



Regional Activity Centre
for Sustainable Consumption
and Production

Prevention instruments on plastic bags: voluntary agreements

Regional Meeting on the further implementation of the Regional plan
on the management of the marine litter in the Mediterranean

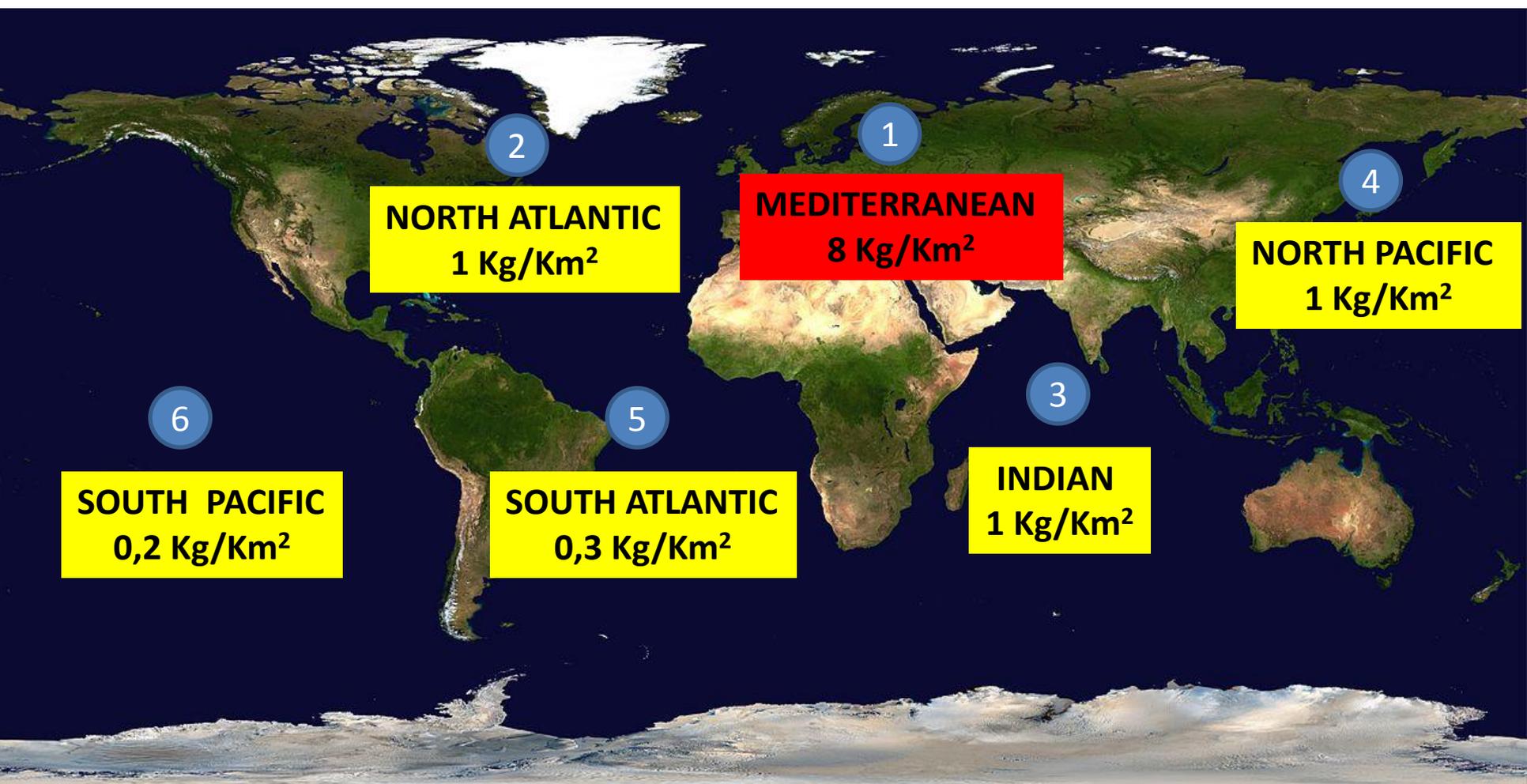
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(UNEP/MAP)

19-20 July 2016

Tirana, Albania



Oceans ranked by estimated plastics' concentration (2010)



Adapted from “Plastic pollution in the world’s oceans” (2014. Eriksen, Lebreton, et al.)

