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SECTION 1

Introduction

1.0. Introduction

The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive states as an objective the harmonisation of measures concerning management of packaging and packaging waste to both protect against the environmental impact of that packaging and to ensure the functioning of the internal market.

The European Commission has however acknowledged evidence that packaging labelling around recycling and environmental information has created harmonisation issues.

There is also a growing recognition of consumer desire to be able to make informed choices based on the environmental impacts of products and their packaging, as well as the need to regulate and set a standard for the plethora of claims on packaging that seek to meet or manipulate this desire.

This paper lays out the current legislative status at both EU harmonised and national level in certain Member States and the UK, with a view to identifying where these harmonisation issues arise.

The paper will also take a brief look at where EU legislation is currently placed with regards to the substantiation of environmental claims.

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