

**Question for written answer E-009901/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Revision of EU legislation on packaging and packaging waste

Recycling waste is critical for sustainable, inclusive and green growth in Europe. In the face of increasing world demand for scarce raw materials and the EU's growing dependence on imports, it is becoming more of a necessity than ever. Notwithstanding the Directive on packaging and packaging waste (94/62/EC), adopted in 1994 and revised in 2005, some recyclable products are not recycled, the most significant example being small aluminium packaging.

Annex I to the Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste was recently amended to include a list of illustrative examples of criteria for what does and what does not constitute packaging in the context of waste recycling. Several examples given in the amended Annex I could represent a real obstacle to Member States' freedom and responsibility in relation to opening their waste collection and recycling systems to goods that companies would like to recycle efficiently.

Encouraging Member States to collect this type of product would increase the quantity of material collected and recycled, and would also permit the receipt of additional revenue that could be used to help modernise packaging recycling infrastructure.

1. Does the Commission know the exact percentage of recyclable materials that are not currently recycled in the EU?
2. Following the Member States' request to the Commission to provide a list of illustrative examples of criteria for what constitutes packaging (Annex I to Directive 94/62/EC), how can the Commission incentivise the use of packaging collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure for recycling non-packaging products (such as hammers) in order to avoid using landfill as far as possible?
3. Does the Commission envisage revising and improving the existing legislation on packaging and packaging waste in view of the social and technological innovations that have occurred in the recycling field since 1996?