EMPPA
EUROPEAN MOULDED PULP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

EU Corner: European elections
French government wants to postpone EPS ban until 2030.
The European Parliament elections had an impact on the political situation in France: President Macron has called for snap elections.

Faced with mounting political and economic pressure, the French government announced that the EPS-ban on packaging made entirely or partially from styrenic polymers or copolymers, that are not recyclable and cannot be integrated into a recycling stream, should rather be postponed from 2025 to 2030.

In general, the elections to the European Parliament resulted in losses for the liberal and social democratic parties (S&D and RE) and slight gains for parties in the conservative EVP group and the right-wing conservative EKR group.

EMPPA assessment:
Overall, the picture will become clearer with the formation of the political groups in the European Parliament and the formation of the new EU Commission. We expect a stronger trend towards more business-friendly directives and regulations while at the same time adhering to the European Green Deal and its implementation, so Alexander Schulz, press officer of the EMPPA. The French government's declaration of intent may serve as an example: Ostensibly a concession to industry to extend the deadline, the EPS ban would remain anyhow. Rather than procrastinating and be ahead of the game, EMPPA members should therefore encourage their customers to replace EPS products by more sustainable natural packaging solutions made of moulded pulp.

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