

Meeting German retail sector
28 February 2018

Participants:

German retail sector: Julian Michael (EDEKA); Götz Brandau (Lidl Stiftung); Julia Riss (REWE Group); Silvia Warth (Kaufland); Clara Salarich (Metro); Martin Guillaume (Metro); Ana Rescek (Metro); Marius Bannefeld (German Retail Federation)

Secretariat-General: ~~Julian Michael, Götz Brandau~~

The meeting was requested for by the German retail sector to have a discussion on the plastic strategy. The discussion focused on challenges faced by the retail sector, including sustainability of materials used and recyclability, market price differences between virgin versus recycled plastics, low demand market for recycled plastics (particularly after closure of Chinese market), regulatory and systematic obstacles when implementing measures across Member States (e.g. on safety standards, biodegradable material), consumer behaviour and preferences and finding funding for investing in innovation. Participants explained as well the measures the sector is testing and implementing to reduce and improve the way plastic materials are used in the supply chains.

SG explained the overall context and objectives of the plastic strategy and made reference to several actions of the strategy relevant for the retail industry, including the pledging campaign, the initiative on single-used plastics, revision of the Packaging/Packaging Waste Directive, innovation funding opportunities and follow-up to the Communication on options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation.