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Proposed Regulatory Impact Assessment on ban on plastic bags

In the EU-funded programme on Trade Regulatory Impact Assessment, requested by the MCCI, sponsored by the European Union, and implemented through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, an impact assessment is being undertaken to determine the costs and benefits, both short- and long-term, on the proposed legislation to ban the use of plastic bags in Mauritius, similar to the ban that was imposed in Rodrigues in 2014. In order to conduct this impact assessment, we need data and opinions and would request your assistance in the matter. We would like as much information as possible, but even if you are not prepared to provide certain information, please still supply as much of the other information as you can.

Name of company: _____ (this will be treated confidentially, along with all your answers).

Nature of Business: Importer/Manufacturer/Retailer/: _____

Contact details (email): _____

Questions:

Assuming the ban relates only to single-use carrier bags, i.e. it does not relate to pre-packaging and also only applies to bags with handles, please provide the following information:

1. If the ban is legislated, how much time would you need to adapt?

2012	Single-use bags	Multiple-use bags	Bin liners	Other
Produced (units)				
Produced (kg)				
Sold (volume)				
Sold (value)				
Profit realized				
Workers employed				
Exported				
Imported (units)				
Imported (kg)				
Bags as % of turnover				
Corporate tax				

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paid (amount)				
VAT paid				

2013	Single-use bags	Multiple-use bags	Bin liners	Other
Produced (units)				
Produced (kg)				
Sold (volume)				
Sold (value)				
Profit realized				
Workers employed				
Exported				
Imported (units)				
Imported (kg)				
Bags as % of turnover				
Corporate tax paid (amount)				
VAT paid				

2014	Single-use bags	Multiple-use bags	Bin liners	Other
Produced (units)				
Produced (kg)				
Sold (volume)				
Sold (value)				
Profit realized				
Workers employed				
Exported				
Imported (units)				
Imported (kg)				
Bags as % of				

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turnover				
Corporate tax paid (amount)				
VAT paid				

2. If the ban is legislated, how much time would you need to adapt?

3. What packaging alternatives are currently available?

4. Are these packaging alternatives available domestically or would they have to be imported?

5. To which extent would a decrease in the number of plastic carrier bags lead to an increase in plastic bin liners?

6. To which extent would a decrease in the volume of polystyrene packaging used?

7. Do you believe the impact on large retailers and on small traders would be the same or different? Please indicate your reasons.¹

8. How much of your raw material is sourced locally and how much is imported (2014 only)?

9. Do you use any recycled material in your production process? If so, please indicate the volume (in kg) of recycled material you used in 2014.

¹ It has been argued in other countries that consumers do more spur-of-the-moment shopping at small traders, therefore needing bags, and more “planned” purchases at large retailers, for which they may carry multiple-use bags with them.



Please email back to the consultant, Dr. Gustav Brink, at gustav.brink@gmail.com.