Question for written answer E-003122/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Practical transitional arrangements for horticulture under the Packaging Regulation

From 12 August 2026, Regulation (EU) 2025/40 on packaging and packaging waste (PPWR) will oblige manufacturers to indicate their name and postal address on packaging. The related Commission guidance document C/2026/3084, published on 10 June 2026, makes clear that many flowerpots and plant pots are also to be classified as packaging.

In horticulture, however, pots are often procured several years in advance, with some plants occupying the same pot for more than a year before being placed on the market. That would therefore mean returning to millions of pots that had previously been planted up or put in storage and labelling them one by one. What is more, pots containing field-grown crops are often muddy, meaning that subsequent labelling requires considerable human, financial and material resources.

1. Does the Commission concede that retroactively labelling flowerpots that have already been put in storage or planted up entails particular practical challenges?

2. In view of the environmental objectives of the PPWR, what does the Commission have to say about the fact that the retroactive labelling of flowerpots that have already been planted up or put in storage will mean additional materials and resources?

3. Where it can be demonstrated that pots were procured or used for plant cultivation prior to 12 August 2026, does the Commission intend to propose transitional arrangements, such as a transition period of four years?

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