

**Question for written answer E-003916/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Katri Kulmuni (Renew)

Subject: Impact of the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation in Åland

Cynthia Ní Mhurchú has tabled a written question (E-003430/2026)¹ on the impact of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ((EU) 2025/40) with regard to the potential increase in the administrative burden on small businesses. She also raises the possibility of exemptions and reduced obligations for micro-enterprises.

I will not repeat that question, but I would like to draw attention to the impact that the regulation might have in Finland and the Åland Islands. The Åland Islands form an autonomous region of Finland. In Åland, producer responsibility obligations are interpreted as meaning that business owners who order products from elsewhere in Finland are regarded as importers. This results in significant costs for small businesses, and can put them at an unfair disadvantage.

What is more, recycling is expensive in Åland owing to the long distances involved, as there are no recycling facilities in the region.

While the regulatory objective of promoting recycling is clearly the right course of action and should be supported, regulation should not undermine another important EU objective: the development of the single market. I have already heard about cases of small businesses having to stop their e-commerce sales to overseas markets, for example, owing to excessive costs or the administrative burden.

With the above in mind:

Is the Commission aware of the difficulties that small businesses in Åland are experiencing under the current rules, and is it possible to change the interpretation that distinguishes between the archipelago and the mainland so that Åland's businesses are not regarded as being importers within the same country?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-003430_EN.html.