

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 13 November 2020 16:43  
**To:** wastecomments  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Deposit and Return Scheme submission - Ciarán Cuffe  
**Attachments:** 2020.11.13\_Deposit Return Scheme\_Consultation\_Submission.docx

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Please find attached MEP Ciarán Cuffe's submission to the public consultation on the proposed deposit and return scheme.

Many thanks and have a nice weekend.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



NA GLASAIGH/SCE  
I bParlaimint na hEorpa

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

+353 85 225 0340

The Greens | European Free Alliance

in the European Parliament

[www.greens-efa.eu](http://www.greens-efa.eu)

—

—

—

—

—

—

—

**Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications**  
**Deposit Return Scheme - Consultation on Potential Models for Ireland**

As a child in the 1970s, I remember collecting used Cidona bottles from hedgerows in order to collect the five old pence deposit. This was a practical and personal example of the circular economy in action: it saved in the use of raw materials and contributed to reducing litter. We can and should put similar incentives in place again.

The setting up of a new deposit return scheme (DRS) for plastic drinking bottles and aluminium cans is a welcome step in Ireland's journey to tackling the environmental degradation caused by litter. It will help us move towards a circular economy that values and makes continuous use of resources. Such a scheme would not be new to Ireland; a similar returns system for glass bottles existed well into the 1980s and public support for same remains high.

In May of last year the Green Party successfully put forward a motion for the Dáil to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency. There is no denying that the global waste problem is a significant part of this crisis. Unrecycled plastic bottles and cans in Ireland are either ending up in landfills or polluting our coasts, waterways and environment as litter.

Tools such as deposit and return schemes are crucial in ending the single-use, throwaway economy we have become so used to and tackling litter in the environment. The Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) 2019 survey found that of 42 coastal areas and waterways examined, "only 1 in 6 were deemed 'clean', while 14% were classed as 'littered' or 'heavily littered'." IBAL also recently carried out research that found over a quarter of such litter found on beaches consists of drink containers, which would be exactly the targets of the proposed deposit and return scheme.

To tackle waste, we have to start rethinking the way we consume packaging and view materials. So many things that we throw away can be put to use again if we set up the right facilities. As an MEP, I was delighted to welcome the European Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan published in March 2020, forming a core part of the European Green Deal strategy. A comprehensive deposit return scheme in Ireland would contribute to meeting our requirements under the Single Use Plastic Directive, and the European ambition to lead global efforts towards a circular economy.

There is evidence from other jurisdictions to suggest that deposit and return schemes can boost the local economy and create jobs. A June 2019 study in Ontario, Canada, found that combining a deposit return scheme with their current curbside collection system would increase full-time equivalent jobs by 12%.

I'm pleased to see the Department holding a good public consultation period on the introduction of a new DRS. Securing the in-purchase and buy-in of producers and the recycling industry is crucial in ensuring the success of these EPR (extended producer responsibility) systems, as was seen last year with the backlash following introduction of a similar scheme in France.

Ciarán Cuffe  
MEP for Dublin  
Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament