



But is it a crime? What the law says about litter across Europe

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OVERVIEW

Countries with specific national litter legislation

Denmark	Ireland	Italy	Malta	England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales	Switzerland (under approval)
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Countries where litter is regulated by other legislation

National legislation	Subnational legislation	National and subnational legislation
Cyprus, Finland France	Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Latvia, Portugal	Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

Countries with no litter legislation at all: 0

Littering... is it a crime?

- No uniformity across EU Member States regulation
- In most countries it is a minor offence, in a few countries it is a crime

... but is it enforced?

- Experience shows that enforcement could be better
- Today, many citizens do not perceive that there is a penalty for littering
- They certainly do not think of it as a **crime**
- No real sense of deterrent

conclusion

- Enforcement and effective sanctioning of littering is **under-utilized** as a tool to change citizens' behavior
- **Member States** hold the answer



Definition of 'littering'



- Only a few Member State legislations provide a precise definition of “litter”
- There are very few direct translations of the English words “litter” and “littering”
- Virtually no Member State legislation provides a definition of “littering”
- A definition could be the starting point for a stronger, more unified enforcement system...

Littering in National Waste Management Plans (WMP)



- Fragmented approach to inclusion of littering in Waste Management Plans
- Littering is not given the same regulatory or policy emphasis by Member States
- This “piecemeal approach” means not all relevant stakeholders are involved at national and subnational levels

Need for a more focused and comprehensive approach to litter and prevention of littering across the EU



**The EU Commission's proposal
(COM(2015)595)**



Thank you for your attention!

