

Slovakia bans single-use plastics from 2021

November 27 2019



A new law in Slovakia will make it illegal to sell plastic plates, cups, cutlery, drink stirrers, straws and cotton buds, among similar items

Slovakia banned single-use plastics as of 2021 on Wednesday, joining the European Union fight to reduce marine pollution.

The new law will make it illegal to sell plastic plates, cups, cutlery, drink

stirrers, straws and cotton buds, among similar items.

72 lawmakers voted in favour of the waste management bill, 30 against and 32 abstained.

"Our goal is to motivate people to separate waste, and (for) manufacturers to produce recyclable products," Environment Minister Laszlo Solymos told reporters after the vote.

Waste management experts believe the law will trigger a boom in the use of biodegradable packaging.

"We expect the new law to result in a greater use of more sustainable alternatives from [renewable sources](#)—wood, paper or bioplastics in the [everyday life](#)," Katarina Kretter, a spokeswoman for private recycling company ENVI-PAK, told AFP.

Earlier this year, the European Union and the European Parliament voted to ban from 2021 [single-use plastics](#) such as straws, cutlery and cotton buds.

The European Commission estimates some 70 percent of plastic waste clogs the world's oceans, killing a range of species from turtles, seals, whales and seabirds to fish and shellfish.

Scientists warn that, as plastic slowly breaks down, the micro-particles enter food chains and end up being consumed by humans, with studies showing toxic traces in the waste of people in Europe and Asia.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: Slovakia bans single-use plastics from 2021 (2019, November 27) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-11-slovakia-single-use-plastics.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.