

**Question for written answer E-005897/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Complementary solutions in view of non-compliance with deadlines for transposition

Lightweight plastic carrier bags with a thickness below 50 microns, produce high levels of scattered waste causing pollution, negatively affect the environment as well as certain economic sectors, and constitute an inefficient use of resources (material and energy).

On 13 July 2017, after receiving a reasoned opinion from the Commission, Spain had two months to comply with its obligations under Directive 2015/720 of 29 April 2015 amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags¹.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment launched a public consultation of the draft Royal Decree transposing the Directive on 26 July which ended on 15 September 2017².

Although the procedure provides that, given a Member State's non-compliance, the Commission may bring proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union, it is apparent that there is a need for additional measures in the light of the Spanish Government's failure to observe the time-limit for transposition³. Does the Commission consider that the launching of a consultation procedure, after expiry of the deadline referred to, constitutes a further delay the transposition of the Directive in question? Would it not be more appropriate to exert additional pressure?

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-1935_en.htm

² <http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/prensa/noticias/el-ministerio-de-agricultura-y-pesca-alimentaci%C3%B3n-y-medio-ambiente-abre-a-consulta-p%C3%BAblica-el-proyecto-de-real-decreto-de-transposici%C3%B3n-de-la-di/tcm7-464234-16>

³ <http://www.europapress.es/internacional/noticia-espana-tercer-pais-ue-mas-infracciones-derecho-comunitario-20160718135352.html>