

**Question for written answer E-002997/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Impact on employment of the final guidelines of Directive (EU) 2019/904 on single-use plastics, published on 1 June 2021

The final guidelines of Directive (EU) 2019/904 on single-use plastics were published on 1 June 2021, and all types of plastic, including biodegradable and paper-based plastics, were included in the scope of the directive.

As a result of such a broad application of the directive, many companies that have invested time and resources to obtain environmentally neutral plastics will face a further crisis, resulting in job cuts.

In particular, in Italy, a market leader with more than 20% of the European share of plastic production and around 160 000 people employed in the sector, it is estimated that up to 90% of the workforce will already have to be made redundant.

At such a critical stage for the recovery of the economy, the call for a number of plastic products to be banned by 3 July 2021 could lead to further job losses so suddenly that more efficient companies would not be able to adapt to the new standards.

Can the Commission therefore state whether it has:

1. carried out a more thorough and inclusive ex-ante analysis by conducting an impact assessment on all aspects affected by the directive;
2. considered in that assessment the economic impact of sudden job losses in the sector;
3. identified which instruments might be able to facilitate a successful transition?