MAIN FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWTH OF MARINE LITTER

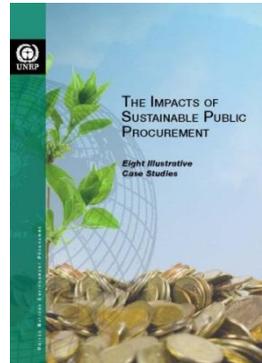
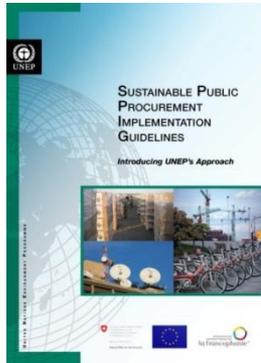
- Growth of plastic packaging (PP) consumption.
- Lack of measures to curb plastic trash (Regulations on plastic bags, DRRS on beverage bottles..)
- Careless littering.
- Non-existing or insufficient selective waste collection systems and waste management facilities in many countries.

PREVENTION MEASURES RELATED WITH PLASTIC PACKAGING (PP) OF THE REGIONAL PLAN ON MARINE LITTER (1/2)

- To base Solid Waste Management on **reduction at source**, applying the waste hierarchy and reduce PPW that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery through reduction/reuse/recycling.
- Implement to the extent possible measures on:
 - **Extended producer responsibility (EPR)** with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management.
 - **Fiscal and economic instruments** to promote the reduction of plastic bags consumption.
 - **Voluntary agreements** for plastic bags reduction with retailers and supermarkets.
 - **Establishment of DRRS for beverage packaging.**

PREVENTION MEASURES RELATED WITH PLASTIC PACKAGING (PP) OF THE REGIONAL PLAN ON MARINE LITTER (2/2)

- **Sustainable public procurement (SPP)** for the promotion of recycled plastic-made products.



UNEP guidelines on SPP (2012)

- **Procedures and manufacturing methodologies** together with plastic industry, in order to reduce micro-plastic (i.e. marine biodegradable polymers)

100 %	MADE FROM CASSAVA STARCH
	NATURALLY COMPOSTABLE
0 %	PLASTIC
	HEAVY METALS / TOXIC



THE CATALAN VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT ON BAGS' REDUCTION

In 2006 there were meetings between the Waste Agency of Catalonia and representatives of Catalan and Spanish distribution associations with the aim of promoting a voluntary agreement to prevent the generation of single-use plastic bags.

The municipal waste management programme in Catalonia 2007-2012 (PROGREMIC) set the following prevention objectives for single-use plastic bags:

— consumption reduction targets (compared to 2007 values):

- 2009: **30%**
- 2012: **50%**



- To achieve these targets, PROGREMIC established the implementation of measures to regulate single-use plastic bags:
 - Establishment of voluntary agreements to achieve the targets.
 - Otherwise, consideration of the implementation of economic instruments.
 - Alongside this, other instruments were promoted with producers and retailers, such as the introduction of reusable bags or the use of biodegradable bags.

Baseline Study: Consumption of SUPB in Catalonia in 2007

The methodology for estimating the consumption consisted in identifying the consumption per square meter of the different retail formats, and then extrapolate to the whole sector. To estimate the consumption, a survey system was used for the different formats of commercial offer (urban commerce, Supermarkets, Hypermarkets and Department stores). The surface areas were obtained from the information provided by the tax on economic activities.

Retail subsectors

- Food groceries
- Non food groceries
- Household goods
- Personal goods
- Automotive and Fuel
- Culture and Leisure
- Mixed retail
- Others

The surveys made afterwards in 2009, 2011 and 2012 included as well qualitative information on unit weight of the bags provided, current practices to reduce consumption, preference of the actions that would be carried out, positive or negative consequences of the prevention actions, and reasons for charging bags and its consequences on customers and sales.

