

July 2021

2021 PROGRESS REPORT

NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT



New Plastics Economy Global Commitment

Context

Plastic waste and pollution have captured the attention of the public, governments, and businesses around the world. The search for solutions has started, and there is growing recognition that addressing the symptoms through clean-ups is not enough. A systemic shift tackling the root causes is required: a transition towards a circular economy for plastic, in which plastic never becomes waste.

Over the past five years, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (‘the Foundation’) has been rallying businesses and governments behind this positive vision of a circular economy for plastic. Its 2016 and 2017 New Plastics Economy reports captured worldwide headlines and became a global reference. The Foundation’s New Plastics Economy initiative is driving action with businesses and governments.

In January 2018, it brought together leading companies committed to work towards 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable plastic packaging by 2025, which was scaled to an industry-wide, global effort with the launch of the Global Commitment in October 2018. It unifies the global value chain behind a common vision for upstream solutions, supported by action-oriented targets.

The new plastics Economy global Commitment

The Global Commitment, launched by the Foundation and UN Environment in October 2018, draws a line in the sand in the fight against plastic waste and pollution. It unites over 450 businesses, governments, NGO, universities, and other organisations globally behind a common vision to address plastic waste and pollution at its root cause.

To help make this vision a reality, businesses and governments commit to a set of ambitious 2025 targets.



Signatories include companies representing 20% of all plastic packaging produced globally, as well as governments, NGOs, universities, industry associations, investors, and other organisations.

They work to eliminate the plastic items we don’t need; innovate so all plastics we do need are designed to be safely reused, recycled, or composted; and circulate everything we use to keep it in the economy and out of the environment.

Credibility and transparency will be ensured by setting a clear minimum level of ambition for signatories, common

definitions underpinning all commitments, and annual reporting on progress. The first Progress Report was published in October 2019, with nearly 200 organisations reporting on progress against their commitments.

The Global Commitment is led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation leads the engagement with the private sector (the business signatories and endorsers), and UNEP leads the engagement with the governments.

Vision

At the heart of the Global Commitment is a vision of a circular economy for plastic in which it never becomes waste.

Signatories commit to three actions to realise this vision:

Eliminate all problematic and unnecessary plastic items.

Innovate to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

Circulate all the plastic items we use to keep them in the economy and out of the environment.

The vision has six key points:

1. Elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging through redesign, innovation, and new delivery models is a priority.
2. Reuse models are applied where relevant, reducing the need for single-use packaging.
3. All plastic packaging is 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable.
4. All plastic packaging is reused, recycled, or composted in practice.
5. The use of plastic is fully decoupled from the consumption of finite resources.
6. All plastic packaging is free of hazardous chemicals, and the health, safety, and rights of all people involved are respected.

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Commitments

To contribute towards that vision, all signatories of the Global Commitment should perform a 'minimum bar' of commitments.

As a packaged goods company, PROQUIMIA is implementing next commitments:

Take action to eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging by 2025.

Take action to move from single-use towards reuse models where relevant by 2025.

100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025.

Set an ambitious 2025 recycled content target across all plastic packaging used.

None of the commitments, on its own, will be sufficient to realise a circular economy for plastics. However, all of them contribute towards that vision, and, collectively, they are an important and necessary step forward.

Every 18 to 24 months, the 'minimum bar' of commitments will be reviewed and, where relevant and after consultation with signatories, raised to ensure the Global Commitment continues to represent true leadership.

PROQUIMIA joined the Global Commitment on February 2019.

Quantitative data on commitments provided in this report is based on data from 2020.

Progress on elimination

The following actions have been developed and implemented during 2020 & 2021:

Move from diluted products to concentrated products:

→ New concentrated products systems in low-weight flexible plastic packaging (ECOCONPACK system) launched in the market during 2020 and 2021:

- New concentrated products for **car wash applications** that were launched on the market at the beginning of 2020.



- New concentrated products for **water treatment of cooling systems** that were launched on the market at the beginning of 2021.



→ In 2020, we started developing new concentrated products in water soluble packaging caps (ECOXOP system) for institutional hygiene (hard surface cleaners/disinfectants, floor cleaners, air fresheners) that will be launched in the market throughout 2021.



Move from rigid PE plastic packaging (bottles and jerrycans) to low-weight flexible plastic packaging (bag in box - ECOCONPACK system):

→ New concentrated products launched in the market during 2020 and 2021 (CONPACK PROTECT, ECOCONPACK TREMP, ECOCONPACK OXI, ECOCONPACK CARE and ECOCONPACK ULTRA) in low-weight flexible packaging. > 75% reduction of plastic consumption (weight 10L jerry can - 450 g vs weight 10L bag in box - 110 g).

→ New concentrated products launched in the market during 2020 and 2021 with EU Ecolabel in low-weight flexible packaging: ECOCONPACK TREMP, ECOCONPACK OXI, ECOCONPACK CARE and ECOCONPACK ULTRA.



→ New EU Ecolabel concentrated products for car wash applications launched on the market at the beginning of 2020: ECOCONPACK FOAM, ECOCONPACK SHAMPOO, ECOCONPACK JET WASH, ECOCONPACK SHINE, CONPACK WAX, CONPACK SUPERWAX.

→ New concentrated products for water treatment of cooling systems launched on the market at the beginning of 2021: CONPACK WT-4060, CONPACK WT-4070 and CONPACK ASEP IS35.

