Question for written answer E-002188/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Salvatore De Meo (PPE)

Subject: The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive’s paucity of environmental benefits

The proposal for a packaging and packaging waste regulation\(^1\) was published on 30 November 2022, accompanied by an impact assessment report\(^2\) stating that the proposed policy package would help reduce packaging waste by 18 million tonnes (Mt) and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 23 Mt by 2030.

Measures for the prevention and reuse of packaging (including refilling)\(^3\) account for 57% of the sector’s total environmental impact\(^4\) and cut its emissions by 13 Mt\(^5\), of which, however, only 3.5 Mt can be attributed to a decrease in packaging at retail level\(^6\). They apparently only account for a reduction of 0.1 of total EU emissions in 2022 (around 3 500 Mt). These measures are also the most burdensome for businesses and consumers.

In light of the above:

(1) How can the Commission justify the economic and social impact of prevention and reuse measures given the paucity of environmental benefits?

(2) Why does the proposal relate to the cuts in emissions to Hungary\(^7\), which accounts for only 1.7% of the EU’s total emissions\(^8\)?

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\(^{3}\) Ibid, p. 49, referring to M2b measures (M5, M7, M8b).


\(^{5}\) Compared to the projected total of 23 Mt in 2030.

\(^{6}\) Ibid, p. 50. According to the data presented, out of the 18 Mt of reduced packaging waste, transport sector accounts for 13.1 Mt and other packaging, including glass bottles, accounts for the remaining 4.9 Mt (27%).

\(^{7}\) Ibid.