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Answer given by Mr Sinkevičius  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(17.7.2020)

Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Directive)<sup>1</sup> requires Member States to achieve a sustained and ambitious reduction in consumption of single use plastic cups and food containers by 2026. The Commission is tasked with the adoption of an Implementing Act laying down the methodology for the calculation of this reduction. Work on this is currently ongoing, in close consultation with stakeholders and Member States. It is too early to indicate whether this methodology could focus consumption reduction on those products with a high amount of plastic, as suggested by the Honourable Member. The Implementing Act is due for adoption in January 2021.

As concerns the suggestion to limit the scope of the Directive to products with a plastic content beyond a certain threshold, the definition of ‘single-use plastic product’ in Article 3(2) refers to products that are made ‘wholly or partly from plastic...’. The Commission will provide further clarification on this definition in the Guidelines on the SUP Directive, currently being developed on the basis of Article 12.

As regards the import of single-use plastic products within the scope of the Directive from outside the EU, such import is considered as ‘placing on the market’ of a Member State, as defined in Article 3(6) of the Directive. Therefore, products imported from outside the EU will be subject to the same requirements as those produced in the EU and placed on the EU market.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 155, 12.6.2019, p. 1–19.