**Corrigé Synthèse Plastic waste**

Saving the world from plastic waste 6

The disposal of plastic is widely acknowledged as a pressing ecological concern with debates on how best to reduce plastic use. An opinion piece from The Independent (doc 1) and a report from The Economist (doc 2) together with a web-based project/initiative called the Global Commitment (doc 3) , all three from 2018, consider the various actions needed on that matter. A 2019 survey from Statista on who should take charge of plastic waste disposal (doc 4) and a graph from OrganiTrust illustrating the difference between linear and circular economy (doc 5) complete the dossier. These documents raise the question of whether plastic use is compatible with preserving the planet and assess the roles policymakers and businesses should play . 105 // Can plastic use be compatible with preserving the planet ? The scourge of plastic waste requires both governments and businesses to get involved. 104

**All documents acknowledge the scope of the problem : plastic is ubiquitous**; however/yet, contrary to what consumers believe, most of it is NOT recycled and instead, 70% of all plastic ends up in nature or is burnt (doc1), thus causing huge environmental damage, let alone that plastic is made from petroleum - a finite resource (doc3) - in a highly polluting production process (doc 1&3). Besides, while plastic is inexpensive to produce, recycling it is very costly (doc2) , hence there is little economic incentive to produce less or recycle more of it since it is not profitable (doc 1&2). In fact, as illustrated in the graph (doc 5), this model follows a harmful linear economy in which goods are produced out of natural resources and wasted/discarded after being consumed. Then who should act? 133 (124)

As expressed by 24% of the 65,000 people surveyed (doc4), **governments and policy-makers should take action** (doc1&2) and have the political will/courage to make single-use plastic production unprofitable through bans and prohibitively high taxation (doc1&2), while implementing plans such as the EPR to force companies to fund the waste management of the products they produce (doc2). Simultaneously, the GCProject (doc3) encourages cooperation between governments and businesses so as to promote practices aiming to cut down on plastic ~~use and~~ production and pass from a mere 20% plastic recycling rate to 60 to 80 % ~~as for paper or glass~~. 94 -2 -5

For indeed, ~~to achieve a significant reversal~~, ~~all articles insist that~~ **companies also need to get involved** – which 48% of the people surveyed demand (doc4). For all unneeded plastic ~~production~~ to be eliminated, plastics recycling has to be made more profitable if companies are to be counted on (doc1,2,3) . Actually, as evidenced by the involvement of major companies like L’Oréal or Unilever (doc3), business opportunities do exist in better plastic management through innovative initiatives that are part of an economic model ~~illustrated in the chart~~ called ‘circular economy’ (doc5) – a virtuous circle that prioritizes repurposing the objects ~~themselves~~ over recycling the materials that compose them so as to reinject them in the economy rather than waste them (doc2&3). ~~or by privileging renting over selling products~~. 118 -5 -5 =108 -7+4 = 105

~~A new vision is needed both economically and politically, and only combined action from all stakeholders is likely to bring significant change regarding plastic waste. 25~~

Ultimately, only combined action from all stakeholders is likely to bring significant change regarding the plastic waste plague 18

440 words