



Chemical recycling: what role for the EU's circularity and decarbonisation objectives?

Plastics have enjoyed exceptional growth in production for decades and are used extensively across a multitude of sectors including packaging, construction, electronics, automotive and agriculture. Prompted by concerns over plastic waste generation and impacts on terrestrial and marine ecosystems, in 2018 the European Commission published a strategy on plastics which was followed by legislative actions such as ban of certain single-use plastic items. In 2019 out of about 29 million tonnes of plastic collected in the EU the majority (68%) was either incinerated for energy recovery or ended up in landfills.

There has been a debate for some time about whether the concept of chemical recycling can be among the solutions for managing plastic waste. Chemical recycling technologies have not yet reached the market at scale although recently there have been several announcements for the development of new plastic recycling plans in Europe and abroad. Objective of this event will be to bring together stakeholders from the plastics value chain to discuss whether and under what conditions chemical recycling technologies could make a contribution to the EU's circularity and decarbonisation objectives.

Issues to be discussed:

- What is chemical recycling?
- State of play (technology, policy) in Europe and beyond
- Challenges and opportunities to chemical recycling solutions
- Trade-offs, e.g. with reducing plastics in the market?

Agenda

7 July, 15:00-17:00 (CET), online

15:00 Welcome by **Vasileios Rizos**, Research Fellow & Head of Sustainable Resources and Circular Economy, CEPS

15:10 Chemical recycling: research evidence, challenges and opportunities by **Matthew Jones**, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Bath

15:25 Q&A

15:35 Panel (7 minutes each)

- **Cloé Ragot**, Head of Policy & Sustainability, Plastic Energy
- **Christian Krueger**, Circular Economy Expert, BASF
- **Janek Vahk**, Climate, Energy and Air Pollution Coordinator, Zero Waste Europe
- **Silvija Aile**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

16:10 Discussion

16:50 Concluding remarks