The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive is the opportunity for the European Commission to scale up reuse and ensure interoperable, accessible systems that allow for the use of packaging that is good for our health, the environment, and society at large.

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**At the core of the solution**

**Managed pooling systems for reusable packaging should be set up to ensure efficiency**

These pooling systems are the basis for an effective reuse system work by having a central governance structure, ownership shared across, and each imposed quality assurance standards.

**Reuse infrastructure should be provided as a public good**

Consumers and businesses should find it easier and cheaper to use and maintain reusable packaging as opposed to disposable ones. There are already many businesses in these fields, but they have to create their own infrastructure, because of lack of support.

**Packaging should be designed for prevention and reuse**

By eliminating packaging that we don’t need or else designing the one we need for multiple use, we can save precious resources, and drastically reduce CO₂ emissions, waste, and need for the waste hierarchy.

**Packaging waste is exported to developing countries**

Packaging waste is often exported “for recycling” to third countries, in their majority to developing countries with poor waste management infrastructure.

In 2019, the EU exported a monthly average of 150,000 tonnes of plastic waste beyond its borders, under which plastic packaging accounted for 75% (by weight).

**Packaging should be toxic-free**

Ambitious reforms of EU policies related to chemicals are an opportunity for the transition towards an effective phase-out of the most hazardous chemicals, and achieve a real circular and safe economy for packaging.

**Enabling conditions for reuse systems for packaging should be set up for large scale**

A set of complementary measures and economic instruments is key to support the transition to reuse, including reuse and waste prevention targets, extended producer responsibility (EPR) fees with a dedicated fund to support reuse, focus on single-use packaging, among others.

**Closed-loop system**

Closed-loop system like deposit return schemes (DRS), should be the trademark of solutions and measures to achieve true circularity for packaging by reducing waste and litter, minimizing the use of resources, CO₂ emissions, and ensuring a high quality recycling at the end of its product life cycle.

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**At the core of the pollution**

**It is warming our planet at alarming rates**

The CO₂ emissions from materials used for single-use packaging are MORE than those caused by global aviation. In addition, packaging often ends up in landfills, or incinerators, which further adds to our planet’s warming.

**It creates more food waste**

Recent research has shown that wrapping fresh products in plastic packaging does not make them last longer, but rather, adds to our problem food waste.

**It puts our health at risk**

Over 8,000 chemicals can potentially be used in food packaging, tableware and other food contact materials, most of which can cause harmful impacts to our health and to the environment.

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**Most packaging is still single-use**

This means packaging is designed and produced to be used only once and thrown away. And because of that, the environmental impact related to such a product - including resource extraction, use of raw materials, land energy and water use, and CO₂ emissions - is enormous.

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