

**Question for written answer E-012540/2013**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Hermann Winkler (PPE)**

Subject: Commission proposals for limiting the use of lightweight plastic bags

On 4 November, Commissioner Janez Potočnik put forward Commission proposals for the revision of Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste. The aim of the planned amendment is to require Member States to develop instruments to reduce the use of lightweight plastic bags. The proposed spectrum of measures ranges from financial measures such as deposit systems or penalty taxes to the prohibition of these bags.

1. In his speech to Parliament on the state of the Union on 11 September 2013, Commission President Barroso insisted that the EU needs to be 'big on big things and smaller on smaller things'. Does the above proposal for a Europe-wide regulation of the use of plastic bags reflect the Commission's approach to implementing this challenge?
2. Does the Commission believe that common rules throughout the EU for the use of plastic bags are our top priority right now?
3. How will this proposal help us to manage the largest crisis that the European Union has faced since it was founded and that is still unresolved?
4. To what extent is this proposal capable of increasing people's confidence in the rationality of regulations at European level and their relation to reality?
5. How was the proposal discussed within the Commission and did any of the Commissioners reject it? If so, which?