

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000766/25
to the Commission
Mircea-Gheorghe Hava (PPE)
(19 February 2025)**

Subject: Deposit return schemes (DRS) across all Member States

The 27 EU Member States have recently introduced measures to tackle packaging waste, aiming to achieve 100% recycling rates by 2035 and a 15% reduction in waste volume by 2040.

1. Given the EU's objective to implement deposit return schemes (DRS) across all Member States by 2029, what specific measures will the Commission take to ensure the harmonised and interoperable implementation of these systems, particularly in border regions, to maximise collection rates and reduce complexity for producers and retailers?
2. How does the Commission intend to address the challenges related to the costs and space requirements for installing reverse vending machines, particularly for small retailers, taking into account potential incentives or financial support and the progress of discussions with competent authorities in Member States regarding the identification of funding options, including potential public budget contributions?
3. In the light of the current disparities among Member States regarding the inclusion or exclusion of certain materials (for example, glass) in DRS, how will the Commission ensure a uniform long-term approach to avoid complications for producers and consumers, and to maximise the efficiency of collection systems across the EU?

Submitted: 19.2.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(25 April 2025)**

The requirements for Deposit and Return Systems (DRS) set out in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ⁽¹⁾ (PPWR), adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, will deliver greater consistency between Member States and higher return rates in the DRS. Member States shall ensure that a deposit is charged at the point of sale.

To ensure interoperability of DRS between Member States, the new rules require that Member States ensure collection of packaging from other Member States' DRS at designated collection points and endeavour to enable the possibility of return of a deposit.

Based on the extended producer responsibility, producers of any beverage packaging have to bear the costs of its waste management. Retailers will therefore be financially compensated for costs related to collection, sorting and recycling of drink packaging.

This compensation can also cover installation of vending machines. Consequently, the Commission does not consider public financial support appropriate.

From 2029, DRS will be obligatory for single-use plastic beverage bottles and metal beverage containers, but Member States can include other products or materials to further reduce litter and strengthen collection and higher-quality recycling. New DRS will have to comply with the minimum requirements.

To minimise difficulties for smaller retailers with limited space, the obligation to accept deposit bearing packaging can be revoked if consumers have equally accessible means to redeem the deposit through another collection channel.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/40 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC, OJ L, 2025/40, 22.1.2025.