

EN

E-000886/2023

Answer given by Mr Sinkevičius
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.6.2023)

The Commission proposal for new rules on packaging and packaging waste¹ lays down that reuse or refill targets concerning the packaging of wine are to be met by both manufacturers and final distributors placing products on the market within the territory of a Member State. The targets apply to the respective duty-holders, indistinctly where the packaged product itself is produced and packaged. The targets are to be calculated as the share of the number of units of wine sold in reusable packaging in a given Member State in the total number of units sold in that Member State.

The mandatory establishment of deposit and return systems (DRS)² for plastic bottles and cans laid down in Article 44 (1) of the proposal aims to ensure a high collection rate of these single-use packaging items and their high quality recycling. The exclusion of packaging for wine and some other products laid down in Article 44 (2) applies only to this obligation. Article 44 (6) aims to encourage Member States to expand DRS systems beyond the packaging formats referred to in Article 44 (1), including as regards establishing and maintaining DRS for reuse. The proposal sets up minimum criteria to be met by all DRS, to foster the development of harmonised and efficient DRS (Annex X), as well as requirements for systems for re-use and refill of packaging (Annex VI). Moreover, recital 43 of the proposal explains the role of harmonised standards adopted in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012³ in defining reusable packaging criteria and formats, including minimum number of trips or rotations, standardised designs, as well as requirements for systems for re-use, including hygiene requirements.

¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-packaging-and-packaging-waste_en

² <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/knowledge/deposit-refund-systems-one-way-beverage-packaging>

³ Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on European standardisation, amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decision 87/95/EEC and Decision No 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p. 12–33.