Move from rigid PE plastic packaging (bottles and jerrycans) to watersoluble packaging caps (ECOXOP system):

→ In 2020 we started developing new concentrated products for institutional hygiene (hard surface cleaners/disinfectants, floor cleaners, air fresheners), some of them with EU Ecolabel certification, that will be launched in the market throughout 2021.

→ During 2019 new concentrated products packaged in water soluble PVOH film for Household market (Private label: Laundry detergents, Automatic Dishwashing detergents, Hard Surface Cleaners) were developed and launched in the market. Some of them with EU Ecolabel certification.

All the above new packaging systems developed are based on ecodesign and circularity (reduce, reuse, recycle): reduce the amount of packaging per functional doses.

Additionally, next actions has been developed to eliminate a set of commonly identified problematic plastic packaging:

Elimination of black carbon plastic packaging:

→ The 25L PE black jerry can has been substituted by 25L PE 95% PCR without black carbon during the 1st quarter of 2021.



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Progress on reuse

The following actions have been developed and implemented during 2020 & 2021:

Move products packaged in IBC 1000L from single use to deposit-return scheme.

→ All the products sold in IBC 1000L in the Iberian Peninsula (Spain & Portugal) are included in the deposit-return scheme SDDR. About 50% of IBC 1000L were returned for reuse.



Increase the ratio of ready-to-use reusable packaging (reusable trigger spray bottles):

→ All concentrated products (ECOCONPACK and ECOXOP system) for hard surface cleaning/disinfection are applied with reusable trigger spray bottle. The concentrated product is diluted to get a ready-to-use solution of the detergent/disinfectant that will be applied through a reusable 0.5-1L trigger spray bottle.



Move from single use to deposit-return scheme for PE or PET bottles and jerrycans.

→ Long term

100% reusable, recyclable or compostable progress

The following actions have been developed and implemented during 2020 & 2021:

Mono-material packaging → recyclability.

→ >98 % by weight of total plastic packaging put on the market is already recyclable, made of monomaterial PET, PE or PP.

Polyethylene (PE) bottles, jerrycans - mono-material → improve recyclability.

→ During 2019 we moved from paper labels to PP labels in PE jerrycans, in order to fulfill the design-for-recycling guidelines recommended for PE packaging.

Flexible plastic packaging (bag in box) → Eliminate barrier layers (move from multilayer-multicomponent PE-OPA-PET film to PE-PET Film) to improve recyclability.

→ During Q1 2019 we eliminated the OPA barrier layers of our flexible plastic packaging (10L and 1.5L) to fulfill the design-for-recycling criteria established by the 2017 Ecolabel requirements for detergent products.

→ During Q1 2020 we eliminated OPA barrier layer for 0.8L bag (personal care products) to fulfill the design-for-recycling criteria established by the 2017 Ecolabel requirements for detergent products.

Doypack for water soluble caps detergents (laundry, dishwashing and floor cleaners) → Eliminate barrier layers to improve recyclability.

→ During 2019 we moved the secondary packaging (doypack) of some detergent products in water soluble caps from multilayer-multicomponent PE-OPA/EVOH-PET film to PE monolayer recyclable Film (certified as recyclable according to EN 13430).

Doypack for water soluble caps detergents (laundry, dishwashing and floor cleaners) → Move from doypacks based on multilayer-multicomponent PE-OPA/EVOH-PET film to compostable doypack.

→ During 2019 we moved the secondary packaging (doypack) of some our range of detergent products in water soluble caps (brand FLOPP) from multilayer-multicomponent PE-OPA/EVOH-PET film to compostable doypack.

Increase the ratio of ready-to-use reusable packaging (trigger-spray bottles):

→ See section "Progress on reuse"

Flexible plastic packaging (bag in box) → Move from multilayer-multicomponent PE-PET Film to monolayer-monocomponent PE film → improve recyclability.

→ Long term

Progress on packaging recycled content

The following actions have been developed and implemented during 2020 & 2021:

PET bottles → use 50-100% PET post consumer recycled.

→ During 2019 we moved from PET to PET-100% PCR (post-consumer recycled) for all products packaged in 750 ml bottles (250.000 units/year), representing 10 tonnes/year.



Polyethylene (PE) bottles, jerrycans – Use 100% PE post consumer recycled for opaque packaging:

→ During 2020 we moved from PE to >95% PE-PCR (post-consumer recycled) for all products (except those for drinking water treatment) packaged in 10L white opaque PE jerrycan (10.000 units/year), representing approx. 5 tonnes/year.



→ During 2021, we moved from PE to >95% PE-PCR (post-consumer recycled) for all products (except those for drinking water treatment) packaged in 25L black opaque PE jerrycan (85.000 units/year), representing approx. 93 tonnes/year.



→ During 2021-2022 to move from PE to PET-PCR (post-consumer recycled) for packaged in 20L white opaque PE jerrycan.

Polyethylene (PE) bottles, jerrycans - Use 50-100% PE post consumer recycled for translucent packaging:

→ During 2021-2022 we will move from PE to 50% PE-PCR (post-consumer recycled) for products packaged in 10, 20 and 25L translucent PE jerrycan.

References:

NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER 2019.

<https://www.newplasticseconomy.org/projects/global-commitment>

NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT COMMITMENTS, VISION AND DEFINITIONS, Version February 2020.



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