Pollution

As a continuation of its **Circular Economy Action Plan**, the European Commission proposes a **Sustainable Resource Management Directive** with binding science-based resource reduction targets for land- and sea-based sectors. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2028.

🔍 The Commission is set to publish the proposal of an EU Circular Economy Act in 2026. However, it is not foreseen to include material footprint reduction targets.





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