

**Question for written answer E-003760/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Recycling plastic packaging

According to the latest Eurobarometer, Europe's citizens are concerned about the environment above all else.

In the EU, around 42% of plastic packaging was recycled in 2017, and in seven Member States more than half of plastic packaging was recycled.

Overall, since 2015, plastic package recycling has increased substantially by 18 percentage points (from 24% to 42%).

However, the case of Portugal is still a cause for concern:

1. It is one of the worst recyclers of plastic packaging in the EU.
2. In 2015, it recycled more plastic packaging than any other country (43%) since records had begun, yet today, according to official data, it only recycles 34.9%.
3. The European Parliament has received complaints that the data sent by the Portuguese authorities do not match the reality.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Are any checks carried out by the Commission on the data sent by Member States?
2. What strategy does the Commission intend to adopt so that the recycling of plastic packaging (and other materials) is the rule rather than the exception?