



The state of play of the plastic sector in Europe

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plastic materials in the European Circular Economy

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers

The European Plastics Industry: a pillar for economy and society

- 62 m ton/year production (20% of the worldwide production)
- 62,000 companies employ 1.45 million people
- Turnover of nearly 350 bn €/year
- 27 bn €/year to public finance and welfare
- 100 Euro increase in GDP in the Italian plastics supply chain generates 238 Euro of GDP in the national economy
- Every work unit created in the plastics sector leads to 2,74 subsequent work units



- Top five of the most innovative sectors in the EU
- During the period 2003-2012 more than 63.000 patents.
- Represents 4.2% of all the patents submitted in the European Union.



The plastics industry: a key contributor for Resource Efficiency and the Circular Economy



Food & Health

- **Combating shortages/spoilage/waste of food and drinking water**



Energy & Climate

- Plastics products currently on the market have enabled **energy savings** equivalent to **53 million tonnes of fossil fuels** which would be enough for **heating and hot water provision to 94 million people for an entire year**



Building & Construction

- **Improving the energy efficiency of homes and workplaces:** Over its lifetime plastics insulation **saves over 200 times the energy used to produce it**



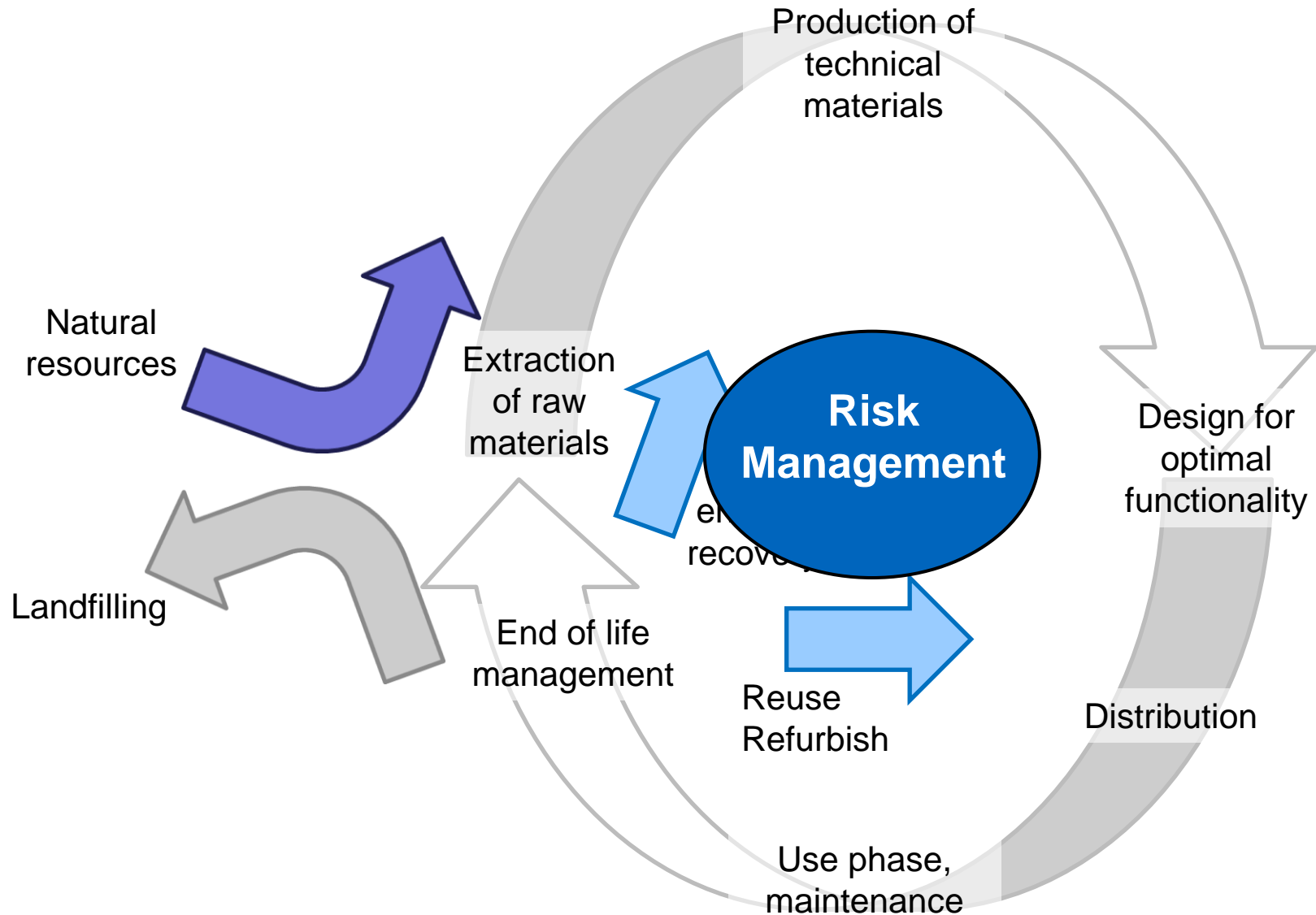
Transportation & Communications

Making transport means (car, train, aerospace, boat) lighter: Plastics account for just 12-15% of a modern car's weight:

- **saving about 12 million tonnes of oil in Europe each year.**
- **reducing CO2 emissions by 30 million tonnes a year.**

-Plastics offer many of the solutions for future challenges-
during their use phase they allow considerable **resource savings**

Life Cycle Thinking and Risk Management: Two Key Success Factors for Resource efficiency and the circular economy



- **A competitive and resource efficient Europe** remains the key objective
 - *Life cycle approach*
 - *The 55% recycling & reuse target for plastics packaging is an ambitious objective. Further clarification of certain definitions is required.*
 - *“Zero plastics to landfill” needs to be one of the objectives*
 - *Support innovation in waste management technologies*
 - *Coherence between legislations dealing with waste, products and chemicals should be ensured*
- **Consumer education/behavior** together with a **strong collaboration along the value chain** are needed to achieve CE deliverables.



Plastics

The Material for the 21st Century