



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 is a core piece of the Green Deal. It 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 recognizes that food packaging is key to sustainability in food systems. Therefore, the legal provisions on food contact materials are to be reviewed, with a legislative proposal scheduled for 2022. The Commission has already started to evaluate the framework regulation. As this regulation does not take into account many recent developments in chemicals safety (for example, the systematic generation of toxicology data of chemical substances under REACH), this is sensible in the pursuit of consistent European legislation.

A specific measure for printed food contact materials is needed

At present, the requirements of the framework regulation are defined in specific rules only for a small number of materials, e.g. plastics. The objective should be to create harmonized and concrete 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 that a patchwork of national laws hampers the free movement of goods.

In the course of the notification of the German Printing Inks Ordinance (Druckfarbenverordnung), the Commission already announced in 2016 its intention to present a specific measure for printed food contact materials. This plan should be taken up again within the “Farm to Fork” strategy. In such a step, it is decisive to give consideration to modern, risk-based approaches.

**This is
what
we are
calling
for**

✓ Prompt implementation of a specific European regulation 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 resort to elaborate and costly substance lists. The European food packaging chain has already developed such new approaches.



The European Green Deal for the German paint and printing ink industry



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