



28 January 2014

(14-0449)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1.	Notifying Member: <u>EUROPEAN UNION</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: European Commission Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: European Commission EU-TBT Enquiry Point Fax: +(32) 2 299 80 43 E-mail: eu-tbt@ec.europa.eu Website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Lightweight plastic carrier bags
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags (COM(2013) 761 final) (7 pages, in English; 8 pages, in French; 8 pages, in Spanish).
6.	Description of content: The Packaging Directive (Directive 94/62/EC) contains provisions setting targets for reuse and recycling of packaging. This proposal defines the term 'lightweight plastic carrier bags' as plastic carrier bags with a thickness below 50 microns and introduces an obligation to reduce consumption of these lightweight plastic carrier bags supplemented with a recommendation to Member States to use economic instruments for this purpose as well as the possibility to introduce marketing restrictions in derogation of Article 18 of the Directive.

7.	<p>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Plastic carrier bags are considered as packaging under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (Directive 94/62/EC). There is no EU legislation or policy specifically targeting plastic carrier bags.</p> <p>Plastic carrier bags are widely used for transporting shopping items from the store back home. About 89% of all plastic carrier bags consist of lightweight plastic carrier bags. The unsustainable consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, their inappropriate end-of-life treatment, and their resistance to degradation are damaging our environment including marine ecosystems. These issues are underscored by common and transboundary environmental impacts, as well as economic and social consequences.</p> <p>The general objective of this initiative on plastic carrier bags is to limit negative impacts on the environment, encourage waste prevention and a more efficient use of resources, while limiting negative socio-economic impacts.</p> <p>More specifically, the objectives of the initiative are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limit the environmental damage caused by an increasing consumption of plastic bags, in particular in terms of littering and unsustainable resource use, by significantly reducing the amount of lightweight plastic carrier bags consumed per capita by 2015; - tackle a common and transboundary problem in a coordinated and coherent way across the EU. 				
8.	<p>Relevant documents: European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste (<i>OJ L 365, 31.12.1994, p. 10–23</i>)</p> <p>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1994:365:0010:0023:EN:PDF</p>				
9.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 1093 762 1126">Proposed date of adoption:</td><td data-bbox="847 1093 1394 1126">To be determined</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 1126 762 1283">Proposed date of entry into force:</td><td data-bbox="847 1126 1394 1283">Entry into force is the day following publication in the Official Journal of the EU (The implementation deadline for EU Member States shall be 12 months after entry into force)</td></tr> </table>	Proposed date of adoption:	To be determined	Proposed date of entry into force:	Entry into force is the day following publication in the Official Journal of the EU (The implementation deadline for EU Member States shall be 12 months after entry into force)
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10.	<p>Final date for comments: 90 days from notification</p>				
11.	<p>Text available from: National enquiry point [], or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body:</p> <p>European Commission EU-TBT Enquiry Point Fax: + (32) 2 299 80 43 E-mail: eu-tbt@ec.europa.eu</p> <p>The text is available on the EU-TBT Website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0761:FIN:EN:PDF http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0761:FIN:FR:PDF http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0761:FIN:ES:PDF http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2014/TBT/EEC/14_0381_00_e.pdf</p>				