

# Revising rules on packaging and packaging waste

In November 2022, the European Commission presented a proposal for a revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD – Directive 94/62/EC). During its April II 2024 plenary session, Parliament is due to vote on the political agreement reached by Council and Parliament negotiators on 4 March 2024.

## Background

Between 2010 and 2021, the amount of [packaging waste](#) generated in the EU per inhabitant increased by 22.5 %. Paper and cardboard represented the most common packaging waste materials (40 %), followed by plastic (19 %), glass (19 %), wood (17 %) and metal (5 %). The [PPWD](#) lays down measures to prevent the production of packaging waste, and promotes the reuse of packaging, and recycling and other methods of recovering packaging waste. It also sets out requirements that all packaging must meet.

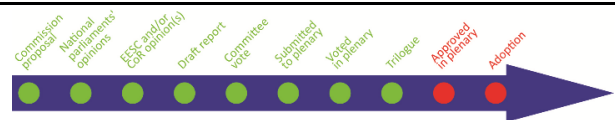
The objective of the Commission's [proposed revision](#) is to ensure that all packaging is reusable or recyclable in an economically feasible way by 2030. The aim is to reinforce the essential requirements for packaging to ensure its reuse and recycling, boost the uptake of recycled content, and improve the requirements' enforceability. Measures also aim to tackle over-packaging and reduce packaging waste.

## European Parliament position

The [provisional agreement](#) reached on 4 March was [endorsed](#) by Coreper on 15 March and by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on [19 March](#). Under the agreement, food contact packaging containing per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) will be prohibited, as requested by Parliament. From 1 January 2030, all packaging sold in the EU will have to be recyclable (these provisions will not apply to packaging made from lightweight wood, cork, textiles, rubber, ceramics, porcelain or wax). The new regulation introduces some minimum recycled content targets for the plastic part of packaging, to be achieved by 2030 and 2040. New provisions on bio-based feedstock in plastic packaging have been included, at the request of Parliament. By 1 January 2030, economic operators filling packaging in grouped packaging, transport packaging or e-commerce packaging will have to ensure that the empty space ratio is a maximum of 50 %. Moreover, some packaging formats will be forbidden from 1 January 2030, such as single-use plastic packaging for condiments in the catering sector. The new regulation sets a number of reuse targets for transport packaging, grouped packaging and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except for wine, spirits, and milk and milk products). Member States may exempt companies from the reuse targets for a period of five years under certain conditions. Companies in the catering sector that sell, in take-away packaging, cold or hot beverages and ready-prepared food will have to provide a system for consumers to bring their own container to be filled and the option of packaging within a system for reuse. By 1 January 2029, Member States will have to take measures to ensure the separate collection of at least 90 % of single-use plastic beverage bottles and metal beverage containers. To achieve this target, Member States will have to ensure that deposit return systems are set up, although they may be exempted from this obligation under certain conditions. The Commission will specify minimum mandatory requirements for public contracts for packaging or packaged products.

First-reading report: [2022/0396\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: ENVI; Rapporteur: Frédérique Ries (Renew, Belgium). For further information, see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).

[Outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe](#): This proposal is relevant for measures 2(6); 5(1), (3), (4), (5), (8) 11(1), (4); 20(3).



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