

Question for written answer E-003229/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Sara Cerdas (S&D)

Subject: Directive on reducing the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

The publication of Directive 2019/904 ('single-use plastics'), which aims to prevent and reduce the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, has raised some concerns in the food and catering industry.

In order to prepare for the implementation of the Directive in the Member States, the Commission has set up a working group - the 'Waste Expert Group' - responsible for drafting guidelines for its implementation, in particular determining what will be considered a single-use plastic. In the light of what is currently being discussed in this Working Group:

1. Do the guidelines being drafted take into account food hygiene and safety requirements, namely the importance of containers that are disposable - as the Covid-19 pandemic has shown (namely, drinking cups) - but are as environmentally friendly as possible?
2. Since recyclability is one way to ensure the circularity of the economy, what responsibility will the guidelines give to recyclers under the SUP Directive, with a view to achieving a circular economy, taking into account the fact that in the various Member States recyclers do not all have the same capacity to recycle paper cups?