

Focus on legislation on plastic carrier bags and others waste prevention and management measures in France

For the Ministry of
environment, energy and
oceans

July 19-20, 2016



Context

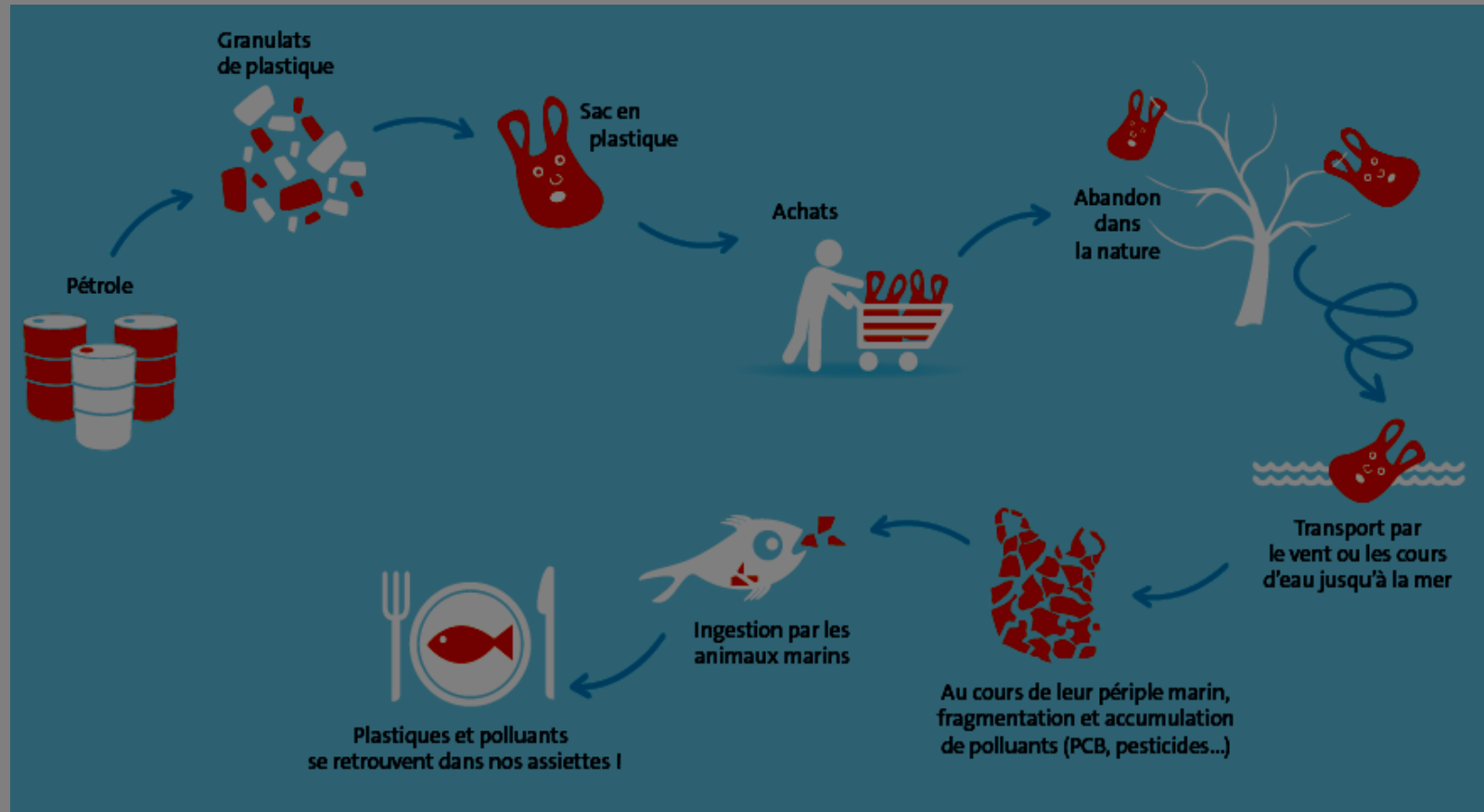
- 17 billions of plastic bags used every year in France
- Single-use plastic carrier bags : 5 billions
- « Fruits and vegetables » (lightweight) plastic bags : 12 billions

Marketing restrictions of plastic bags :

- Meet environmental issues : preventing the production of waste, addressing marine litter
- Meet economic issues : developing new market opportunities
- are compatible with the development of the circular economy
- are part of the National action plan on waste prevention since 2004

Voluntary commitments of mass-market retailers since 2004 have lead to a significant reduction of plastic bags use

