

August 2023

2023 **PROGRESS REPORT**

NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT



PROQUIMIA
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NEW
PLASTICS
ECONOMY

Global
Commitment

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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 a 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 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, the Foundation’s initiative 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. The Commitment 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 more than 500 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

PROQUIMIA joined the Global Commitment on February 2019.

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 achieve 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.

Quantitative data on PROQUIMIA commitments provided in this report is based on data from 2022.

Progress on elimination

Next actions have been developed and implemented during 2022 & 2023:

- **Move from diluted products to concentrated products:**
 - > 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). New products: ECOXOP NATURE and ECOXOP GREEN (floor cleaners), XOP PERSIST, XOP SWEET and XOP BLUE (air freshener), ECOXOP MULTIUSOS (multipurpose/window cleaner) and XOP BAC (hard surface disinfectant). The new ECOXOP range of products was launched in the market during beginning 2022.



- > In 2021 we started developing new a powder and concentrated liquid system for I&I laundry process. The main detergent, in powder form, use low weight mono-material PE 25 kg bags, as alternative to liquid laundry detergents in 20-25L PE jerrycans. The new system, ECOTROPIC DUO, has been launched in the market during 2023.



- **Move from rigid PE plastic packaging (bottles and jerrycans) to low-weight flexible plastic packaging (bag in box - ECO CONPACK system):**
 - > New low-weight flexible 5L bag in box system developed during 2021 and 2022. New concentrated products were launched in the market during end of 2022 for I&I automatic dishwashing (ECOCONPACK ABRILLANTADOR, ECOCONPACK A30) with EU Ecolabel certification. -> aprox. 60% reduction of plastic consumption (weight 5L jerrycan -166 g- vs weight 5L bag in box -70 g-).



- **Move from rigid PE plastic packaging (bottles and jerrycans) to low-weight flexible plastic packaging (800 ml bags for cosmetic products):**
 - > During 2021 and 2022 new cosmetic products for hand wash and hand disinfection packed in low-weight 800ml flexible bag were developed, some of them with EU Ecolabel certification. New products: VITA ASEPGEL, VITASAN ECO, VITAHAND ECO, VITA-FOAM ECO and VITACARE ECO. Existing products: VITABAC FOAM and VITAFOAM The new products will be launched in the market during 2022, 2023 and 2024. -> aprox. 50% reduction of plastic consumption (weight 1L bottle -50 g- vs weight 800ml bag - 22 g-).



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Progress on elimination

■ **Move from rigid PE plastic packaging (bottles and jerrycans) to watersoluble packaging caps:**

- > In 2020 we started developing new concentrated products, packaged in water soluble PVOH film, for institutional hygiene (hard surface cleaners/disinfectants, floor cleaners, air-freshners), some of them with EU Ecolabel certification. New products: ECOXOP NATURE and ECOXOP GREEN (floor cleaners), XOP PERSIST, XOP SWEET and XOP BLUE (air fresheners), ECOXOP MULTIUSOS (multipurpose/window cleaner) and XOP BAC (hard surface disinfectant). The new ECOXOP range of products was launched in the market during beginning 2022.
- > During 2021 a new range of 4 concentrated household multipurpose cleaners and 1 air freshener, packaged in water soluble PVOH film, were launched in the market. New products: FLOPP COCINA, FLOPP BAÑOS, FLOPP BAC, FLOPP MULTIUSOS (multipurpose cleaners and disinfectants) and FLOPP MEDITERRANEO (air freshener). During 2022 some products have been reformulated to fulfill the EU Ecolabel requirements and during beginning 2023 the EU Ecolabel certification has been achieved for FLOPP COCINA ECO, FLOPP BAÑOS ECO and FLOPP MULTIUSOS ECO.



- > During 2022 and 2023 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.
- > During 2021 and 2022 a new range of 4 concentrated cosmetic products packaged in water soluble PVOH film for hand foam-cleansing (household market) were developed.



- > During 2022 and 2023 a new range of concentrated cosmetic products packaged in water soluble PVOH film for hand gel-cleansing (household market) were developed.

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

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

■ **Elimination of carbon black in plastic packaging:**

- > The 25L PE black jerrycan has been substituted by 25L PE 95% PCR without carbon black during 1st quarter 2021.



