



The European Green Deal From Farm to Fork

The European Green Deal is meant to lay the foundations for a sustainable EU and promises nothing less than a major transformation of the European economy. The new growth strategy is intended to show Europe the way to a modern, resource-efficient and cycle-oriented economy while increasing its competitiveness. All this under the premise of climate neutrality by 2050. These extremely ambitious goals come with a strong pressure for change which will lastingly transform European industry.

“From Farm to Fork” strategy

The “Farm to Fork” strategy wants to give a comprehensive response to the challenges of sustainable food systems and make the EU a global pioneer for sustainability also in this policy area.

Food contact materials are an important part of the strategy

The strategy recognises that food packaging is key to sustainability in food systems. Therefore, the legal provisions on food contact materials are to be reviewed. The European Commission has already started to evaluate the framework regulation. As this regulation does not consider many recent developments in chemicals safety (for example, the systematic generation of toxicological data for chemical substances under REACH), this is sensible in the pursuit of consistent European legislation. It is essential that modern, risk-based approaches are taken into account. Unfortunately, it currently appears that the Commission's original plan to present a proposal for a regulation in 2023 cannot be maintained.

A specific measure on printed food contact materials is urgently needed

At present, the requirements of the framework regulation are detailed out in specific rules only for a small number of materials. The objective should be to create harmonized specific European provisions for all groups of materials as soon as possible, particularly for printed food contact materials. This is the only way to bring about a uniform high standard of consumer protection in the EU – while preventing a patchwork of national laws that hampers the free movement of goods.

In the light of the so-called German Printing Ink Ordinance, the urgent need for action at the European level is even greater. The German Federal Government also recognises the priority of a European regulation and has therefore offered to extend the transitional period (currently till 01/2026) if the EU Commission presents a corresponding European regulation within this period. However, in order for the work on specific regulations to begin, the revision of the legal framework must be completed quickly. Concrete proposals from the entire packaging chain have already been presented.

**This is
what
we are
calling
for**

✓ **Finalize the revision of the legal framework as soon as possible, to enable a timely adoption of a European measure for printed packaging**

Only specific and harmonized European provisions can ensure a uniform protection level for consumers and maintain the European internal market.

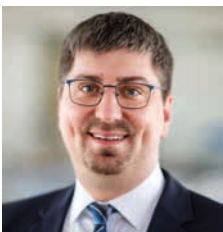
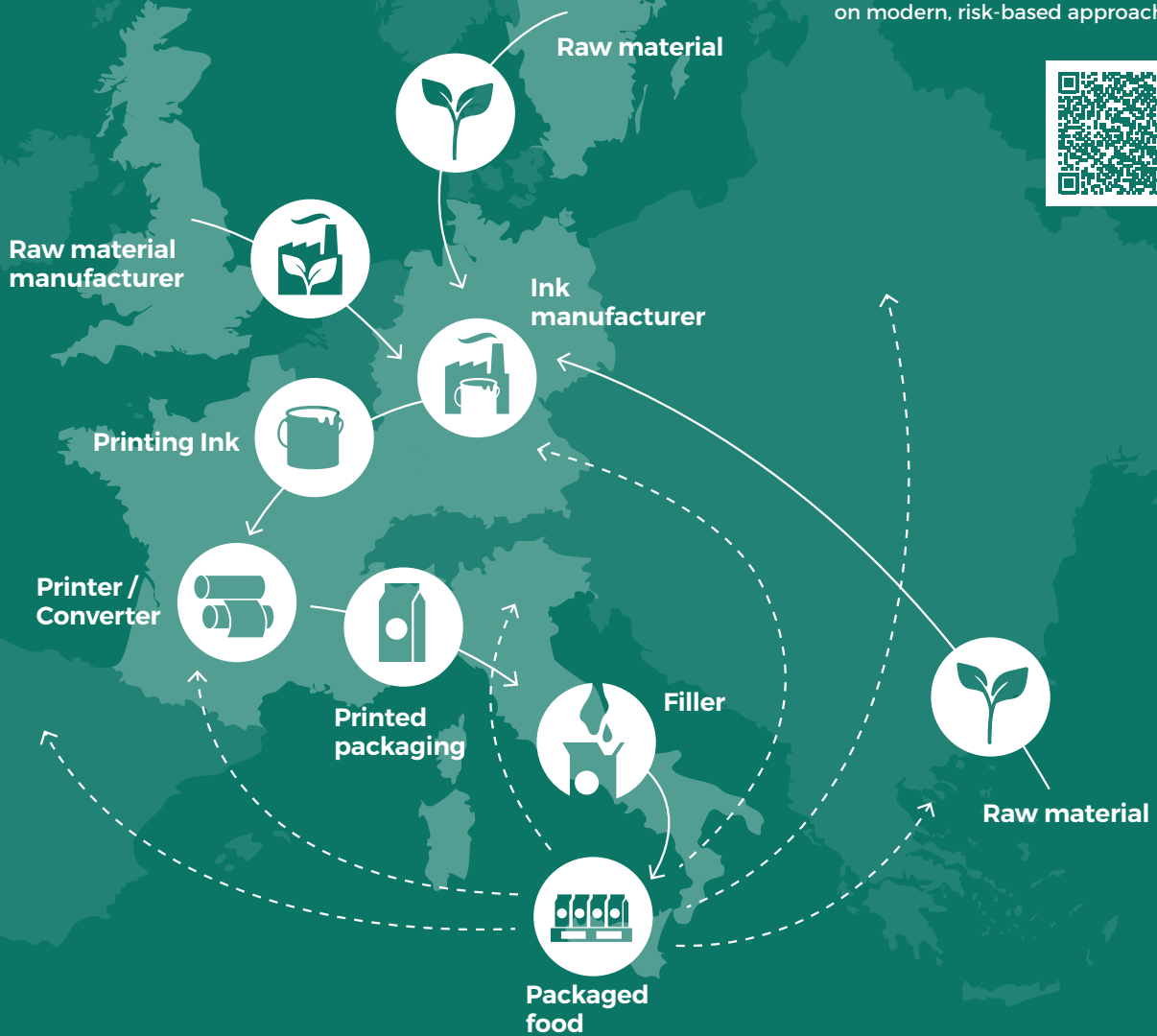
✓ **Rules must be shaped intelligently**

Currently, most rules on food contact materials are based on positive lists. European regulation should make good use of modern approaches in risk assessment, in order to safeguard a high level of consumer protection – without having to fall back to elaborate and costly substance lists. The European food packaging chain has already developed such approaches.



The supply chain for printed packaging is interlinked across Europe
The European single market is only safeguarded by EU-wide regulations

The so-called Packaging Ink Joint Industry Task Force, which represents the value chain from ink raw material manufacturers to food companies, has presented concepts for the revision of the framework as well as specifically regulating printed food contact materials that could be implemented quickly and are based on modern, risk-based approaches:



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