



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Virginijus Sinkevičius
Member of the Commission

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Ms Frédérique Ries MEP
Email: frederique.ries@europarl.europa.eu

Honourable Member, Dear Frédérique,

Thank you for your mail of 16 April 2024. First, I would like to thank you, personally, and of course all shadow rapporteurs and rapporteurs from the opinion giving committees, for remarkable efforts to ensure the achievement of a positive and balanced outcome of the negotiations of the new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) that commands large support. This outcome will significantly contribute to reducing packaging waste and promoting a transition to a circular economy in the EU. It will also largely harmonise the conditions for placing packaging on the EU market.

Let me offer a few considerations with regard to the specific concerns you raise in your letter, in particular regarding Article 29 of the consolidated compromise text.

The Commission proposal included targets for the reuse of transport packaging in the form of pallets, plastic crates, foldable plastic boxes, pails and drums of 30% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. Moreover, the Commission proposed that only reusable transport packaging in these forms is to be used in certain conditions – namely within the same company or between companies within the same Member State. For pallet wrappings and straps, the Commission proposal set separate reuse targets of 10% by 2030 and 30% by 2040 but did not contain requirements for these forms of transport packaging to achieve 100% reuse in the conditions described above. These targets and requirements that differentiated between forms of transport packaging were based on an impact assessment, including the consideration of reusable alternatives to these formats.

The text of the provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators expands the scope of the obligation to use only reusable transport packaging, when used within the same company or between companies within the same Member States, to pallet wrappings and straps. Consequently, the operators will be obliged to completely replace single use pallet wrappings and straps, which has indeed raised concerns in terms of feasibility, transport efficiency and safety, as well as economic constraints, including disruption of supply chains, and undesired negative environmental impacts.

The draft Regulation, as provisionally agreed by the co-legislators, provides for an empowerment to the Commission to adopt delegated acts to establish additional exemptions from the reuse targets for economic operators and packaging formats (Article 29(18)). In the light of the concerns and calls for action expressed, the Commission will assess latest scientific and economic data and developments regarding the use of plastic pallet wrappings

and straps, notably as regards economic constraints and environmental issues, and will address this as a matter of priority upon the entry into force of the Regulation. To this aim, the Commission will adopt without delay a delegated act to exempt plastic pallet wrapping and straps from the scope of paragraph 2 and 3 of Article 29 provided the said assessment concludes that the conditions laid down in paragraph 18 thereof are fulfilled.

The Commission is open to clarify these issues further orally, prior to the plenary vote of the European Parliament next week.

I trust that this letter and commitment will address your concerns and contribute to a swift adoption of the Regulation by the co-legislators.

Yours sincerely,



Virginijus Sinkevičius

cc: Mr. Pascal Canfin, MEP
Mr Pierre Cartuyvels, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the EU