Context



Overview of the French measures

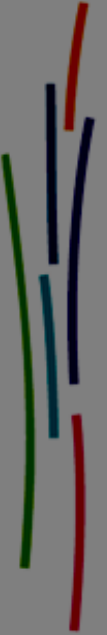
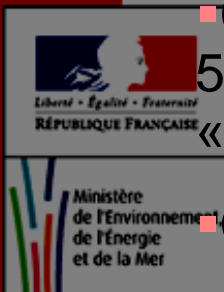
Article 75 of the law on energy transition and green growth (August 17th, 2015)

- Making available plastic carrier bags ends from January 1st, 2016
- Alternative solutions : re-usable bags or paper/fabric bags
- Making available lightweight plastic bags for consumption goods ends from January 1st, 2017
- Except for those suitable for domestic composting and manufactured, wholly or partly, using bio-based materials
- Alternative solutions : re-usable bags or paper/fabric bags

Overview of the French measures

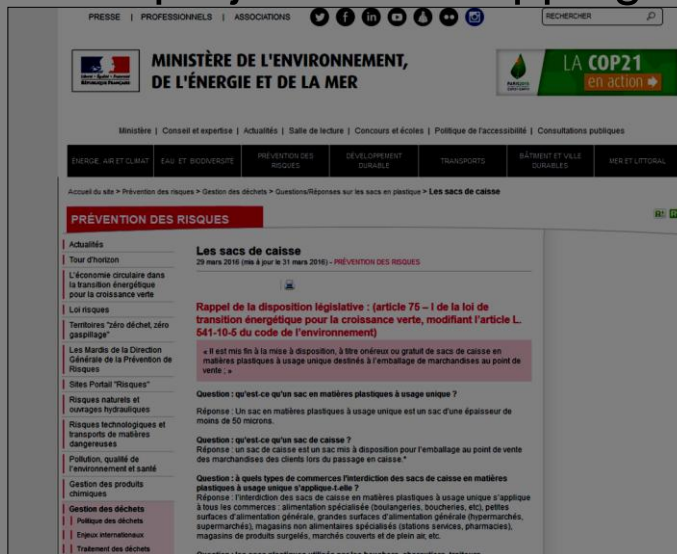
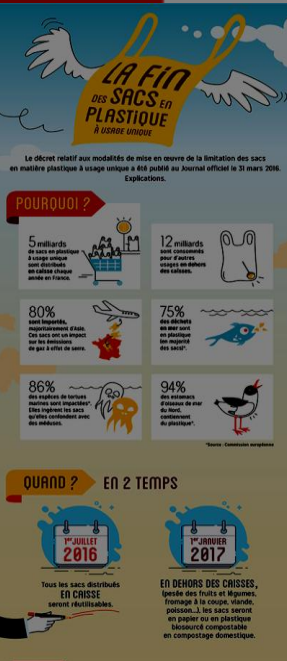
Decree of march 30th, 2016 and other specifications

- Definition and features of plastic bags
- Single-use bag: less than 50 micrometers => reusable bag means equal to or higher than 50 micrometers
- Carrier bag: made available at the point of sale at the cash-desks (paid or free of charge)
- Bio-based: addition of materials of biological origin (potato or corn starch)
- Minimum bio-based contents from 2017 to 2025 (30 % to 60 %)
- Specifications of labels or marking of bags to provide consumer with the information about the composition
- Compostable in home composting (approved French standard NF T 51-800 :2015 or equivalent standard used in EU, EEA or in Turkey), « OK compost home » meets this requirement too)
- Can be sorted (collection of bio-waste)
- Not to be abandoned in nature (littering)



Supporting measures

- Communication tools (infography, info-sign...)
- Questions and answers (stocks, application scope, sanctions)
- Financial support from ADEME for municipalities who have anticipated the plastic bag ban in shops (purchase of reusable bags, or bio-based bag and compostable in domestic composting, communication actions)
- Call for projects developping new bio-based materials (ADEME)



Other ongoing actions

- **Disposable tableware** (article 73 of the law on energy transition and green growth - decree in progress)
 - Prohibiting making available of disposable plastic cups, glasses and plates for culinary use from January 1st, 2020
 - Except for those suitable for domestic composting and manufactured, wholly or partly, using bio-based materials
- **Voluntary initiative based on Extended producer responsibility schemes:** feasibility study (2016-2017) on the implementation of a waste management system of plastics used in the **fisheries sector (fishing nets...)**
- ADEME (The French Environment and Energy Management Agency) has launched in May 2016 a call for candidates in order to select 10 projects applying a system of collecting household **beverage packaging** for reuse purpose
- Law on energy transition and green growth: objective for 2025 of **reducing by 50 % the amount of waste to landfill**
- Draft Law on Biodiversity (which should be adopted in summer 2016): to restrict the marketing of **microbeads in rinse-off cleaning and cosmetic products** (at last 1 January 2018); to restrict the marketing of **plastic cotton swabs** (1 January 2018).

For further information

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Questions-Reponses-sur-les-sacs-en,8678-.html>

bpfrep@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

