



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety, Sustainability, and Innovation  
The Director

Brussels,  
SANTE/E.2/JB/mm (2025) 4696577

Dorota Napierska, PhD  
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Zero Waste Europe  
By e-mail:  
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**Subject: Safety of food contact materials: 20 years of inaction on EU's basic rules**

Dear Dr Napierska,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 December 2024 to President von der Leyen concerning the above and in particular the open letter from Zero Waste Europe on behalf of several associations and companies. I am replying on her behalf and apologise for the delay in responding to your original correspondence.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the Commission considers the legislation on food contact materials (FCMs) extremely important in the protection of EU citizens. EU rules have been in place since 1976 to protect consumers and it is a legal requirement that FCMs are manufactured so that they do not release chemicals into food that may endanger human health. As you know, a number of specific rules are also in place, most notably for plastic FCM.

The evaluation of the current FCM Regulation<sup>1</sup> identified several areas for improvement, which we intend to address in the revision of EU FCM rules<sup>2</sup>, including the prioritisation of substances that are potentially more harmful to human health. The Commission also recognises that for many FCMs, EU rules are preferable to national legislation and aims at introducing more specific EU rules on all FCM types, not just plastic.

The Commission has already carried out a significant amount of work on the revision, including a public consultation and several studies. However, the current objectives of the revision are substantial and ambitious and while we endeavour to achieve the revision in

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<sup>1</sup> [https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/chemical-safety/food-contact-materials/revision-eu-rules/evaluation-eu-rules\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/chemical-safety/food-contact-materials/revision-eu-rules/evaluation-eu-rules_en)

<sup>2</sup> [https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/chemical-safety/food-contact-materials/policy-initiatives/revision-eu-rules\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/chemical-safety/food-contact-materials/policy-initiatives/revision-eu-rules_en)

the quickest time possible, I am sure you will appreciate the considerable amount of work involved, including technical discussions and further targeted consultation.

In the meantime, the Commission must also balance its resource allocation between the work of the revision and the implementation of existing EU rules. This includes ensuring that various substances are assessed by EFSA and authorised for safe use in the production of plastic FCMs, and, where necessary, putting in place restrictions or prohibitions as has been done for BPA and other hazardous bisphenols<sup>3</sup>. Significant resources have also been allocated to the implementation of EU rules on recycling of plastic for FCM<sup>4</sup> to ensure that recycled material is safe and contributes to sustainability and the overall circular economy.

I appreciate your input on the matter, as well as that of the co-signatories. Should you have any further questions, my colleagues in copy would be happy to assist you.

Yours sincerely,

Klaus Berend

c.c.: Sabine Pelsser, Head of Unit E2, Food Processing Technologies and Novel Foods  
Bastiaan Schupp, Unit E2, Team Leader Food Contact materials  
Jonathan Briggs, Unit E2, Principal Administrator Food Contact Materials

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<sup>3</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3190/oj>

<sup>4</sup> <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1616/2025-03-16>

