

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002405/26
to the Commission
Alvise Pérez (NI)
(10 June 2026)**

Subject: Reliability of recycling data and the double financial burden on Spanish consumers

The Spanish packaging system presents a paradox: citizens and businesses bear the burden of taxes, costs built into product prices and local authority charges under the promise of effective recycling, while doubts remain as to how much is actually recycled. Ecoembes claimed to have recycled 1 560 404 tonnes of household packaging in 2024, representing 76.3% of the packaging placed on the market by its clients. However, the European Environment Agency warns that Spain reports packaging recycling rates higher than the target, but possibly overestimated; and the Ministry revised downwards to 41.3% the separate collection of plastic bottles, which Ecoembes had put at 73.4%.

This is not about imposing more regulation or presenting new deposit schemes as a priority solution, but about demanding transparency: if citizens pay for waste management at the point of purchase, through local taxes and via public expenditure, they must know whether actual recycling is taking place or whether an opaque system of intermediaries, campaigns and inflated statistical results is being funded.

1. Will the Commission verify the reliability of the Spanish recycling data reported under European regulations?
2. Will it assess whether Spain's implementation of EU extended producer responsibility rules ensures transparent cost allocation and prevents consumers or taxpayers from bearing costs that should be covered by producers?
3. Will it demand verifiable traceability of packaging right through to its actual recycling?

Submitted: 10.6.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(27 August 2026)**

The Commission and Member States work together in accordance with the principle of sincere cooperation, as laid down in Article 4(3) of the Treaty on EU. Member States are required to ensure the reliability and accuracy of packaging recycling data reported to the Commission ⁽¹⁾.

They must verify and cross-check the amounts of packaging waste generated and inform the Commission of such verification carried out and, where appropriate, of any significant inconsistencies identified and corrective measures planned or taken.

Based on Article 56 of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ⁽²⁾ (PPWR), the Commission will update the rules for calculation, verification and submission of recycling data to the Commission to ensure better data quality.

As regards plastic packaging, the Commission carries out inspection visits to verify the data provided by Member States for the calculation of the own resource based on non-recycled plastic packaging waste ⁽³⁾.

An extended producer responsibility (EPR) fee shall reflect the actual costs and not exceed the costs that are necessary to provide waste management services in a cost-efficient way.

As established in Article 6(4) of the PPWR, the Commission will also set up a harmonised framework for the eco-modulation of EPR fees based on packaging's recyclability. Finally, as part of the Circular Economy Act ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission is assessing how to simplify and harmonise EPR rules.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/665 of 17 April 2019 amending Decision 2005/270/EC establishing the formats relating to the database system pursuant to European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste (notified under document C(2019) 2805), OJ L 112, 26.4.2019, pp. 26-46.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053 of 14 December 2020 on the system of own resources of the European Union and repealing Decision 2014/335/EU, Euratom, OJ L 424, 15.12.2020, pp. 1-10.

⁽⁴⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy_en.