

**Question for written answer E-003099/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Final guidelines for Directive (EU) 2019/904 on single-use plastics: checks on the ex-ante analysis of its environmental impact, particularly on the aquatic environment

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

The EU has funded a number of projects that sought to produce fully environmentally friendly plastics, with a particular focus on those that will not harm our seas, for example, it put EUR 108 million towards research into how to turn waste organic carbon into polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs).

With a view to meeting our climate targets in the coming years while also providing economic and social sustainability, it can therefore be assumed that biodegradable and paper-based plastics are considered effective technologies in the transition towards a circular economy.

In the light of the above:

1. Has the Commission carried out an ex-ante analysis in the form of an impact assessment on the potential damage caused by the presence of state-of-the-art plastics in the aquatic environment?
2. Has any ex-ante monitoring been carried out regarding the presence in the aquatic environment of the products listed in the guidelines?
3. When drafting the guidelines, did the Commission take into account the current plastic recycling rates in the Member States?