

Question for written answer E-001738/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Recycling of plastics in the European Union and export of waste to third countries

A high level of environmental protection is one of the EU's most important goals in the pursuit of sustainable development. The future of both the EU and the world lies in a circular economy in which there is very limited space for storing waste.

Europeans produce 25 million tonnes of plastic waste every year, but less than 30% of that is collected for recycling. According to the Europe-wide Strategy on Plastics adopted in January 2018, all plastic packaging on the EU market should be recyclable in a cost-effective way by 2030. There is still a long way to go before this extremely ambitious goal is achieved.

China's ban on the import of plastic waste, which was introduced in early 2018, has once again highlighted how dependent European waste management policy is on exports to third countries. In the meantime, this issue has not received much attention in the Strategy on Plastics.

In this connection, could the Commission say what action it intends to take to restrict the export of plastic waste to third countries, where very often waste is not only not recycled, but also stored in violation of all environmental standards?