



BEUC The European
Consumer
Organisation

The Consumer Voice in Europe

Contribution of **consumer organisations** to food safety

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BEUC IS PROUD OF ITS MEMBERS



FCMs AND FOOD SAFETY

2012, DG Sanco – materials on the market are not safe

2016, European Parliament – lack of uniform EU measures is detrimental to public health

2020, REFIT evaluation – safety is insufficiently defined at EU level for most FCMs

2020, Farm-to-Fork Strategy – legal reform launched to improve food safety and public health

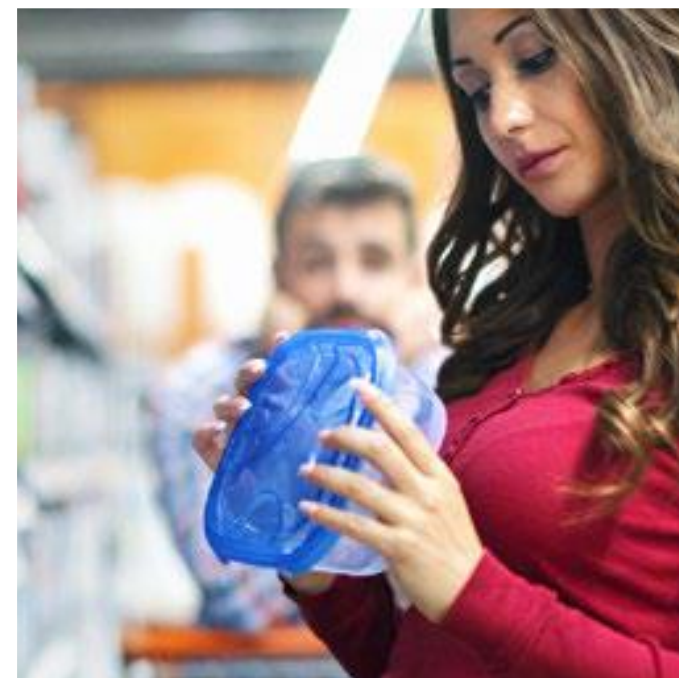


CONSUMERS AND FCMs

Consumers do not feel sufficiently informed

- 2 in 5 find it **unclear** which food containers and packaging are **safe to use**
- 1 in 3 feel **little or not at all informed about symbols** on food containers

Significant support for **protective EU action**



PRODUCT TESTING

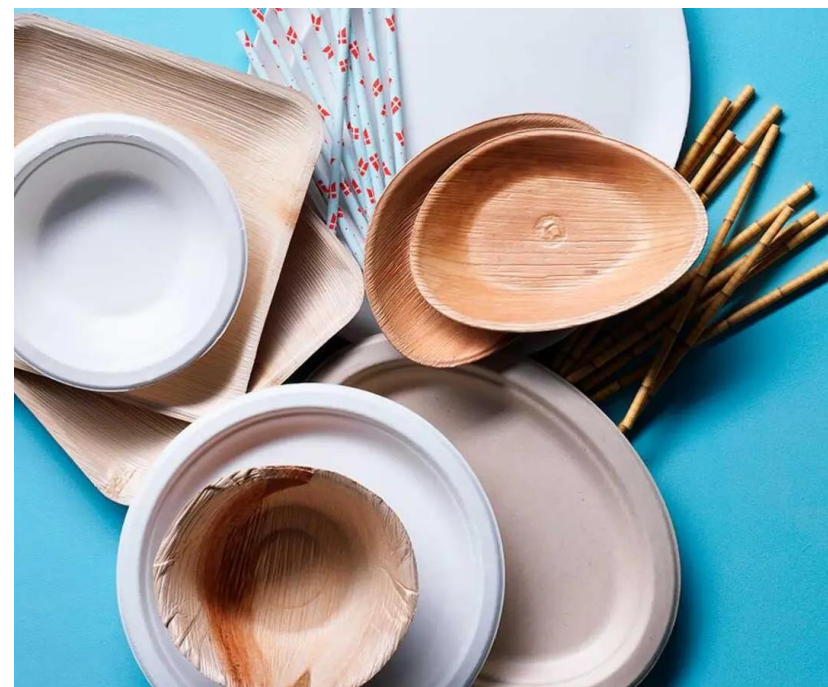
Silicone bakeware | 44 products tested

- 82% released **substances of concern**, incl. 'Substances of Very High Concern'
- 23% either released **contaminants in high amounts** (>30 mg/kg) – or the **amount increased between tests**

