

THE PLASTIC BAG AGREEMENT

Review meeting of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management

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- Background
- **PROGEMIC 2007-2012**
- **Bag Consumption Studies '07 , '09 and '11**
- **Plastic bag agreement:**
 - Signatory bodies
 - Objectives
 - Reduction measures
 - Subscriptions and future



Background

- Since 2004, the ARC has supported more than **200 projects** from local bodies and not-for-profit organisations that include **actions to reduce single-use plastic bags.**
- Since 2006 there have been several meetings between the ARC and representatives of Catalan and Spanish distribution associations (CEDAC, CCC, ANGED, ACES,...) with the aim of promoting a **voluntary agreement to prevent the generation of single-use plastic bags.**

- In 2008, two individual **Plastic Bag Agreements** were signed:

➤ **Bon Preu Group (110 supermarkets)**



- Objective: to reduce single-use plastic bag consumption by 20% at its 110 establishments.

➤ **XarxaFarma (200 pharmacies)**



- Objective: to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags by 10% in 2009 (compared to 2008 consumption) and 20% in 2010 (also on 2008 figures).



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The municipal waste management programme in Catalonia 2007-2012 (PROGREMIC)



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- The municipal waste management programme in Catalonia 2007-2012 (PROGREMIC) sets the following **prevention objectives**:
 - Maintenance of the trend towards stabilising generation per capita, as a first phase.
 - Trend towards reducing generation per capita as a second phase, to achieve a **reduction of 10%** compared to 2006, moving from 1.64 kg/inhab-day(2006) to 1.48 kg/inhab-day (2012).

- Specifically, for **single-use plastic bags** the consumption reduction targets are:
- 2009: 30%
 - **2012: 50%**
- (compared to 2007 values)



- To achieve these targets, **PROGREMIC 2007-12** establishes the implementation of **measures** to regulate single-use plastic bags:
 - Establishment of **voluntary agreements** to achieve the targets.
 - Otherwise, study of the implementation of final **fiscal instruments**.
 - Alongside this, other instruments will be promoted, such as the introduction of reusable elements or the use of compostable bags.

Bag consumption studies in Catalonia

- **Bag Consumption Study in Catalonia 2007**

- Establishes the reference indicator: more than **45 million SUPB** units a week.
- Establishes the **methodology** for evaluating the 30% reduction target for 2009 and the 50% target for 2012.



- **Bag Consumption Study in Catalonia 2009**

- ✓ Reduction target achieved: 30.4% reduction in SUPB per head.



- **Bag Consumption Study in Catalonia 2011**

- ✓ Reduction achieved: 45.2% SUPB per head.



- A considerable fall was recorded between 2007 and 2011, both in **SUPB units** per household and per inhabitant **and in the kg** of plastic from SUPB per capita and per household in Catalonia.

Development of the main SUPB consumption indicators in Catalonia (2007-2011)

INDICATOR	CHANGE			
	2007	2009	2011	07-11 (%)
SUPB units per inhabitant	327	227	179	-45.2%
SUPB units per household	911	641	465	-48.9%
SUPB plastic per inhabitant (kg)	2.6	1.5	1.0	-63.2%
SUPB plastic per household (kg)	7.2	4.2	2.5	-65.5%

- In total, between 2007 and 2011, 43% fewer single-use plastic bags have been given out, which is equivalent to a reduction of **1.1 million units**.

**SUPB consumption by commercial formats,
2007, 2009 and 2011, and relative change 2007-2011**

COMMERCIAL FORMAT	CONSUM. SUPB 2007	CONSUM. SUPB 2009	CONSUM. SUPB 2011	CHANGE 07-11 (%)
Urban commerce	990,027,076	799,696,104	1,149,264,439	16.1%
Supermarkets	1,151,779,755	755,874,494	145,183,404	-87.4%
Hypermarkets	172,640,302	106,668,913	36,868,210	-78.6%
Department stores	39,899,236	35,358,836	18,044,410	-54.8%
TOTAL	2,354,346,369	1,697,598,347	1,349,360,462	-42.7%

Source: self-created



The Plastic Bag Agreement

- On 28 July 2009, a pact – the Plastic Bag Agreement – was signed between the ARC and the following associations:
 - 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)
 - PIMEC
 - Spanish Association of Plastic Bag Manufacturers (AEFBP)

- The **agreement** was valid for **two years**, extendable by mutual agreement between the parties and it may run alongside other prevention measures.
- The **target** to reduce single-use plastic carrier bag consumption by **50% by 2012** compared to the 2007 values (PROGREMIC) was assumed.
- In **October 2009**, the **technical committee** established in the agreement was set up, consisting of representatives of the signatory bodies and the ARC.
- This Committee's main **responsibility** is to **monitor** the actions and measures adopted by commercial establishments to achieve the reduction targets.
- Since it was set up in 2009, the Committee has **met 7 times**.
- When **subscriptions** are formalised (individually or collectively), the **measures** to reduce plastic bag distribution in establishments must be specified.

The Agreement suggests the following **measures**, among others, to be implemented to achieve the targets set:

- Consumer awareness-raising and environmental guidance campaigns to encourage the reuse and recycling of bags;
- Adaptation of suitable spaces for promoting the use of shopping trolleys;
- Campaigns promoting home delivery services for purchases exceeding certain volumes;
- Establishment of mechanisms to control bags dispensed (counters, dispensers and other systems for allocating bags);
- Establishment of automatic bag filling mechanisms;
- Incorporating bags that are reusable for freezing;
- Reusable bags of different materials (fabric, paper or plastic) and different capacities, compostable bags, cardboard boxes or reusable plastic;
- Guiding consumers by checkouts (green checkout, quick checkout);
- Commercial policies promoting environmentally-friendly behaviour among consumers, such as charging the consumer the cost of the bag if used or discounting the cost of the bag if the consumer does not use it.



- Until today's date, a total of **65 subscriptions** to the Plastic Bag Agreement have been formalised, some of them individual and others collective.
- The Plastic Bag Agreement was extended by agreement between the parties until 31 December 2012 and there is currently a **new extension until 31 December 2014** (signed yesterday).
- Plan to carry out a bag consumption study in 2012 allows a check on the achievement of the PROGREMIC targets.
- The new **WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2013-2020** will continue to incorporate realistic and ambitious bag reduction targets.

Thank you for your attention!

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