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Progress on reuse

Next actions have been developed and implemented during 2022 & 2023:

- **Move products packaged in IBC 1000L from single use to deposit-return scheme.**
- > All the products sold in IBC 1000L in 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 (trigger-spray bottles reusable):**
- > All concentrated products (ECOCONPACK, ECOXOP and FLOPP system) for hard surface cleaning/disinfection and air fresheners are applied with reusable 650ml trigger spray bottles. The concentrated product is diluted with water to get a ready-to-use solution of the detergent/disinfectant/air freshener that will be applied through a reusable trigger spray.



Reusable trigger-Spray 650 ml

- > The new range of 4 concentrated cosmetic products packaged in water soluble PVOH film for hand foam-cleansing (household market) developed during beginning 2021-2022, use a reusable 200 ml bottle with foam dispenser.
- > The new range of concentrated cosmetic products packaged in water soluble PVOH film for hand gel-cleansing (household market) developed during beginning 2022-2023, use a reusable 200 ml bottle with gel dispenser.

■ **Move from single use to deposit-return scheme or extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme for PE or PET bottles and jerrycans:**

In progress.

100% reusable, recyclable or compostable progress

Next actions have been developed and implemented during 2022 & 2023:

- **Mono-material packaging -> recyclability.**
- > >98 % by weight of total plastic packaging put on the market is already recyclable, made of mono-material rigid PET, PE or PP.
- **Polyethylene (PE) bottles and 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 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 bag in box) to fulfill the design-for-recycling criteria established by the 2017 Ecolabel requirements for detergent products. The new 5L bag in box is also manufactured with PE-PET film.

- > During Q1 2020 we eliminated OPA barrier layer for 800ml bag (personal care products) to fulfill the design-for-recycling criteria established by the 2017 Ecolabel requirements for cosmetic products. The bag is manufactured with PE-PET film.

■ **Doypack for water soluble caps (household detergents for laundry, dishwashing and floor cleaners) -> Eliminate barrier layers to improve recyclability.**

- > During 2022 and 2023 different actions have been carried out to moved the secondary packaging (doypack) of 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), some of them including % of recycled PE.

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

- > During 2022 and 2023, secondary packaging (doypack) of some detergent products in water soluble caps (brand FLOPP) have been manufactured with compostable doypack (as alternative to multilayer-multicomponent PE-OPA/EVOH-PET film).

■ **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.**

- > In progress.

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Progress on packaging recycled content

Next actions have been developed and implemented during 2022 & 2023:

■ 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. Consumption 2022: 160.000 units/year, representing 6.4 tons/year.



■ Polyethylene (PE) bottles and jerrycans -> Use 50-100% PE post consumer recycled for translucid and opaque packaging:

> During 2021 we moved from PE to 50% PE-PCR (post-consumer recycled) for all products (except drinking water treatment) packaged in 10L white opaque PE jerrycan. Consumption 2022: 14.000 units/year, representing approx. 3 tons/year of recycled plastic.



> During 2022 we moved from PE to 50% PE-PCR (post-consumer recycled) for all products (except drinking water treatment) packaged in 10L white translucid PE jerrycan. 2022: Consumption 2022: 112.000 units/year, representing approx. 25 tons/year of recycled plastic.



> During 2021 we moved from PE to >95% PE-PCR (post-consumer recycled) for all products (except drinking water treatment) packaged in 25L black opaque PE jerrycan. Consumption 2022: 62.000 units/year, representing approx. 60 tons/year of recycled plastic.



> During 2022 we moved from PE to 50% PE-PCR (post-consumer recycled) for all products (except drinking water treatment) packaged in 25L translucid PE jerrycan (>50.000 units/year), representing approx. 25 tons/year of recycled plastic.



> During 2023 to move from PE to 50% PE-PIR (post-industrial recycled) for products packaged in 20L opaque PE jerrycan.

> During 2023 we moved from PE to >50% PE-PIR (post-industrial recycled) for all products (except drinking water treatment) packaged in 20L translucid PE jerrycan (>175.000 units/year), representing approx. 80 tons/year of recycled plastic.





References

- THE GLOBAL COMMITMENT.
PROGRESS REPORT 2022.
- <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/global-commitment-2022/overview>

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