

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.3.2026)

The Commission, in response to the challenges in the plastics recycling sector, adopted in December 2025 a package of measures to accelerate Europe's transition to a circular economy¹. Moreover, rules for recycled content in beverage bottles under the Single-Use Plastics Directive² were voted on 6 February 2026³ in favour by Member States. This could help strengthen the sector's competitiveness.

EU law mandates Member States to establish extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging, in line with the polluter pays principle, and also to set up separate collection of packaging waste⁴. This will help Member States achieve the recycling targets for packaging waste and eventually facilitate high-quality recycling⁵.

The 2023 Early Warning Report for Italy highlighted that the recycling rate of plastic packaging waste was 6.2 percentage points below the 2020 EU target of 50%⁶, whereas recommended to continue pursue policies that maintain and improve performance levels on collection and recycling of packaging waste.

The Commission is working with national authorities to support implementation of EU law. It also monitors compliance with the Waste Framework Directive, Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, and Single-Use Plastics Directive and may, where necessary, use its powers under the Treaties.

¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-accelerating-europes-transition-circular-economy-boosting-circularity-plastics_en.

² 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.

³ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2683 of 30 November 2023 laying down rules for the application of Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the calculation, verification and reporting of data on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles, OJ L, 2023/2683, 1.12.2023.

⁴ Directive (EU) 2025/1892 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 September 2025 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, OJ L, 2025/1892, 26.9.2025.

⁵ 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.

⁶ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/6469c90b-0352-11ee-87ec-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.