

Background of the battery webinar held on January 31, 2024

Batteries are key to decarbonisation and the shift to zero-emission modes of transport. With the expected huge growth in e-mobility, battery demand is likely to grow ten-fold by 2030. New EU rules will create a circular economy for batteries, improve the functioning of the EU internal market for batteries and ensure fairer competition through new safety, sustainability, and labelling requirements. On 18 February 2024 much of the new regulation concerning batteries and waste batteries will become applicable. Based on a December 2020 Commission proposal, the final regulation was adopted by the European Parliament and by the Council in summer 2023.

The Regulation addresses sustainability, safety, labelling, marketing, and information for all categories of batteries (portable batteries; starting, lighting & ignition batteries; light means of transport batteries for use on e-bikes, e-moped, e-scooters; EV batteries and industrial batteries) and covers the entire battery lifecycle from design, through production, reuse and recycling to end-of-life to ensure that they are safe, sustainable and competitive. To ensure a circular economy, the rules will first set and then raise targets for producers to collect waste portable batteries, recover lithium from waste batteries, ensure a minimum level of recycled content, establish recycling efficiency targets, and require portable batteries to be removable and replaceable. By 2026 and 2027 additional labelling requirements will be introduced such as an electronic 'battery passport'.

What will this mean for EU and Japanese businesses? Join the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation bilingual webinar on [insert date] to find out. This event will look at recent developments to implement the regulation and will give participants an opportunity to put questions to the Commission experts. Speakers will include two experts of the regulation, Ewout Deurwaarder, Policy Officer – Batteries and Ecodesign at DG GROW and Cesar Gil Santos at DG Environment.