

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **EU-ASEAN Business Council's ASEAN Circularity Coalition Releases Groundbreaking Regulatory Mapping Report on Circularity in ASEAN**

**31 May 2024, Singapore** — The EU-ASEAN Business Council's (EU-ABC) new ASEAN Circularity Coalition (ACC) has released its first comprehensive regulatory mapping report, highlighting the current landscape of circularity-related regulations across the ASEAN region. This report provides critical insights into how ASEAN countries are addressing the challenges of plastic waste and the broader move towards circular economies.

Some key findings in the report include:

- **Plastic Waste Strategies:** The majority of ASEAN countries have taken significant steps to tackle plastic waste, integrating dedicated strategies or incorporating these within broader sustainability plans. These strategies demonstrate a growing commitment to addressing one of the most pressing environmental issues in the region.
- **Single-Use Plastics:** Despite these efforts, the report reveals that most ASEAN countries – as most regions in the world – lack comprehensive and enforced levies to discourage the use of single-use plastics due to the complexities of the issue. This gap highlights an area in need of policy development and implementation to reduce plastic pollution effectively.
- **Deposit Refund Schemes:** Currently, only one ASEAN country has implemented a comprehensive Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS). DRS systems are recognised globally as effective mechanisms for encouraging recycling and reducing litter, indicating a significant opportunity for other ASEAN nations to adopt similar initiatives.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Initiatives:** There has been notable progress across ASEAN countries in the development and implementation of EPR initiatives. These initiatives hold producers accountable for the end-of-life management of their products, promoting greater responsibility and sustainable practices in product design and lifecycle management.
- **Sorting Processes:** The report underscores the need for more comprehensive frameworks for waste sorting processes. Effective sorting is crucial for the efficiency of recycling systems and the reduction of contamination in recyclable materials.
- **Import Restrictions on Plastics:** Most ASEAN countries have some form of import restrictions on plastics. However, to further support circularity, the report suggests that additional measures are necessary to discourage the trade of non-recyclable plastics within the region.

The ACC launched in March 2024 with a mission to foster a collaborative approach towards achieving circular economies in ASEAN. By bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders, the coalition aims to address pressing environmental challenges while fostering economic growth and social development. This regulatory mapping report helps to build the groundwork for a more concerted effort for change.

Says Chris Humphrey, the Executive Director of the EU-ABC: “The release of this regulatory mapping report marks a significant milestone for the ASEAN Circularity Coalition. It provides a clear picture of where we stand and what needs to be done to advance circularity in the region. We hope this report will serve as a catalyst for action, encouraging policymakers and industry players to work together towards a more sustainable future.”

The full report is available for download on the EU-ASEAN Business Council’s [website](#).

For further information, media inquiries, or to schedule an interview with an ACC representative, please contact:

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