

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003654/25
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(22 September 2025)**

Subject: Need for sustainable packaging and waste reduction in the EU

The increased use of packaging contributes significantly to waste generation in the EU. Promoting sustainable packaging is crucial for environmental protection.

In view of the above:

1. What are the Commission's plans to promote the use of recyclable and reusable packaging?
2. How will businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, be supported in the transition to sustainable packaging practices?

Submitted: 22.9.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(19 December 2025)**

The new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ⁽¹⁾ defines a series of actions to accelerate the use of more reusable and fully recyclable packaging and to reduce packaging waste generation with concrete measures.

The regulation establishes reuse targets for transport packaging and beverage containers by 2030 and obligations for the take-away sector to offer reusable packaging, thus reducing waste generation.

To improve sorting and collection of waste for recycling, harmonised waste sorting labels will be required by 2028. 'Design for recycling' criteria will incentivise packaging manufacturers to design their packaging in a way that increases recycling.

These measures will reverse the current trend of consistently increasing quantities of packaging waste. It will tackle the low levels of reuse and improve high quality recycling in the EU.

Small and medium-sized enterprises are vital for the transition to a circular economy. The regulation provides targeted exemptions for micro-enterprises to minimise their adaptation costs.

The harmonised rules will boost demand for sustainable packaging helping start-ups to scale up their production in new circular materials, packaging formats or systems.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/40 of 19 December 2024 on packaging and packaging waste, OJ L, 2025/40, 22.1.2025.