Baseline Study: Consumption of SUPB in Catalonia in 2007

0,89 SUPB/person/day (327 SUPB/person/year)

18.600 tons (0,43% in weight of all municipal waste generated)

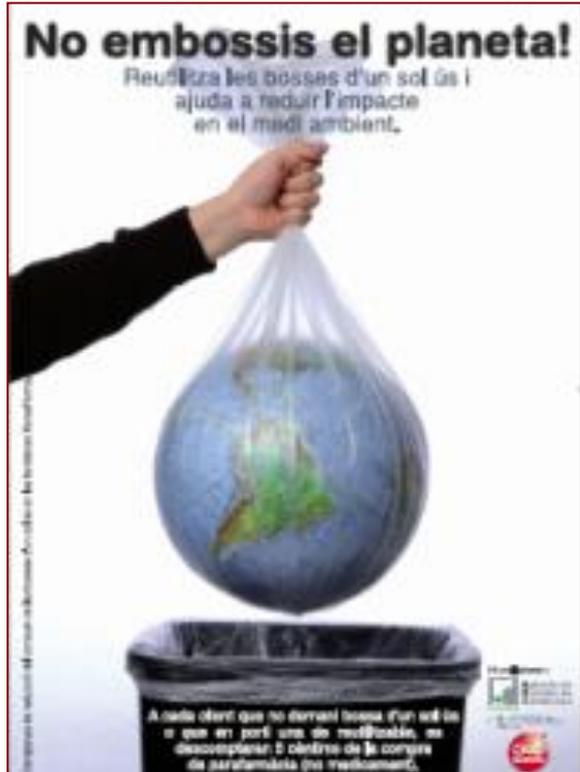
Commercial format	2007 SUPB TOTAL(units)
Supermarkets	1.151.779.755
Hypermarkets	172.640.302
Department stores	39.899.236
Urban commerce	990.027.076
TOTAL	2.354.346.369

SUPB(Single Us Plastic Bag)= SUPBH (handle)+ SUPBN (no handle)

SUPBN does not include bags for fresh product (meat, fruit, fish, etc)

2008- Individual Plastic Bag Agreements

- In 2008, two individual Plastic Bag Agreements were signed with the Waste Agency of Catalonia:



No embossis el planeta !
Do not bag the planet, or
Do not bog down the planet.

XarxaFarma (200 farmacies)

Objective: to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags by 20% in 2010 (on 2008 figures).

Bon Preu Group (110 supermarkets)

Objective: to reduce single-use plastic bag consumption by 20% at its 110 establishments in 2010 (on 2008 figures).

2009- The Plastic Bag Agreement (PxB)



- Waste Agency of Catalonia
- Association of Spanish Supermarket Chains (ACES)
- National Association of Large Distribution Companies (ANGED)
- Spanish Association of Distributors, Self-Service Operators and Supermarkets (ASEDAS)
- Spanish Confederation of Commerce (CEC)
- Catalan Confederation of Commerce (CCC)
- Catalan Council of Food Distribution Companies (CEDAC)
- Association of Small and Medium enterprises of Catalonia (PIMEC)
- Spanish Association of Plastic Bags Manufacturers (AEFBP)
- Spanish Association of Plastic Industries (ANAIP)
- Spanish Association of Biodegradable Compostable Plastics (ASOBIOCOM)

PxB: Objectives and Technical Commisision

- The validity of the pact was two years, renewable by mutual agreement of the parties. It has been extended three times and will continue until 2020.
- The signatories could apply other prevention measures than those formally suggested as well.
- PxB assumed the objective to reduce the consumption of plastic bags of disposable handles **by 50% in 2012** (compared to 2007 values).
- A technical committee was created, composed of representatives of the signatory and the waste Agency, to monitor the actions and measures taken by commercial establishments to achieve the reduction targets.

PxB: Reduction measures

- Establishing control mechanisms for the bags dispensed (counters, dispensers and other systems of allocation of bags).
- Preparation of areas to promote the use of trolley carts by the clients.
- Charging consumers the cost of the bag if the consumer uses one, or discounting the cost of the bag if it is not used.
- Environmental awareness campaigns targeting consumers to promote reuse and recycling of bags.
- Campaigns to promote home delivery service without bags for purchases over a certain amount.
- Offer reusable bags made of different materials (cloth, paper or plastic) and different capacities, reusable cardboard or plastic boxes and compostable bags.

