

The use of plastic carrier bags in Europe Existing situation and challenges



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Environmental problem targeted

The same properties that have made plastic carrier bags commercially successful –low weight and resistance to degradation– have also contributed to their proliferation in the environment; since they escape waste management streams and accumulate in natural habitats, especially in the marine environment. Many of the impacts of plastic littering are of a transboundary and global nature, especially in water courses and the marine environment. Packaging and packaging waste: reduction of the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags. Amending Directive 94/62/EC

- No EU legislation/policy specifically targeting plastic carrier bags, until 2011.
- On 4th November 2013, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic bags in the EU. The proposal amends the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC).
- Obligation for all Member States to reduce the consumption of singleuse plastic carrier bags.
- Transposition of the Directive into national law 12 months after its entry into force.



Evidence gathering regarding the use of plastic carrier bags

- Existing legislation
- Voluntary initiatives
- Economic measures (tax, fee, levy etc)
- Plastic carrier bag consumption
- Plastic carrier bag incineration
- Plastic carrier bag in landfills
- Littering rate of HDPE bags
- Littering rate of LDPE bags

Results & discussion





Existing or planned legislation to avoid the use of plastic carrier bags in the EU Member-States





EU MS with national legislation regarding the reduction of plastic carrier bags used/Per capita consumption of single-use plastic carrier bags



Finland

Lebano

Cyprus



EU MS with national legislation regarding the reduction of plastic carrier bags used/littering rates of single-use plastic carrier bags

