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KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE
PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD CHAIN SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Royal Decree on single-use plastic bags and labels on reusable bottles
PHILIPPE, King of the Belgians,
To all those present and to come, Greetings.
Having regard to the Law of 21 December 1998 on product standards for the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns and the protection of the environment, health and workers, Article 5(1), subparagraph 1(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (10) and (11), as amended by the Law of 26 April 2023;
Having regard to the regulatory impact analysis conducted in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of the Law of 15 December 2013 on various provisions relating to administrative streamlining;
Having regard to the involvement of regional governments in the preparation of this Decree, within the framework of the Interministerial Conference on the Environment, held on 2 February 2024;
Having regard to the opinion of the Federal Council for Sustainable Development, the Higher Council for Health, the Special Advisory Commission on Consumer Affairs, the Central Economic Council;
Having regard to the opinion of the Finance Inspectorate issued on [date];
Having regard to the agreement of the Minister for the Budget, given on xx.xxxx;
Having regard to the communication to the European Commission, of [date], pursuant to Article 5(1) of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services;
Having regard to the opinion of the Council of State, given on xx.xx.xxxx, pursuant to Article 84(1), subparagraph 1(2), of the Acts on the Council of State, consolidated on 12 January 1973;
On the proposal of the Minister for the Environment and on the advice of Ministers who have deliberated in Council,
We hereby decree:
Chapter I. – <i>General provisions and scope</i>

<p>Article 1. This Decree transposes Article 1(2) of Directive 2015/720 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags.</p>
<p>This Decree aims to prevent and reduce the environmental impact of certain single-use products and to promote reusable products and the transition towards a circular economy.</p>
<p>Chapter II. – <i>Definitions</i></p>
<p>Article 2. In this Decree, the following definitions shall apply:</p>
<p>1. plastic: a material consisting of a polymer as defined in Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which may act as the main structural component of bags;</p>
<p>2. lightweight plastic bags: bags, with or without handles, composed of plastics of a thickness of less than 50 microns, which are supplied to consumers at points of sale of goods or products for carrying such goods or products;</p>
<p>3. very lightweight plastic bags: plastic bags with a thickness of less than 15 microns, required for hygiene reasons or provided as primary packaging for loose food when doing so prevents food spillage;</p>
<p>4. deposit system: a system whereby the buyer of a product pays a fixed sum of money to the person who has placed the product on the market, who retains ownership of it. This sum is returned to the buyer on the return of the product to the person who placed the product on the market or to an authorised third party;</p>
<p>5. returnable bottle: a bottle forming part of a deposit system;</p>
<p>6. closed circuit deposit system: a system in which reusable packaging circulates within an organised company or group of companies.</p>
<p>Chapter III. – Plastic bags</p>
<p>Article 3. It is prohibited to place on the market for the first time lightweight plastic bags with handles ('carrier bags'), with the exception of very light plastic bags, reusable plastic bags meeting the requirements of the NBN EN 13429 standard and bags supplied at airports for imperative safety reasons.</p>
<p>Chapter IV. – Provisions relating to returnable bottles</p>
<p>Article 4. § 1. When placed on the market, labels and other markings affixed to returnable glass bottles, as well as glues and other adhesive means used to attach labels to returnable bottles, must be easily removable from the returnable bottles.</p>

§ 2. This provision does not apply to returnable bottles forming part of a closed circuit deposit system.

§ 3. The Minister in charge of the Environment shall determine the procedures for the implementation of this Article by Decree deliberated in the Council of Ministers.

Chapter V: Final Provisions

Article 5. The Minister in charge of the Environment shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decree.

Brussels, [date]

By the King:

The Minister of Environment,