

Question for written answer E-003597/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Salvatore De Meo (PPE)

Subject: Applying the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation to the wholesale fruit and vegetable sector: manufacturer status, compliance checks and reusable packaging

Applying Regulation (EU) 2025/40 on packaging and packaging waste (PPWR) poses significant challenges for the wholesale fruit and vegetable sector.

Firstly, businesses that purchase standardised packaging – designed, manufactured and certified by specialist firms – can be classed as ‘manufacturers’ simply by displaying their name or logo on it. This customisation, which is necessary for product identification and traceability, can neither alter the characteristics of the packaging nor justify liability for the compliance thereof.

The regulation further fails to specify the frequency of or methodology governing the mandatory compliance tests for maximum levels of PFAS and heavy metals set out in Article 5.

Lastly, a draft study ordered by the Commission has proposed that reusable fruit and vegetable crates must be used at least 50 times, with scant regard for hygiene and food-safety requirements.

Therefore, in the spirit of the simplification which the Commission is endorsing, can the Commission say:

1. Whether it intends to clarify that the affixing of a name or trademark does not automatically confer the status of ‘manufacturer’, and what methodology and frequency does it consider appropriate for the checks provided for in Article 5?
2. What scientific evidence is there to confirm that fruit and vegetable crates that have been reused at least 50 times are hygienic?
3. Does it intend to establish criteria for their early withdrawal when compliance with hygiene and food-safety standards is no longer guaranteed?

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