

**Question for written answer E-003555/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Italian plastics cycle: clarification from Commission on intended action to protect the sector

While the EU Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment is to be lauded for seeking to prioritise reusable and sustainable products and systems in the circular economy, it is nevertheless detrimental to many Italian companies that have invested in biodegradability research and technology.

The Italian plastics sector, which employs 160 000 people, is of major importance, enjoying an excellent international reputation for product quality. Indeed, Italy is an acknowledged leader in the production of biodegradable plastics and coated paper products. However, rising energy costs have now forced the closure of a number of plants.

In view of the difficulties now faced by many companies in this sector, the possible impact on employment levels and the strategic importance of plastics to industry at Italian and European level:

1. Can the Commission say whether it considers it appropriate to provide substantial incentives and support for companies in this sector, not least in the light of the energy crisis, by promoting the necessary plastic recycling infrastructures?
2. Is it planning to seek improvements to the provisions of Directive (EU) 2019/904 in agreement with the trade associations concerned?
3. Will it encourage the use of thinner products (for example by waiving tax on plastic film no thicker than 15 microns), thus reducing plastic consumption by up to 300%?

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