Achievements accomplished (vs. 2007 levels)

2009

✓ Decrease of 30, 4% of SUPB per capita

2011

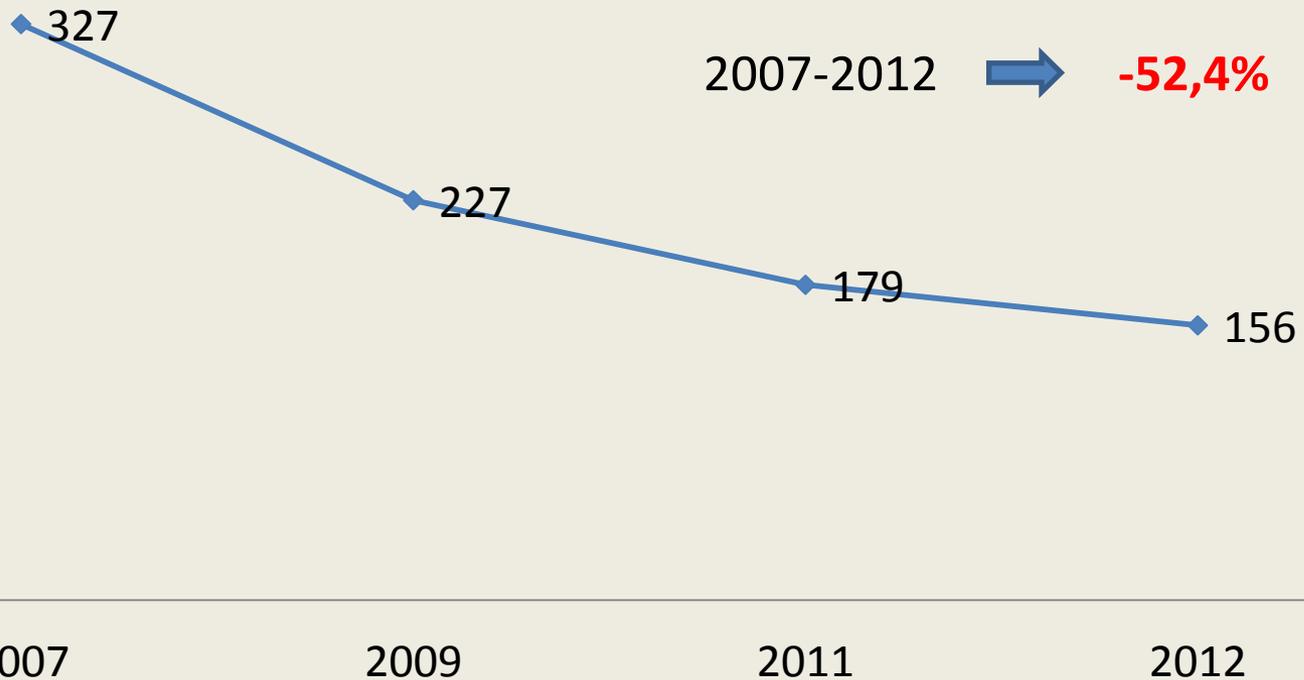
✓ Decrease of 45% of SUPB per capita

2012

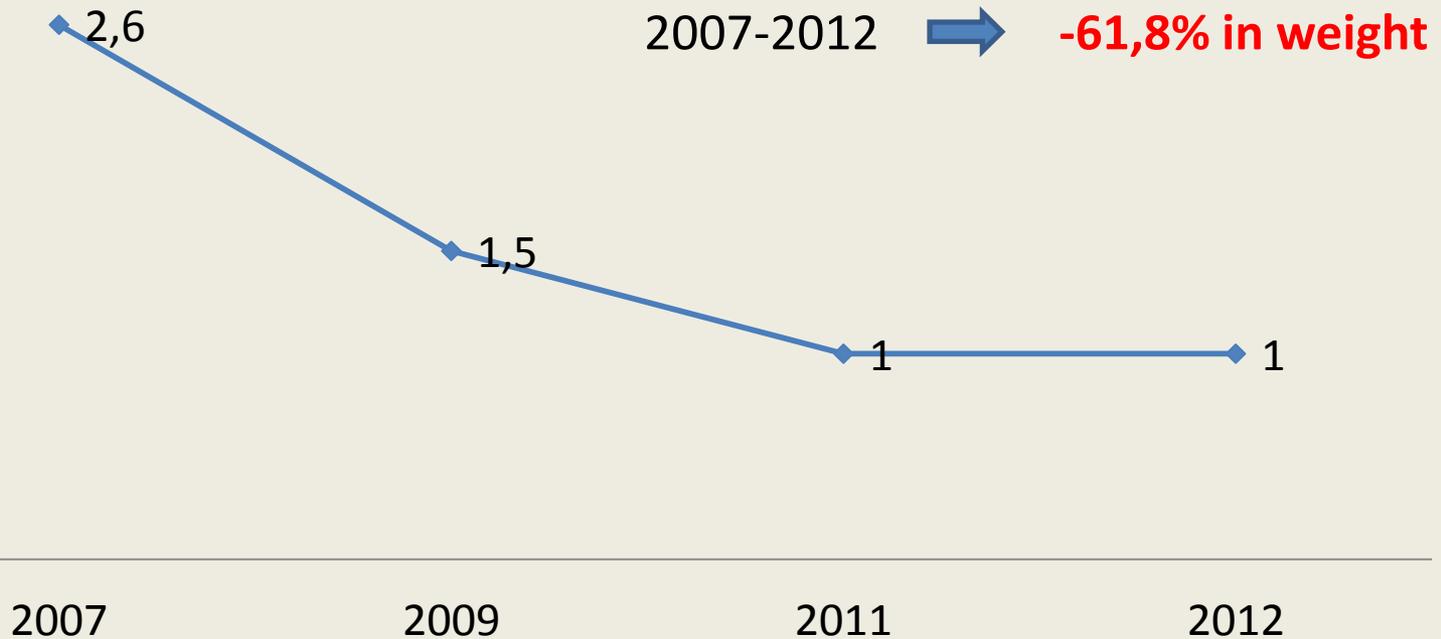
✓ Decrease of 52,4% of SUPB per capita



Evolution of consumption of single use plastic bags in Catalonia (SUPB per capita)



Evolution of consumption in weight of single use plastic bags in Catalonia (Kg per capita)



Average weight 1 SUPB 2007= 7,90 grams

Average weight 1 SUPB 2012= 6,41 grams

Consumption of SUPB in Catalonia in 2012

0,42 SUPB/person/day (156 SUPB/person/year)

Commercial format	SUPB * total (units)	Variation 2007-2012(%)
Supermarkets	89.635.761	-92,2%
Hypermarkets	5.871.483	-96,6%
Department stores	15.172.080	-62,0%
Urban commerce	1.066.944.826	+7,88%
TOTAL	1.177.624.150	-52,4%

SUPB(Single Us Plastic Bag)= SUPBH (handle) + SUPBN (no handle)

SUPBN does not include bags for fresh product (meat, fruit, fish, etc)

