



France's law promoting bulk and reusable packaging

Waste Prevention Legislation

[LOI n° 2020-105 du 10 février 2020 relative à la lutte contre le gaspillage et à l'économie circulaire](#)

In December 2019, France adopted an ambitious law on waste prevention and circular economy. The law touches upon a variety of topics such as plastic packaging, awareness-raising actions, or extended producer responsibility (EPR). Although not all measures in this law are ambitious, the document contains pioneering measures to support the development of bulk selling activities and the uptake of reusable packaging.

FRANCE

Level: National

Population: 67 million inhabitants

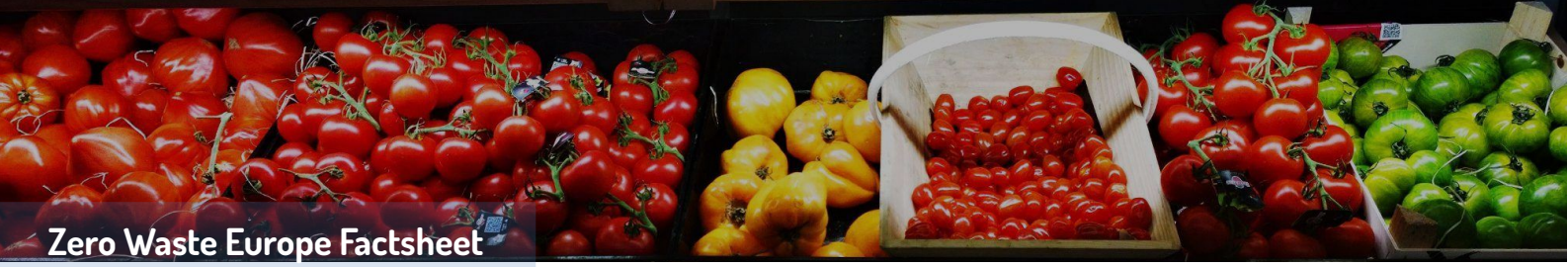
Key characteristic: 187 kilograms (kg) of plastic packaging waste generated in 2019

SINGLE-USE PACKAGING IN FRANCE

France's plastic waste generation is above the EU average, with 187 kg of packaging generated per inhabitant in 2019 compared to 177 kg. Additionally, no progress has been observed in the past 10 years, as this number has been stagnating around 190 kg. When it comes to plastic packaging, France shows a lower average than the EU (9 kg against 14 kg) with an increase of 2 kg over the past 10 years.

THE LAW'S OBJECTIVES

This law seeks to reduce single-use plastic packaging and to develop alternatives such as bulk or reusable packaging. This is done through a set of various measures – such as a ban on the use of certain plastic packaging; the inclusion of packaging reduction clauses in EPR schemes; targets for reusable packaging; and the official recognition and promotion of bulk selling.



Zero Waste Europe Factsheet

MAIN MEASURES

Art.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets of 5% reused packaging by 2023 and 10% by 2027. • Creation of an observatory for reusable packaging by 2021.
Art.41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of bulk selling as selling products in reusable packaging. • All food products can be served in bulk unless hygiene reasons warrant otherwise for specific products. • Consumers' right to be served in their own containers, with them being responsible for the container's hygiene.
Art.42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverage sellers must provide a preferential price for consumers who bring their own containers.
Art.43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail spaces bigger than 400m² must provide reusable containers for products sold in bulk - whether free of charge or otherwise.
Art.66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 50% reduction target by 2030 for plastic bottles put on the market.
Art.72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPR systems must include packaging waste reduction objectives, with sanctions applied to unmet objectives. • At least 2% of EPR contributions are used for the promotion of reusable packaging.
Art.77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 1 January 2021, public access buildings cannot freely distribute plastic water bottles. • As of 1 January 2022, public access buildings must be equipped with water fountains. • As of 1 January 2022, plastic packaging is banned for most fruits and vegetables. • As of 1 January 2023, on-site food services have to provide food and beverages in reusable containers. • By 1 January 2025 at the latest, plastic containers will be banned from schools canteens.

LIMITS OF THE LEGISLATION

If the legislation goes in the right direction, several specific provisions will have to be concretely explained by decree, which can lower the level of ambition. For instance, the [decree](#) on the ban on plastic packaging for fruits and vegetables contains several exceptions and delays for specific products.

LINK TO THE EU LEGISLATION

- [Directive 2019/904/EU on single-use plastic \(Single-Use Plastics Directive\)](#)
- [Directive \(EU\) 2018/852 amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste](#)



Ban the use of plastic packaging in specific cases



Set targets for reusable containers



Define and promote the sale of products in bulk



For more good practices, check the [Zero Waste Europe website](#) or the [European Environmental Bureau's brief on the economic incentives to reduce waste](#).

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Zero Waste Europe is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards the elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems and the redesign of our relationship with resources, to accelerate a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and the planet.



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