

The objective of this Directive

- to prevent and reduce the impact of ***disposable plastic waste*** on the environment ***in general***, in particular ***plastic waste transportation to any*** aquatic environment, ***including freshwater and shallow sea***, on human health ***or sea-life...***
- to the single-use plastic products ***especially those*** listed in the Annex, ***or in general any other disposable non-degradable plastic items left in the environment for any reason***
- ***preventing and reducing littering in the natural and marine environment***, does not go beyond what is necessary to attain that objective, does ***not constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade between Member States and is consistent with existing EU legislation.***

Excluding

- natural polymers that have not been chemically modified **or** ***synthetic polymers in general; polymeric materials degradable in aquatic environments, biodegradable modified natural polymers, natural fibers and biodegradable synthetic polymers are not defined as 'plastic'***
- **polymeric coatings, linings, paints, inks or adhesives** (minor components)
- **products made of paper, board or wood or cellulose pulp** having established dedicated for paper or board recycling systems, (recyclable biomaterials)
- **excluding materials which are essential for health care and safety.** (essentials)

Main amendments

Member States should

- *have permission to limit the use of single-use plastic products other than those listed in Part A of the Annex, on their territory on specific reasons on well defined limited areas (very sensitive environments like Arctic, Mediterian or Baltic resorts)*
- *actively stimulate innovation and investment with a view to circular solutions to support the potential for growth in tourism and the blue economy.*

The European Commission shall

Assess in cooperation with Member States

- *take into consideration **problems of transition** to reusable alternatives and single-use non-plastic alternatives, their sustainability as well as **appropriate waste disposal practices**.*
- *take into consideration specific legislative, economic, social and environmental aspects of the Member States as well as **local and regional differences**.*