

Disposable packaging waste and the polluter pays principle: introduction of a charge for disposable coffee cups

María del Carmen Cámara Barroso
Madrid Open University (MOU) - UDIMA

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Introduction

- **On-the-go consumption** (plastic carrier bags, disposable coffee cups and single-use plastic bottles): plastic pollution
- **Agenda:**
 - How the EU is fighting plastic pollution?
 - What are the benefits of introducing a tax on disposable coffee cups?
 - How to fight pollution caused by plastic bottles?

Recent advances in the fight against plastic pollution at the level of the European Union: plastic bags

- Significant levels of pollution produced by (light) plastic bags
- Directive (EU) 2015/720
- Spanish Royal Decree 293/2018: establishment of a minimum price
- Tax on plastic bags?



The United Kingdom's proposal on the introduction of a tax on disposable coffee cups

- Disposable coffee cups are made from paper and lined with plastic to make them waterproof
- Initiatives to change consumer behaviour have largely centred around two actions: discounts and taxes
- Tax on disposable coffee cups: input package tax vs. output packaging tax



The United Kingdom's proposal on the introduction of a tax on disposable coffee cups

- The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) recommended that the Government introduce a minimum **25p levy on disposable cups**, to be paid by the consumer on top of the price of the coffee
- The Ministers have rejected the EAC's recommendations to introduce a 25p charge
- The PCA's disagreement



What other alternatives exist for introducing a *latte levy*?



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Another big problem with on-the-go consumption: plastic bottles. The experience of the United Kingdom

- The EAC recommends that the Government introduce a legislated Deposit Return Scheme for all PET plastic drink bottles
- The scheme should put a 10-20p deposit on top of the product, which will be refunded to the consumer upon return of the bottle or can



Conclusions

- The establishment of taxes (in line with the “polluter pays” principle) is an adequate measure to modify the behaviour of consumers and whose collection can be used for the improvement of recycling infrastructures
- We understand that optimal results will be achieved by combining these measures with others carried out by the establishments themselves

Thank you for your attention

María del Carmen Cámara Barroso - MOU
mariadelcarmen.camara@udima.es