



Discussion Group: Are we overregulated?

HELSINKI 2024 - During this discussion group, the question was raised: Are we overregulated, or is it a process thing. The differentiation makes the regulation limitless, which feels like overregulation. It feels like a burden and a risk because you are unsure if you comply. SMEs cannot investigate it themselves and do not have the financial resources to hire someone who looks in. AI can be helpful.

The regulation should be presented with an added value to the companies and to customers of these companies. If companies cannot put in on the price of their product or customers aren't willing to pay more for a sustainable product, it paralyses everything.

We must remember that the real avalanche is still to come with the green deal. A massive number of regulations will come, and what we have now is only kindergarten. Also, a part of the industry is ready, but nobody needs those materials now. It's still up for debate with customers that you will pay a higher price for recycled materials.

When we look at polyolefins, like PET, PS, that is regulated, but what about the rest? Engineering plastics and PMMA collection is a huge problem. Where to get the quality raw material, then? Finland doesn't produce enough waste and will need PE from Sweden.

Overregulated in different ways:

- We don't have one regulation for Europe. Each country has its own regulations, making it difficult for you to comply with all the regulations when you export to different countries.
- The differentiating makes the regulation limitless, which feels like overregulation. It feels like a burden but also a risk because you are unsure if you will comply.
- The absolute avalanche is still to come with the green deal.

Problems we face:

- collecting post-consumer materials to recycle
- part of the industry is ready, but the demand isn't there
- customers do not want to pay a higher price for recycled materials
- carbon neutrality is a problem in the winter for Northern countries