

Zero Waste Live!

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FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS



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Food contact materials in a toxic – free circular economy

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FCM are everywhere in our daily life



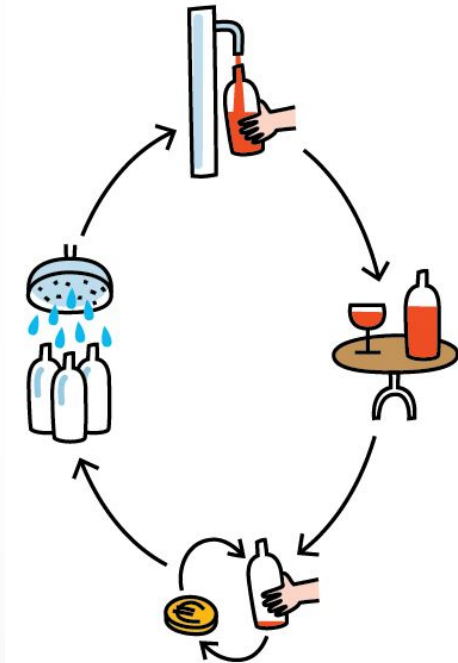
and even more so in a culture of disposables and superfluous packaging

Are all FCM equal in terms of safety?

Many factors involved :

- Properties of chemicals used, and level of migration
- Inertness of the material
- Complexity of product or packaging : multi-material, multilayer, coatings, inks, adhesives
- Conditions of use, including the food it is in contact with

Exploring solutions for toxic-free & reusable packaging



Preventing regrettable substitution

Substituting one hazardous chemical with another



Preventing regrettable substitution

Replacing one single - use packaging by another



Preventing toxic recycling



→ All food contact articles and packaging, be it single-use or reusable, made of virgin or recycled material, should be safe. Yet the current legislative framework does not adequately protect human health.

An urgent need to strengthen EU rules on FCM

A strong call from scientists and civil society

- [Scientific consensus statement](#) “Impacts of food contact chemicals on human health”
- [Declaration of Concern](#) signed by more than 200 organisations calling for increased transparency and traceability on chemicals in FCM as well as stronger rules to ensure safety



An urgent need to strengthen EU rules on FCM

Current rules are inadequate and insufficient to protect human health

- EU harmonised rules are lacking for most FCM : insufficient and diverse level of protection
- Risk assessment are not adequate: focused on materials rather than final products, and not taking in account NIAS and cocktail effect
- Lack of consistency between FCM and other EU legislation, including REACH
- Lack of traceability of chemicals in FCM, including during the recycling processes

The current opportunity for safe FCM in a toxic-free circular economy

- An evaluation of the legislation was carried out in 2019 (yet to be published) and the European Commission is currently considering options to revise the FCM legislation.
- The Farm to Fork Strategy offers an opportunity to set the direction, for an ambitious reform of the FCM legislation contributing to the transition to sustainable food systems.
- The European Green Deal provides a good umbrella to ensure consistency and complementarity with other policies, including the new Circular Economy Action Plan and the upcoming Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, so that all FCM are circular as well as safe for reuse and recycling.

Conclusion

ZWE identifies as priorities for the EU to:

- ambitiously reform the EU legislation on FCM to achieve a high and uniformed level of protection of human health and a toxic-free circular economy across Europe
- ensure consistency and complementarity of an ambitiously reformed FCM legislation with other policies related to chemicals, food, products and packaging to transition towards local and resilient food systems that design out chemicals, superfluous packaging and food waste
- support new business models and innovative solutions for food packaging and other food contact articles, based on circular materials that are safe for reuse and recycling



Thank you!

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