

**Question for written answer E-003824/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: New Circular Economy Action Plan

In the opinion of the authors of this question, parts of the Commission communication on ‘A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe’¹ cannot easily be reconciled with the principle of subsidiarity.

1. Is the promotion of initiatives to reduce soil sealing announced on page 13 limited to non-binding measures, given that the question of soil sealing clearly is of a regional nature and that, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle, the Member States and regions, should be left sufficient room for manoeuvre?
2. The Action Plan refers to making ‘drinkable tap water accessible in public spaces’ (page 9). Does the Commission have any concerns as regards competence, subsidiarity and proportionality, since such an obligation should not be permissible pursuant to Article 191 TFEU?
3. On page 13, it is announced that the systems for separate waste collection are to be harmonised throughout the Union. Inter alia, common waste bin colours and harmonised symbols for waste types and production chains are to be established. Does the Commission consider that the establishment of common waste bin colours and harmonised symbols for types of waste and production chains can be reconciled with the principle of subsidiarity and that it is indeed necessary in light of the principle of proportionality?

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0098>