

SEA SCREENING TEMPLATE

Part A – Plan/Programme (PP) and Responsible Authority

Title of PP: Single Use Plastic Strategy

Responsible Authority: Environment and Resources Authority (ERA)

Contact Person: Christopher Cousin

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Part B – Key Facts

Responsible Authority: Environment and Resources Authority

Title of PP: Single Use Plastic Strategy

Purpose of PP: To promote and facilitate this process for specific SUP items with the objective of promoting the Circular Economy; to reduce consumption of single-use plastic (SUP) products, and increase the quality and quantities of SUP waste collected for recycling, to ensure the protection of the environment and human health from plastic pollution.

Is the PP the result of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? Explain. This strategy is in line with the 'European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy' and the work being carried out by the Government on The Circular Economy.

Period covered by PP: 2019 to 2030

Envisaged Frequency of Updates: 5-yearly

Area covered by PP (ideally also attach map): Republic of Malta

Summary of PP content: The document sets the objective and scope of this strategy. The EU context is presented which also includes reference to the EU's circular economy. Legal and policy contexts, taking into consideration relevant EU and international laws, are described. The main content includes information on the situational analysis at EU and national level. A look and a description of products that can be considered within this strategy is included. The climax of the strategy is attained in the measures it puts forward to combat single use plastic. It provides

various measures with set timeframes and also targets specific items containing plastics. More details on the measures set in the strategy are provided below.

The Strategy encourages the reduction of plastic carrier bags use, and increase use of reusable bags by among others utilising financial penalties and soliciting changes in the sale practices at outlets which would allow customers to use re-usable containers for certain products.

The use of single-use plastic beverage bottles is also targeted mainly through the installation vending machines that supply un-bottled water. A Beverage Container Refund Scheme through the use of reverse vending machines will also be set up. This will later be extended to also accept washing liquids containers.

Fiscal incentives to encourage the use of various alternative items to replace others made from single use plastic. Financial incentives are also being employed to solicit a change in the culture of use of single use plastics. For example this may include a reduction in price for those customers who supply their own re-usable cup for a drink.

The placement on the market of single-use plastic products for certain objects such as lollipop sticks, sticks to support balloons, cotton bud sticks, straws and beverage stirrers shall be restricted. Furthermore, release of balloons and plastic confetti will be prohibited at public events, while the use of plastic wristbands, used at public events as well as at beach resorts, shall be restricted.

Some measures tackle the aspect of waste. One measure seeks the reduction of beach and marine litter mainly through the restriction of a availability of certain single-use plastic items (such as straws, cutlery, plates, cups and stirrers) in catering establishments. Alternative options, which have a significantly less negative impact on the marine environment, are to be provided. These measures will be complemented by the installation bins for cigarette filters. Other intelligent waste bins will be installed in several areas so that waste is adequately managed and sorted at source.

Public awareness, which also addresses tourism, and educational campaigns will also be a tool to complement the tangible measures. Also included are supports for research and innovation and also for waste separation at source. Public administrations will be encouraged to install intelligent waste collection equipment in public convenience to improve the waste collection system of certain contaminated plastic waste streams.

Fishing gear made from plastics and nylon should be progressively substituted with gear which is made from more sustainable material. The use of polystyrene in fishing activities should be restricted and substituted by re-usable plastic floats or any other sustainable material.

Part D – Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Responsible Authority: Environment and Resources Authority

Title of PP: Single Use Plastic Strategy

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Likely to have significant environmental effects? Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
the degree to which the PP sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	N	The Strategy has measures with the aim to reduce the use of single use of single use plastics. As such they will not set a framework for other projects or activities.
the degree to which the PP influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	N	It should not affect other plans.
the relevance of the PP for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	N	The Strategy will promote the reduction in the use of single use plastics.
environmental problems relevant to the PP	N	The strategy addresses waste generated through the use of single use plastic. This does not imply that it will solve an existing environmental problem but will allow for the better management of this waste. Noting that waste reduction is called for through this Strategy, it should be expected that in the long term the environment would benefit.
the relevance of the PP for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. PPs linked to waste management or water protection)	N	In line with the EU's circular economy policy. In fact some of the measures refer to the re-use and re-cycling of certain waste. Other measure also seek to reduce the actual waste generated.
the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	N	Appropriate waste management will benefit the environment.
the cumulative nature of the effects	N	Appropriate waste management will benefit the environment.

the transboundary nature of the effects	N	It has no impact on this factor.
the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	N	It has no impact on this factor since waste generated through the operations incorporated within this Strategy are carried out in an appropriately managed manner to avoid risks to human health or the environment.
the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	N	It has no impact on this factor since waste generated through the operations incorporated within this Strategy are carried out in an appropriately managed manner. The Strategy is applicable to the Maltese territory.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Likely to have significant environmental effects? Yes/No (no other answer except Yes/No)	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values (iii) intensive land-use	N	N/A
the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	N	N/A

Part E – Summary of Environmental Effects

(Provide a summary of the significant environmental effects of the PP)

The strategy will allow to address waste comprising of single use plastics. It seeks to, among others, reduce waste by promoting re-cycling and re-use; improved management of waste and increase the awareness of issues that may arise from such waste. It also provides a brief overview of relevant policies. Therefore, such waste is expected to be better managed.

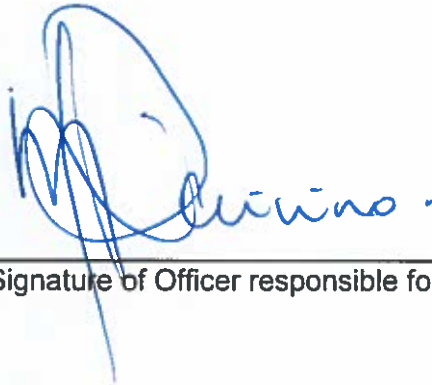
Part F – Screening Outcome

Screening is required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010 (Legal Notice 497 of 2010). It is our view that:

- An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(3) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(4) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- An SEA is not required because the PP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

Perit Michelle Piccinino (Director Environment & Resources)

Name of Officer responsible for the Screening Report



Signature of Officer responsible for the Screening Report

Environment and Resources Authority

Name of Responsible Authority

31 May 2019

Date

Notes to Responsible Authorities:

1. The SEA Focal Point cannot provide any feedback to incomplete Screening Templates
2. All responsible authorities should provide the SEA Focal Point with an original signed copy of each Screening Template prepared
3. All responsible authorities should provide the SEA Focal Point with a copy of the public notification which is obligatory under Regulation 4(7) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010.