

EU parliament approves ban on single use plastics

March 27 2019



In addition to the ban on a dozen kinds of disposable plastic products, such as straws, cutlery and cotton buds, the EU will encourage member states to reduce the use of plastic packaging and introduce stricter labelling rules

European lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Wednesday for an EU-wide

ban on single-use plastic products such as the straws, cutlery and cotton buds that are clogging the world's oceans.

The text had already been approved in negotiations with member states and EU officials and it will now be rapidly approved into law. The ban comes into effect from 2021.

EU Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans said Europe was not the worst source of plastic pollution, but that the pioneering measure could serve as an example to the world.

"Asian countries are very much interested in what we're doing. Latin American countries too," he said.

"Even though our share of the pollution is relatively limited, our change of the economic model has a global impact."

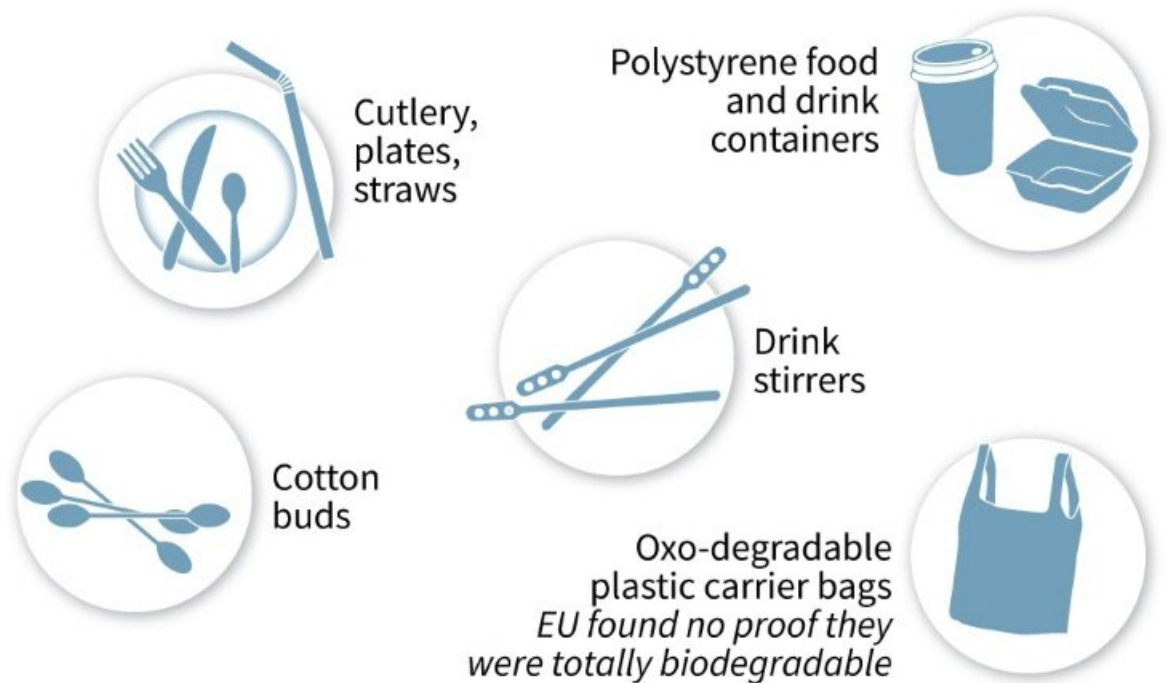
The law passed by 560 votes to 35 in the Strasbourg assembly.

Aside from the ban on a dozen kinds of disposable products for which alternatives exist, the EU will encourage member states to reduce the use of [plastic](#) packaging and introduce stricter labelling rules.

The law sets a target that 90 percent of [plastic bottles](#) will be gathered for recycling by 2029 and that they should be produced with 25 percent recycled material by 2025, 30 percent by 2030.

EU bans single use-plastics

About ten product categories will be banned, from 2021



Source: European Commission

© AFP

Types of single-use plastics to be banned by the European Union

Rules insisting that polluters pay the costs of a clean-up are strengthened, particularly for cigarette manufacturers, who will have to support the recycling of discarded filters.

According to the EU Commission, the products prohibited under the law represent 70 percent of the waste that pours into the world's oceans, posing a threat to wildlife and fisheries.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: EU parliament approves ban on single use plastics (2019, March 27) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-03-eu-parliament-plastics.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.