

**Question for written answer E-011756/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Ban on bulk sale of olive oil in reduced-packaging supermarkets

In recent years, numerous reduced-packaging supermarkets have opened in Belgium. They make an enormous contribution towards reducing Europe's waste mountain. Such initiatives therefore deserve all possible support from the authorities. Yet they often find their operations hampered by legislation. For example, Article 2 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 29/2012 of 13 January 2012 on marketing standards for olive oil¹ lays down that olive oil for final consumers may only be marketed in prepacked form, and that the capacity of the packaging must not exceed 5 litres. This makes it impossible for reduced-packaging supermarkets to procure olive oil in bulk and then sell it to consumers. The Implementing Regulation states that one of its aims is to preserve authenticity, for which reason retailers are required to sell small packagings with limited capacities. However, different rules apply to consumption in restaurants, hospitals, canteens and similar central kitchens.

1. Will the Commission revise these rules on the sale of olive oil by retailers so that reduced-packaging supermarkets can sell olive oil with minimal packaging?
2. How will the Commission revise the rules so that they no longer hamper sales at reduced-packaging supermarkets?
3. Within what time frame will the Commission carry out these reforms?

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32012R0029&rid=3>