

**Question for written answer E-010360/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: New rules on plastic product eco-designs to enhance recyclability

Plastic waste is a source of many concerns for its adverse side-effects on the environment and health. An estimated amount of more than 100 000 tones is floating in the world's oceans, mostly so-called microplastic. Since microplastic is not inert, chemical additives can migrate into body tissue and enter the food chain. In the EU nearly 50 % of plastic waste is still landfilled and on average of 80 % of plastic in the marine environment is estimated to come from land instead of being recycled into new products.

Until now, specific aspects have been addressed in various pieces of legislation, such as the Waste Framework Directive, with its 2015 separate plastic waste collection target and its 50 % household waste collection target by 2020. However, a comprehensive policy response to this challenge is still lacking.

In order to achieve the 'zero plastic to landfill' aim, other essential contributors must be targeted. As the public consultation on the 'Green Paper on a European Strategy on Plastic Waste in Environment' highlights, it is important to improve the recyclability of products throughout their entire life cycle, starting from the product design phase.

Could EU policies help achieve increased reusability for plastic products through new rules or market incentives on eco-design?