

EN
E-001896/2026
Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.7.2026)

The Commission fully shares the objective of adopting the guidelines without undue delay and is actively working towards their timely adoption. To support this process, an external contractor has been appointed to assist the Commission with the preparatory work. This preparatory work includes, among others, the development of illustrative examples and further clarification of key concepts, such as ‘necessary to facilitate handling’. The Commission intends to discuss the progress and preliminary outcomes of this work already during 2026, in close dialogue with Member States and stakeholders.

This approach aims to provide legal certainty, clarity and predictability for industry and national authorities, while supporting a practical and harmonised implementation of the Regulation across the EU.

Annex V focuses on phasing out unnecessary packaging, and the impact assessment accompanying the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation¹ concluded that it contributes significantly to reducing packaging waste overall.

The Commission is committed to develop high-quality guidelines to ensure avoidance of unintended increases in packaging waste and has mobilised the necessary technical support to this end. For instance, the involvement of the European Food Safety Authority in developing exemptions from the restriction on the use of single-use plastic packaging for fresh fruit and vegetables weighing less than 1.5 kg ensures a robust scientific basis.

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.