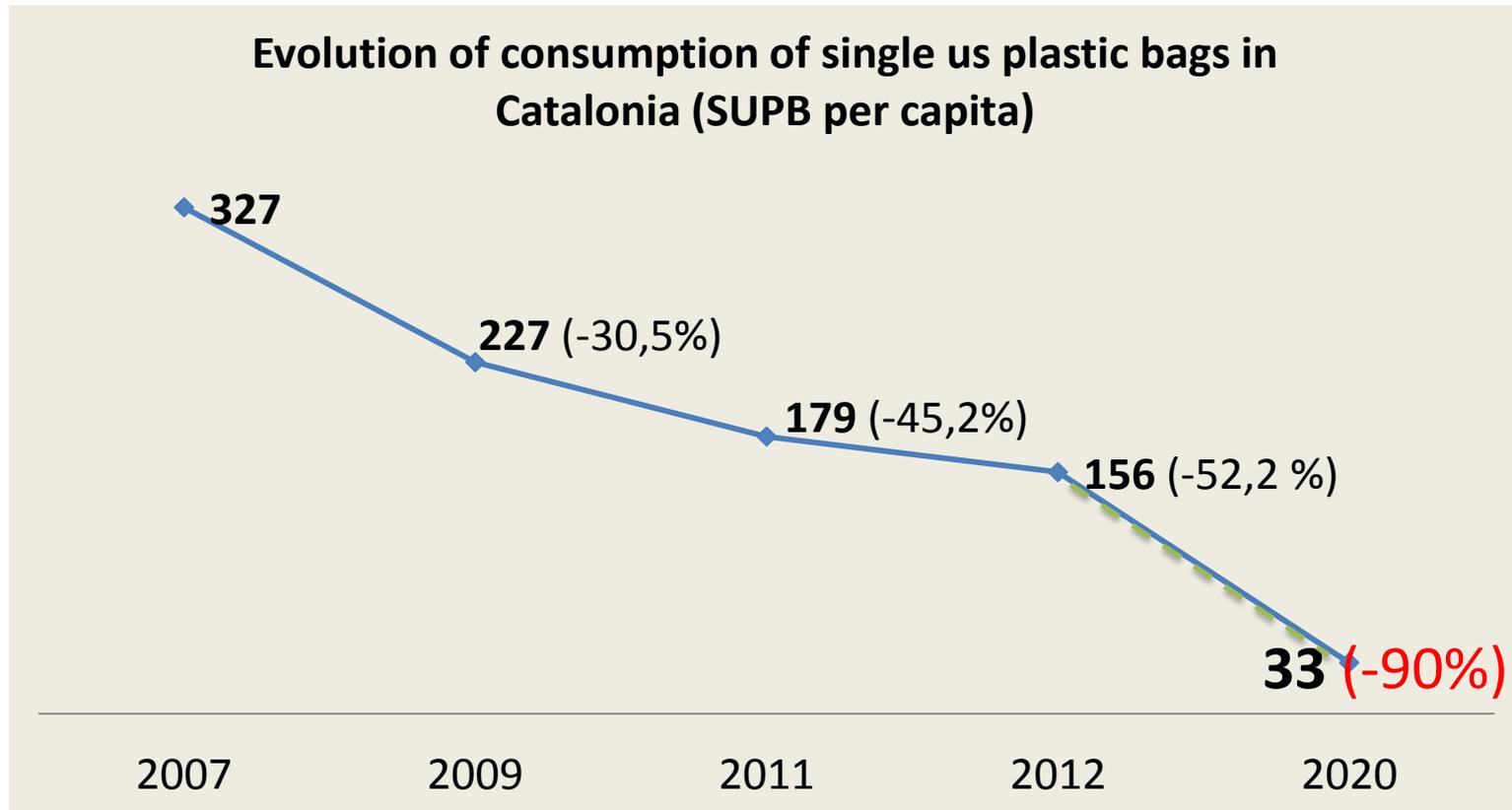
Compulsory charge for all PB in 2017 in Catalonia

Plastic bags are not for free, don't let the environment pay for them



NEXT TARGET: -90% by 2020

the Catalan Programme for Prevention and Management of Waste 2013-2020 sets up a 90% reduction objective for 2020



In order to achieve this objective, the Commission for the Agreement for the Bag has extended its mandate until 2020.

OTHER TARGETS

the Catalan Programme for Prevention and Management of Waste 2013-2020 sets up another 2 targets in relation with plastic packaging

- Before the end of 2016 sets aims to reduce the generation of non-biodegradable shopping bags without handles



- Before the end of 2016, sets aims to reduce the generation of single-use disposable trays.



EU Directive 2015/720 on the reduction of consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags

Member States should take measures to significantly reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags.

Measures to be taken by Member States **may involve the use of economic instruments** such as pricing, taxes and levies, and **marketing restrictions and may freely use revenues generated by the measures to achieve a sustained reduction in the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags.**

Such measures may vary depending on the environmental impact of lightweight plastic carrier bags when they are recovered or disposed of, their composting properties, durability or specific intended use.

EU Directive 2015/720 on the reduction of consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags

MANDATES

The adoption of instruments ensuring that, by 31 December 2018, lightweight plastic carrier bags are not provided free of charge at the point of sale of goods or products.

Annual consumption level does not exceed 90 plastic carrier bags per person by 2019 and 70 carrier bags per person by 2025

Thanks for your attention!

Faleminderit !

[Frederic Gallo](#)

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