

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



13th June 2014: 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on Sustainable Solid Waste Management Maria Kasidoni, Unit of Environmental Science & Technology National Technical University of Athens



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

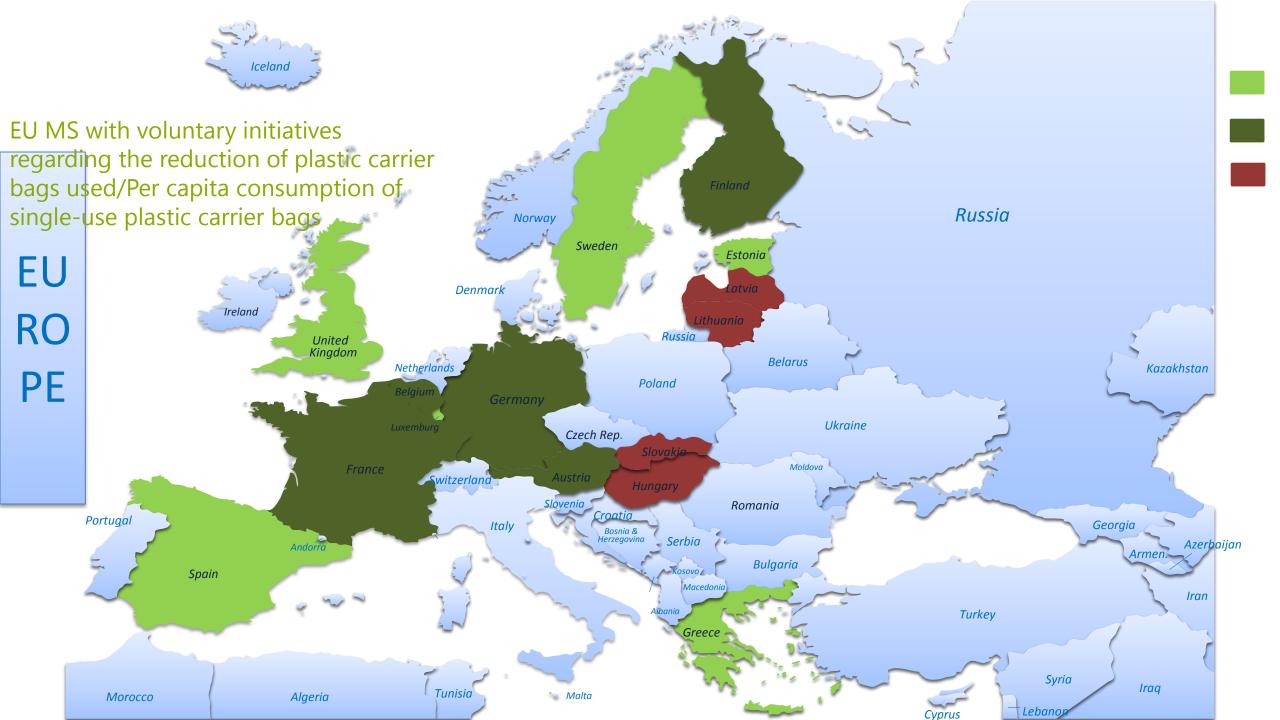


Finland



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

