

**Question for written answer E-000950/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Written question on the Single-Use Plastics Directive guidelines

Using single-use paper packaging in quick-service restaurants is better for the environment than using reusable tableware (it produces fewer CO₂ emissions, uses less water and fossil fuels, and releases less fine particulate matter).

Single-use dishes made of paper are sourced from and manufactured in Europe using wood from sustainable forests. This is in contrast with plastic, ceramic and glass dishes, which are sourced and/or manufactured mostly in Asia, in places with much lower environmental standards. Paper fibres can be reused up to seven times for paper or board production and the recycling rate in Europe for single-use dishes made of paper is as high as 85.6 %. Disposable paper is in 55th place on the list of products found on European beaches and accounts for only 0.27 % of marine litter.

Considering these facts and their key relevance in defining the Single-Use Plastics Directive¹ guidelines:

1. Has the Commission performed a cost-benefit analysis of the ban on single-use paper packaging in quick-service restaurants, including the environmental benefits, the economic costs and the risk of pollution being relocated outside the EU's borders?
2. Why does the Commission prefer more environmentally costly materials over single-use paper packaging in quick-service restaurants, demonstrated by its inclusion of the latter in Annex A of the Single-Use Plastics Directive?

¹ Directive (EU) 2019/904.