

# Where are we with the implementation of the EU waste Laws?

#NoTimeToWaste



Segura river, 2019, Spain.

# Where is Spain at this moment?

## Some big numbers

- Over **60% waste sent to landfill**, with no pretreatment in many cases
- **Recycling rate 35%** - new calculation methodology will significantly reduce this figure
- **80%** of municipal waste is **collected mixed**
- Incomplete, inefficient or inexistent EPR schemes
- **30 million bottles and cans littered** or sent to landfill and incineration, daily.  
**No reuse No DRS**
- **5%** separate collection of **organic waste**



# Concern at widespread failure to meet EU reuse and recycling targets

A coalition of 16 Spanish environmental and trade union organisations last week asked the European Commission to investigate Spain's failure to meet the 2008 waste framework directive's 2020 target of 50% preparation for re-use and recycling of municipal waste.

by Richard Weyndling



# Situation of transposition

## 1. **Waste Directive 2018/851 in process of transposition.**

Some provisions of 2019/904 included: SUP bans, non refillable plastic tax...

- Draft Law in legal revision in State Council
- Text to be approved by Council of Ministers
- Expected to go into debate in Congress mid May

# Situation of transposition

**Draft Law text has positive aspects**  
**But needs more ambition** and will not bring about the changes Spain needs to comply with new targets.

**Is industry pushing behind the wheel?**



# We demand

## The Alianza Residuo Cero demands an upgraded version of the Law

Low prevention targets → Ambitious targets + means

No DRS → Inclusive DRS with starting date

Low reuse targets → Ambitious targets + means

Complex landfill  
and incineration  
tax system → Revise

Low ambition  
in biowaste  
collection and treatment → Revise

# Más de una quincena de ONG piden al Consejo de Estado que rechace la ley de residuos por "poco ambiciosa e ineficaz"



# Spanish regions take the lead

Some regions are taking the lead on CE and ZW legislation:

## 1. **Navarra:** *2018 Ley de residuos y su fiscalidad*

- DRS + official pilot project 2021
- Binding reuse targets
- Single Use Plastic bans

## 2. **Balearic Islands:** *2019 Ley de Residuos y Suelos Contaminados*

- DRS + official pilot project in 2021 (Formentera)
- Binding reuse targets
- Specific EPR for packaging (commercial, domestic and industrial)
- Bans on single use plastics beyond SUP directive
- First regional government to declare “non-compliance” of targets.



# De los envases que deberían ir al contenedor amarillo en Baleares

# 2019



Per  
una  
mar  
sense  
plàstic



# Portugal offers some examples, will we lag far behind?

1. **DRS:** deposit system for containers of non-reusable beverages in plastic, glass, ferrous metals and aluminum, dated January 1, 2022.
2. **Reuse:** Industry was able to water down reuse targets

Approved text:

If as of December 31, 2022 industry has not adopted the self-regulation instruments + objectives, the following shall apply to all glass packaging

a) no later than January 1, 2025, at least 20% beverages must be packaged in reusable packaging;

b) no later than January 1, 2030, at least 50% reusable containers.

.



# Thank you

Contact: [Ana.gutierrez@retorna.org](mailto:Ana.gutierrez@retorna.org)