

EN

E-002453/2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.7.2026)

The Commission endeavours to ensure that the application of Directive (EU) 2024/825 will not lead to unnecessary food or packaging waste. Under Regulation (EU) 2025/40¹, Member States shall reduce packaging waste generated per capita by 5% by 2030, 10% by 2035, and 15% by 2040, compared with 2018 levels.

The Commission has published a Question & Answers document reflecting the main questions raised by traders and other stakeholders, including on ‘old stock’ situations. This document is a support tool and does not replace the traders’ own responsibility to prepare for the rules adopted in early 2024. The Commission remains in regular contact with stakeholders at EU and national level as well as national authorities to support a coherent application across the EU.

In addition, the Commission facilitated exchanges within the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Network concerning such ‘old stock’ situations. The CPC authorities have published a Common Understanding on the matter of old stock to support a coherent and proportionate enforcement approach across the EU. According to that CPC document, national authorities plan to take into account genuine transitional difficulties and practical constraints concerning old stock situations in their enforcement actions².

The Directive does not prevent food business operators from communicating genuine sustainability efforts. Businesses are encouraged to continue to communicate about their sustainability efforts, provided they are clear, accurate and not misleading. The new rules should strengthen consumer trust and support a level playing field for businesses.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202500040.

² https://commission.europa.eu/topics/consumers/consumer-rights-and-complaints/enforcement-consumer-protection/coordinated-actions/sustainable-consumption-actions_en.