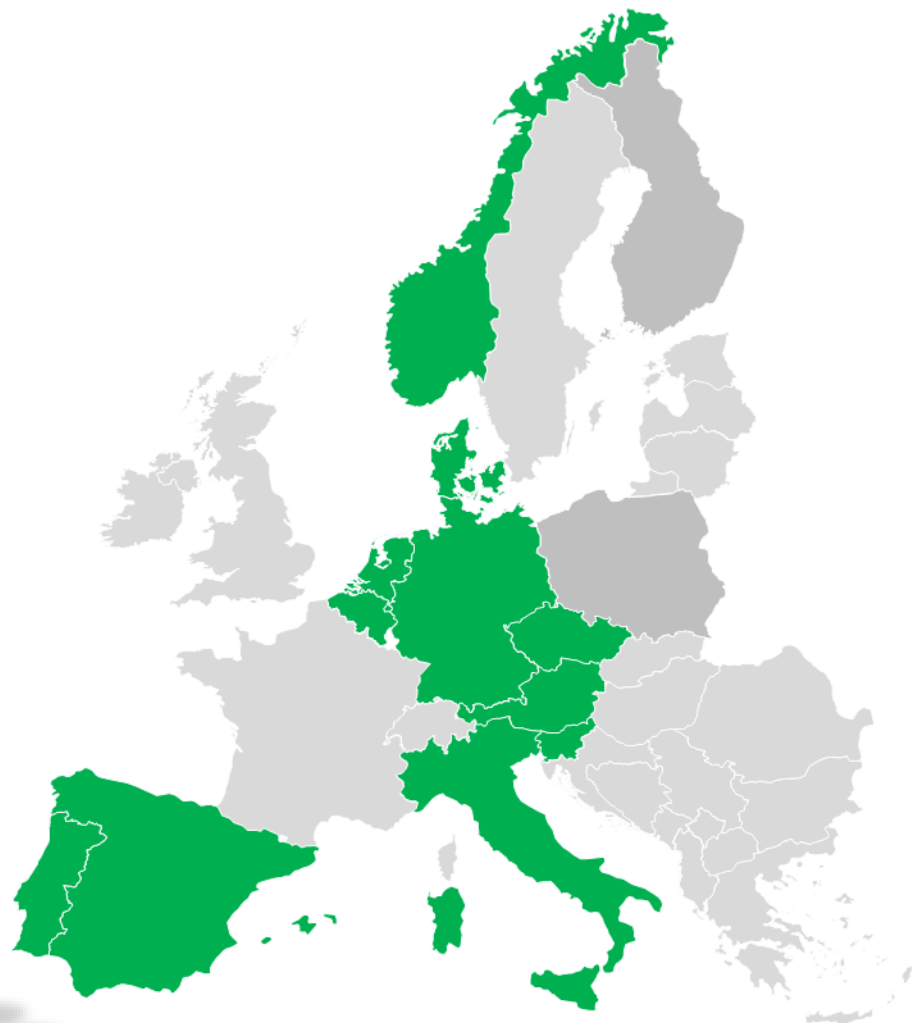


Alternatives to Single Use Plastics | 57 products tested

- 66% treated with **PFAS**, incl. all the moulded fibre products – as well as some paper straws
- 29% contained **chloropropanols** above recommended limits
- 28% contained **pesticide residues**, incl. some that are known to cause cancer, are not approved for use in the EU or both



CONSUMER RESEARCH



11 country online survey
11,232 consumers responded
Representative sample



CONSUMER RESEARCH

3 in 4 consumers have experienced that essential information is missing or unclear

- 2 in 3 experience at least sometimes that **safe use instructions** are missing
- 69% experience that information is **only present on product packaging or on a sticker** that disappears during use
- A majority has experienced symbols that are either **not clear (67%)** or **not visible / poorly readable (63%)**

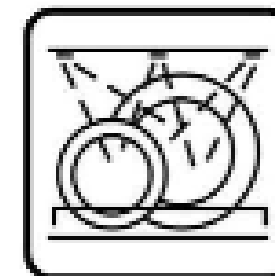
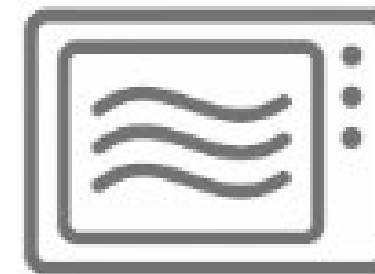
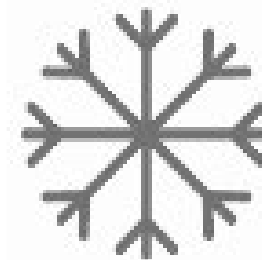


CONSUMER RESEARCH

Around **3 in 4** consumers recognise the Glass and Fork symbol – but only a minority (**29%**) knows what it means

Other symbols are better understood

- Suitable for microwave: **70%**
- Suitable for dishwasher: **73%**
- Suitable for freezing: **86%**



Signs that consumers use FCMs in ways that could **increase their exposure to food-related risks**

- 50% keep using (for some time) **worn** or **damaged** food containers and kitchenware
- Around **1 in 5 reuse** take-away plastic containers for hot food-to-go / reuse hard plastic containers to store hot food/drink



TIME IS RIPE TO REPACKAGE FOOD SAFELY

FCM revision | recommendations

- Reinforce the rules regulating **what information – and how** – producers and retailers must communicate to consumers
- Strengthen the obligation to ensure that FCMs are safe under **all foreseeable conditions of use**
- Invest in **awareness-raising campaigns** to educate consumers about how to avoid food-related risks



TIME IS RIPE TO REPACKAGE FOOD SAFELY

FCM revision | recommendations

- Establish a **preventive approach** to chemicals present in FCMs, cf. the Farm-to-Fork strategy / Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
- Regulate **reusable, recyclable, and renewable materials** to prevent exposure to chemical contaminants / to promote consumer trust
- Reinforce compliance checks, incl. through cooperation between **control authorities** and **consumer organisations**





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