

**Question for written answer E-002857/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Challenges in applying reuse targets for transport packaging in the fisheries sector

Article 29 of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation sets reuse targets for transport packaging (at least 40% by 2030; 70% by 2040 and 100% for many B2B transport scenarios). Operators will be required to set up a reuse system.

Exemptions from the reuse target are only foreseen for flexible formats of transport packaging in contact with food, but not for rigid transport packaging in contact with food, such as expanded polystyrene (EPS) boxes used for the transport of fish.

The introduction of such an obligation will have serious consequences for the fishing industry, including costly investment in new materials and logistics for transport, and additional investment in the storage of reusable crates. All of this could jeopardise food quality and hygiene safety.

Assuming that EPS boxes for fish are subject to the obligation to provide reusable packaging under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, does the Commission intend to ensure that such EPS boxes are excluded from the scope of Article 29 of the Packaging Regulation? If so, how?

A large number of fishing industry associations, including from the Croatia, are calling for this issue to be resolved as soon as possible.

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