

**Question for written answer E-000268/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Milan Brglez (S&D), Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D), Biljana Borzan (S&D), Tonino Picula (S&D), Irena Joveva (Renew), István Ujhelyi (S&D), Tanja Fajon (S&D), Francisco Guerreiro (Verts/ALE), Hannes Heide (S&D), Olivier Chastel (Renew), Traian Băsescu (PPE), Elisabetta Gualmini (S&D), Bronis Ropé (Verts/ALE), Pernando Barrena Arza (The Left), Ljudmila Novak (PPE), Monika Beňová (S&D), Loránt Vincze (PPE), Delara Burkhardt (S&D), Manuel Pizarro (S&D), Marianne Vind (S&D), Isabel Carvalhais (S&D), Dietmar Köster (S&D), Romana Tomc (PPE), Frédérique Ries (Renew), Marek Paweł Balt (S&D), Radan Kanev (PPE), Franc Bogovič (PPE), Inese Vaidere (PPE), Janina Ochojska (PPE), Alex Agius Saliba (S&D), Margrete Auken (Verts/ALE), Emmanuel Maurel (The Left), Vlad Gheorghe (Renew), Miroslav Číž (S&D), Hildegard Bentele (PPE), Klemen Grošelj (Renew), Rovana Plumb (S&D), Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques (S&D), Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel (Verts/ALE), Cyrus Engerer (S&D), Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE), Martin Buschmann (NI), Christel Schaldemose (S&D), Demetris Papadakis (S&D)

Subject: Managing excessive amounts of plastic waste following the introduction of new EU rules on shipments of plastic waste

On 1 January 2021, new EU rules entered into force banning the export of unsorted plastic waste from the EU to non-OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries. In recent years, there has been a huge growth in the production of plastic and consequently the amount of plastic waste. Only around 30 % of plastic waste in the EU is collected for recycling. Around half of this amount is exported for further processing in countries outside the EU.

Considering the lack of adequate recycling infrastructure in the EU to deal with the remaining unsorted plastic waste locally, there has been growing concern among environmental non-governmental organisations about the risk of excessive quantities of plastic waste – which previously would have been exported – ending up being incinerated or dumped in landfills.

1. How will the Commission ensure that the Member States manage the excessive amounts of plastic waste not exported to third countries in ways that are not harmful to the natural and human environment?
2. Besides its important efforts to reduce plastic waste by restricting the use and production of certain plastics, is the Commission planning any concrete incentives to enable investments in new and necessary recycling facilities?