

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002012/25
to the Commission
Alexander Jungbluth (ESN)
(20 May 2025)**

Subject: Rules on plastic lids

In June 2019, Directive (EU) 2019/904 was published, Article 6 of which requires plastic lids on bottles to remain attached to the container. ⁽¹⁾ The introduction of this step was justified on environmental grounds. For example, around 40 of these lids were found on a 100-metre stretch of beach on the North Sea in Germany. ⁽²⁾ Likewise, according to the NGO Håll Sverige Rent, on the west coast of Sweden there were 46 lids per 100 metres at the relevant time. However, after the directive came into force in 2024, the number of lids per 100 metres more than tripled to 144. The NGO assumes that citizens are deliberately tearing off the lids out of anger at the directive and that they are therefore ending up in the sea or in nature. ⁽³⁾

1. Is the Commission in a position to confirm the data referred to by Håll Sverige Rent?
2. Has the Commission carried out studies on the effectiveness of Article 6 of Directive 2019/904 on other stretches of beach in the Member States and, if so, with what results?
3. When does the Commission intend to take account of reality and revise this directive with a view to deleting Article 6?

Supporters ⁽⁴⁾

Submitted: 20.5.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2025)**

The requirement of tethered caps and lids is part of the Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD) ⁽¹⁾, which aims to lessen environmental and health impacts caused by unsustainable plastic use.

In line with the Better Regulation rules ⁽²⁾, a comprehensive assessment was done before adopting ⁽³⁾ the SUPD, based on a study conducted by external experts ⁽⁴⁾. SUP beverage container caps and lids were among the most littered items on EU beaches, found more than twice as often as the containers.

By combining the tethering requirement with mandatory separate collection targets for SUP beverage bottles, as per Article 9, littering is expected to decrease significantly.

Member States provide data on beach litter via the Marine Strategic Framework Directive ⁽⁵⁾, which the Joint Research Centre (JRC) analyses for trends.

A recent JRC report ⁽⁶⁾ shows that marine SUP litter on EU beaches decreased by 40%. As the tethering requirement entered into force less than a year ago, since 3 July 2024, continuous monitoring is needed first, before a scientifically sound assessment of its impact can be conducted.

The Commission is aware of the data reported by Håll Sverige Rent regarding an increase in littered caps on the Swedish west coast. While taking such observations seriously, it cannot independently verify this specific claim at this stage.

Local spikes may be caused by multiple factors, e.g. changes in consumer behaviour, local waste management or increased monitoring efforts, and do not in themselves indicate a failure of the tethering requirement.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019L0904>

² <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/wirtschaft/kleine-deckel-grosser-argen-wie-eine-eu-richtlinie-flaschenoffner-am-trinken-hindert-9782333.html>

³ <https://www.nius.de/gesellschaft/news/schweden-plastik-deckel-getraenke-europaeische-union-verordnung-eu-straende-muell/2c485ef6-66b4-48e5-8e57-16d9f5d5c23f>

⁴ This question is supported by Members other than the author: Volker Schnurrbusch (ESN), Roman Haider (PfE), Petras Gražulis (ESN), Petra Steger (PfE), Fernand Kartheiser (ECR), Ondřej Knotek (PfE), Gheorghe Piperea (ECR), Mary Khan (ESN), Gerald Hauser (PfE), Stanislav Stoyanov (ESN), Alexander Sell (ESN), Rada Laykova (ESN), Dominik Tarczyński (ECR), Tom Vandendriessche (PfE), Anja Arndt (ESN), Marc Jongen (ESN), Hans Neuhoof (ESN), Tobiasz Bocheński (ECR), Barbara Bonte (PfE)

⁽¹⁾ 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. 1-19.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation_en.

⁽³⁾ Summary of SUPD Impact Assessment: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/6e9b7f79-da96-4a53-956f-e8f62c9d7fed/library/466e246b-cfa3-4b3e-a3c7-fe78bb53ee0a/details?download=true>.

⁽⁴⁾ Supporting study — Assessment of measures to reduce marine litter from single use plastics: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/6e9b7f79-da96-4a53-956f-e8f62c9d7fed/library/10fe4f5e-45cb-4604-8e8a-247d8d76f1f5/details?download=true>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/environment/oceans-and-seas/eu-marine-strategy-framework-directive_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news-and-updates/marine-litter-eu-coastline-down-almost-one-third-2025-02-04_en.

The Commission will evaluate the SUPD by 3 July 2027, based on available evidence to determine if its measures have been effective.
