

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002262/25
to the Commission
Manuela Ripa (PPE)
(4 June 2025)

Subject: Plastic cigarette filters — Inadequate implementation of Directive (EU) 2019/904 and lack of progress regarding prevention, alternatives and education

Cigarette filters containing plastic are among the most common single-use plastic waste in the environment. They contain microplastics and toxic substances affecting soil, water and marine ecosystems. Although Directive (EU) 2019/904 encompasses plastic tobacco filters and provides for measures including extended producer responsibility and public awareness campaigns, its implementation across Member States remains uneven. The noticeable littering of public spaces by cigarette butts has hardly been reduced, while cities and municipalities continue to bear high disposal costs.

1. Is the Commission aware that, in many Member States, the implementation of the SUP Directive in relation to cigarette filters has thus far failed to deliver meaningful improvements in collection, clean-up efforts, or consumer behaviour?
2. Is the Commission considering introducing an EU-wide ban on the placing on the market of plastic cigarette filters and establishing binding requirements for the use of natural and biodegradable alternatives in order to permanently reduce pollution, microplastics and disposal costs?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the impact of the awareness-raising measures provided for in Article 10 of the directive with regard to reducing inappropriate disposal and to changing consumer behaviour?

Submitted: 4.6.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2025)

The Commission is committed to ensuring a coordinated and consistent implementation of the Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD) ⁽¹⁾.

Member States were required to incorporate this directive into their national legislation by July 2021. The Commission is currently verifying their compliance.

All Member States were required to inform the Commission about their transposing provisions. The Commission has assessed the completeness of these notifications and has initiated infringement procedures against several Member States. This process will continue in 2025 and 2026.

By 30 June 2025, Member States had to report to the Commission for the first time data on post-consumption waste of filters for tobacco products under the SUPD. The Commission is currently evaluating these data.

They will feed into the evaluation of the SUPD, which is due by 3 July 2027. The Commission will use available data and evidence to determine if the directive's objectives have been achieved and measures have been effectively implemented across Member States.

The evaluation will cover existing and potential new measures, in line with the Better Regulation Guidelines ⁽²⁾.

⁽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/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox_en.