

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002982/26
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(15 July 2026)**

Subject: Bottles

Since July 2024, it has been the case that certain single-use drinks containers holding up to three litres may only be placed on the market in the EU if the plastic cap stays attached to the container during its intended use.

Could the Commission please list all the benefits of this rule that it knows about on the basis of practical experience thus far?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

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

The tethering requirement for caps of single-use plastic (SUP) beverage containers under the SUP Directive ⁽¹⁾ was introduced as caps were found to be littered more than twice as often on EU beaches than containers.

In combination with the separate collection targets for SUP beverage bottles, it aims to reduce littering and increase recycling of the caps.

Member States provide data on beach litter via the Marine Strategic Framework Directive ⁽²⁾, which the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the Commission ⁽³⁾ analyses for trends.

In 2025, a JRC report ⁽⁴⁾ showed that marine SUP litter on EU beaches decreased by 40%. While an assessment of an EU-wide litter trend specifically for caps is not available to date, a report from the Netherlands indicates a significant decrease of littered caps ⁽⁵⁾.

In addition to the above data on environmental benefits, the Commission published a call for evidence and an open public consultation ⁽⁶⁾ related to the upcoming evaluation of the SUP Directive (due 3 July 2027), inviting all interested stakeholders to share their experience with the different measures of the directive.

Feedback on the tethered caps design requirement was mixed. Benefits for people with disabilities were identified as the tethering prevents the bottle caps from being misplaced ⁽⁷⁾, ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 155, 12.6.2019, p. 1-19.

⁽²⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/environment/oceans-and-seas/eu-marine-strategy-framework-directive_en.

⁽³⁾ https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news-and-updates/marine-litter-eu-coastline-down-almost-one-third-2025-02-04_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Zwerfinator, Onderzoek Zwerfaval Purmerend 2025, p. 35: https://besluitvorming.purmerend.nl/vji/public/postin/action=showdoc/gd=88800aa0a8a0088202a282201e6b1aa0/Memo_Eindrapport_Onderzoek_Zwerfaval_Purmerend_2025.pdf.

⁽⁶⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14422-Rules-on-single-use-plastics-and-fishing-gear-evaluation_en.

⁽⁷⁾ Liggins, Emma. 'What's the Problem with Tethered Bottle Caps?' Packaging Europe, 2025, <https://packagingeurope.com/features/whats-the-problem-with-tethered-bottle-caps/12336.article>.

⁽⁸⁾ Yanyan Huang. 'Tethered Bottle Caps: A Greener and More Inclusive Choice'. The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, 2024, <https://rwi.lu.se/blog/tethered-bottle-caps-a-greener-and-more-inclusive-choice/>.