

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003122/26
to the Commission
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(24 July 2026)

Subject: Practical transitional arrangements for horticulture under the Packaging Regulation

From 12 August 2026, Regulation (EU) 2025/40 on packaging and packaging waste (PPWR) will oblige manufacturers to indicate their name and postal address on packaging. The related Commission guidance document C/2026/3084, published on 10 June 2026, makes clear that many flowerpots and plant pots are also to be classified as packaging.

In horticulture, however, pots are often procured several years in advance, with some plants occupying the same pot for more than a year before being placed on the market. That would therefore mean returning to millions of pots that had previously been planted up or put in storage and labelling them one by one. What is more, pots containing field-grown crops are often muddy, meaning that subsequent labelling requires considerable human, financial and material resources.

1. Does the Commission concede that retroactively labelling flowerpots that have already been put in storage or planted up entails particular practical challenges?
2. In view of the environmental objectives of the PPWR, what does the Commission have to say about the fact that the retroactive labelling of flowerpots that have already been planted up or put in storage will mean additional materials and resources?
3. Where it can be demonstrated that pots were procured or used for plant cultivation prior to 12 August 2026, does the Commission intend to propose transitional arrangements, such as a transition period of four years?

Submitted: 24.7.2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(17 September 2026)

Flowerpots that have not been placed on the market by 12 August 2026, but sit in stock, do not have to be destroyed, remanufactured or re-labelled.

To meet the requirements under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ⁽¹⁾ (PPWR), Articles 15(5) and 15(6), which establish that packaging must bear a unique identification as well as the manufacturer's name and address, it is possible to provide the required information by means of an accompanying document. This is explained in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) ⁽²⁾ for the PPWR, under section X.

The FAQ also explains that, for packaging that is manufactured after the 12 August 2026, an accompanying document can be used when it is not possible to affix the unique identification and the name and address directly on the packaging.

Packaging that has been placed on the market before 12 August 2026 can remain on the market, even if it is non-compliant with PPWR.

⁽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://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/packaging-and-packaging-waste-regulation-implementation_en.