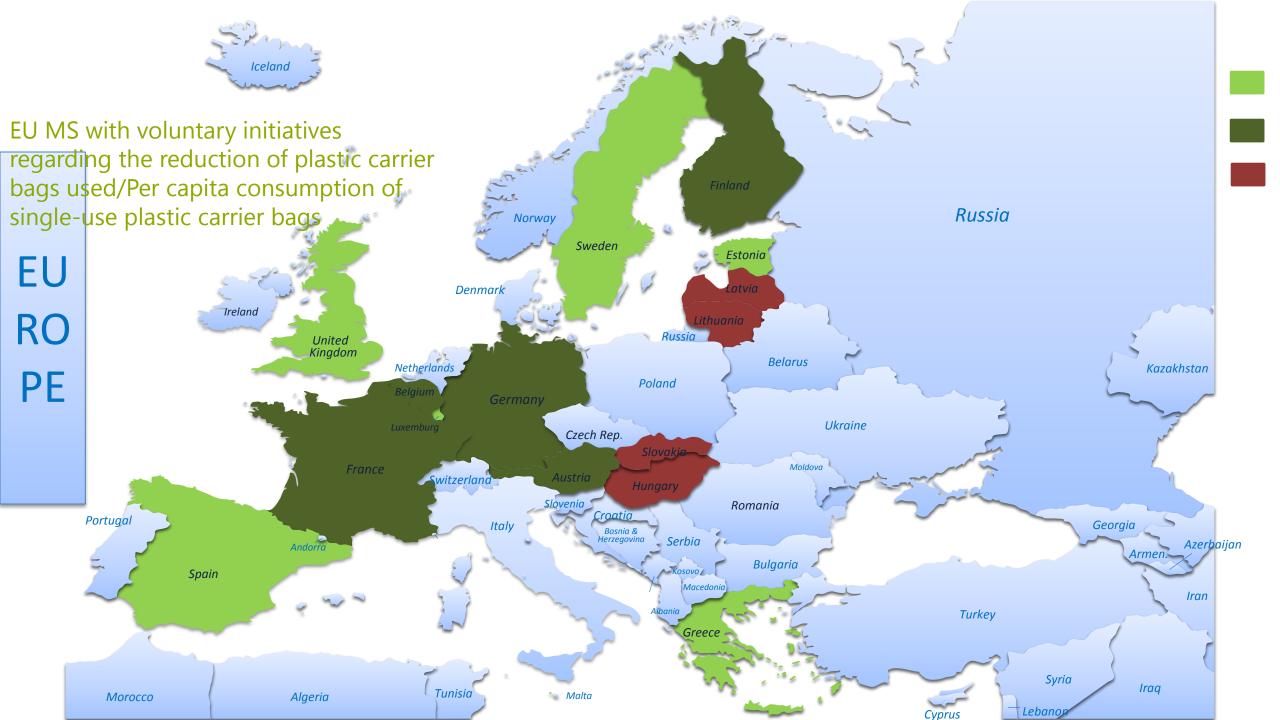


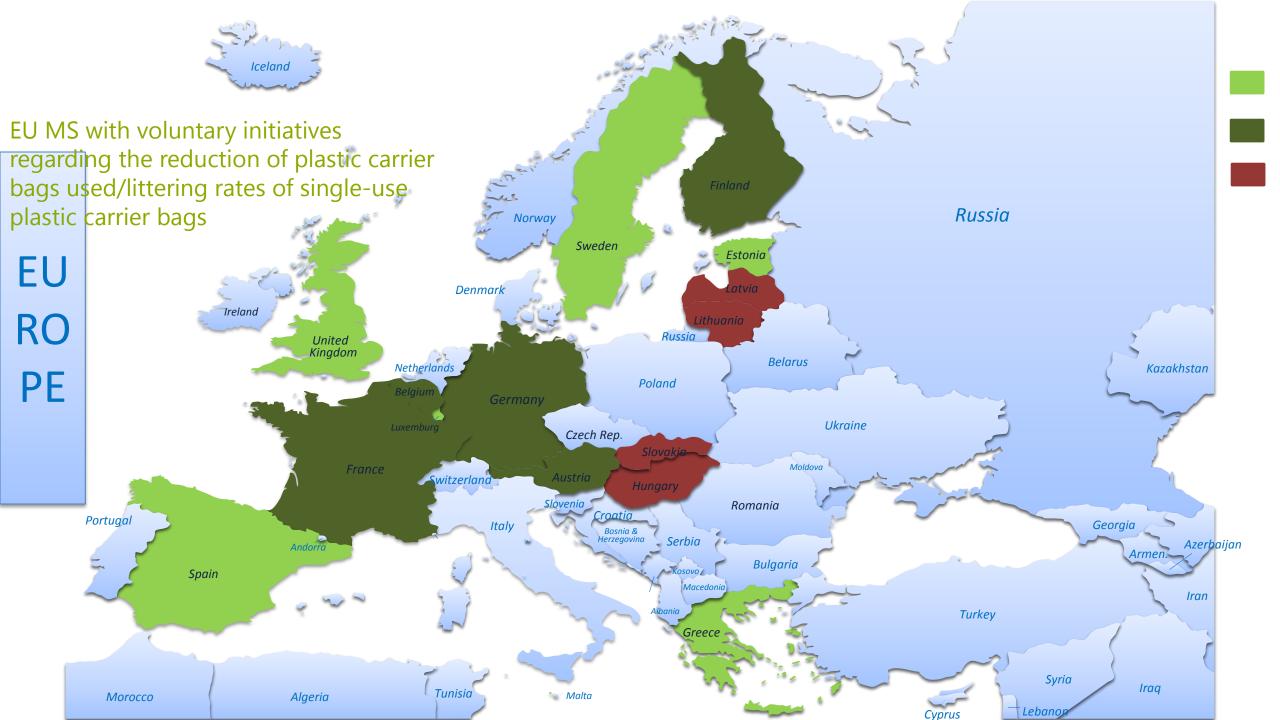
Finland



Voluntary initiatives regarding the reduction of plastic carrier bags used in the EU Member-States









Use of economic measures for the reduction of plastic carrier bags used in the EU Member-States





EU MS with economic measures regarding the reduction of plastic carrier bags used/Per capita consumption of single-use plastic carrier bags

Finland Russia Norway Sweden EU Denmar RO Lithuania Russia United Kingdom **Belarus** Nether Kazakhstan PE Poland Germany Ukraine Slovakja France Austria Switzerland Hungary Slovenia Romania Croatia Portugal Georgia Italy Bosnia & Herzegovina 🖌 Serbia Andorra Armen. Bulgaria Kosovo Spain Macedon Turkey Greece -Syria Iraq Tunisia Algeria 🔪 Malta Morocco

Azerbaijan

Iran

Lebano

Cyprus



EU MS with economic measures regarding the reduction of plastic carrier bags used/littering rates of single-use plastic carrier bags

EU

Morocco

RO Lithuania Russia Kingdom Belarus Netherlan PE Poland Germany Ukraine Czech Rep. Slovakia France Austria Switzerland Hungary Slovenia 5 Romania Croatia Portugal Italy Bosnia & Herzegovina Serbia Andorra Bulgaria Kosovo Spain Macedon Turkey Greece -

🔪 Malta

Norway

Denmar

Tunisia

Algeria

Finland

Estonia

Russia

Kazakhstan

Azerbaijan

Iran

Georgia

Syria

Lebano

Cyprus

Armen.

Iraq



Existing situation regarding the use of plastic carrier bags

- Voluntary initiatives are the first step for many EU MS in order to reduce the use of plastic career bags
- Economic measures are included in the legislation for the reduction of the use of plastic career bags
- Implementation of legislation has so far the most promising results regarding the plastic bag consumption
- Economic measures did not have the expected results regarding the plastic bag consumption
- Implementation of legislation has reduced litter impacts effectively.
- Voluntary initiatives have contributed the least to the plastic bag littering rates reduction

