

**Question for written answer E-000259/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Kristian Vigenin (S&D)**

**Subject:** Practical difficulties caused by tethered bottle caps introduced under the Single-Use Plastics Directive

The introduction of tethered bottle caps on beverage containers, as required under Article 6(1) of Directive (EU) 2019/904<sup>1</sup> on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, aims to reduce littering and improve recycling rates. However, citizens have reported that these caps are difficult to open, inconvenient to use, and in some cases pose safety risks, especially for elderly people or individuals with reduced hand mobility. Some cap designs also impede pouring or drinking, leading users to forcibly detach them, contrary to the Directive's intended environmental benefits.

In light of these concerns:

1. Is the Commission monitoring consumer usability or safety issues arising from the implementation of tethered caps, and if so, what evidence has been collected so far?
2. Has the Commission carried out, or does it intend to carry out, an updated impact assessment on the effectiveness, proportionality and user-friendliness of the tethered-cap requirement, and how does it evaluate whether this measure has delivered the benefits originally envisaged?

Submitted: 22.1.2026

---

<sup>1</sup> Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (OJ L 155, 12.6.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/904/oj>).