

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.7.2026)

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts under Article 29(18) of the Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)¹, supplementing the harmonised reuse targets in the regulation. Such delegated acts can only exempt economic operators who face particular economic constraints, or specific packaging formats where achievement of the reuse targets is prevented 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, taking the applicable exemptions in the PPWR into consideration, and when it is confirmed by the Commission's own assessment.

The PPWR includes directly applicable derogations from the reuse targets and Member States can implement further exemptions to address environmental issues or economic constraints. If the exemptions are fully applied, the number of final distributors that are required to offer reuse will be limited, and the remaining obliged final distributors would enjoy a high degree of flexibility. The Commission will review the effectiveness and feasibility of the reuse targets in 2034.

The Commission has recently published a guidance document² and Frequently Asked Question document³ for the PPWR that further clarifies how the exemptions can be applied.

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.

³ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/faq-packaging-and-packaging-waste-regulation-ppwr_en.