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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.5.2026)

The Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)¹ strongly supports deposit and return systems, as they have many positive qualities including ensuring high collection rates, and less litter. The 10 % reuse target for beverage packaging in the PPWR applies as of 2030 and to larger ‘final distributors’ such as retailers and restaurants, with a sales area of more than 100 m². All micro-enterprises are exempted from offering reuse, and Member States can implement further exemptions to consider specific local conditions, including final distributors in areas with low population density. A Member State can also introduce national exemptions for packaging of materials with high recycling rates, such as aluminium, provided that it fulfils the conditions set in Article 29(14). The Commission has recently published a guidance document² for the PPWR that clarifies how this exemption can be applied.

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts under the Article 29(18) supplementing the harmonised reuse targets in the PPWR. Such delegated acts can exempt economic operators who face particular economic constraints, or specific packaging formats where achievement of the reuse targets is hindered due to hygiene and food safety or environmental issues. To ensure legal certainty for economic operators and the integrity of the internal market, the Commission will act only when the necessity to act is demonstrated via adequate evidence, also taking the applicable exemptions into considerations, and when it is confirmed by the Commission’s own impact assessment.

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.

² https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/guidance-document-packaging-and-packaging-waste-regulation-ppwr_en.