

QUOTE SHEET - Zero Waste Europe

29 MAY 2024

Spokespeople for **Zero Waste Alliance**, state:

“This dismal 36% is a wake-up call for the Spanish Government. Just admit we’ve missed the mark! As mandated by the Spanish Waste Law, it’s high time to roll out the deposit return system for beverage containers.”

Joan Marc Simon, director of Zero Waste Europe, states:

“If recycling rates were achieved, it would be transformative. But the industry’s ongoing data manipulation hinders the adoption of zero waste policies. That’s why we’re left with no choice but to bring this evidence to the European Commission, urging Eurostat to reject these fabricated figures that stall progress.”

Miquel Roset, director of Retorna, states:

“Eunomia’s report is clear: Ecoembes’ figures simply don’t hold up. Spain must declare its failure to meet its recycling goals, and take steps to end the massive abandonment of beverage containers. There is still time. We are making the study available to the Spanish Government so that the deposit system for single-use and reusable cans, bottles and cartons becomes a reality in Spain from 1 January 2026.”

Erika Gonzalez, coordinator of Ecologists in Action, states:

“Ecoembes is more focused on manipulating data to serve its own interests than its duty to recover and recycle packaging. It also relies on industry associations such as ANFABRA (Refreshment Drinks), FIAB (Food and Drink), ANGED (Distribution Companies), ASEDAS (Supermarkets) to amplify these false data while the Ministry does not react.”

Chris Sherrington, a representative from the consultancy firm Eunomia, states:

“The data on separate collection and recycling in Spain lack transparency and neutrality. Our findings reveal significant inconsistencies in both the data and the methodologies used by the industry to falsely claim compliance with targets. This serves to delay the implementation of the Deposit System. The reported figures for plastic bottles of less than three liters do not align with reality as recognized by Ecoembes, nor does the methodology used to track these bottles in the yellow bins conform to European regulations. Furthermore, there is no traceability for the tons claimed to be collected outside of home settings. It is clear that Spain is far from reaching the 70% target.”

Julio Barea, head of Consumer and Biodiversity campaigns at Greenpeace, states:

“We will continue to denounce as many times as necessary, such as the two complaints to the European Commission for not meeting the 2020 recycling targets that we have already filed, or the reports on Ecoembes’ lies that we have presented. With this evidence, we will not allow anything other than the implementation of a Deposit System by the Ministry, because this practice opens the way for reusable packaging, creates green jobs and helps in the fight against the climate emergency.”

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About Zero Waste Europe

Zero Waste Europe (ZWE) is the European network of communities, local leaders, experts, and change agents working towards a better use of resources and the elimination of waste in our society. We advocate for sustainable systems; for the redesign of our relationship with resources; and for a global shift towards environmental justice, accelerating a just transition towards zero waste for the benefit of people and the planet. www.zerowasteurope.eu

The Zero Waste Alliance is composed by: [Friends of the Earth](#), [CECU](#), [Ecologists in Action](#), [Greenpeace](#), [Per la Mar Viva](#), [Rezero](#), [Retorna](#) and [Surfrider](#)

