

Regulation of Depository-Refund System for Beverage Containers

Abstract

This thesis focuses on depository-refund systems for beverage containers as an instrument to improve sorting of the plastic waste. In broader perspective, the plastic waste is nowadays a serious issue, not only in the Czech Republic, but also globally. Depository-refund system is an effective economic tool for environmental protection and its implementation for plastic bottles can help to tackle the increasing amount of the plastic waste. It is analyzed whether the depository-refund system for one-way beverage containers complies with principles of the circular economy and the principles of the environmental protection.

The thesis describes the current status of the legislation in the Czech Republic which concerns the depository-refund system of reusable glass beverage containers. Most importantly, the thesis proposes to implement a similar regulation for one-way beverage containers (plastic and metal) in order to protect the environment from the plastic waste and to comply with goals for waste sorting set out by the European Union. The sources of inspiration for the new legislation are some member states of the European Union – Slovakia, Germany, Sweden and Croatia. In all of these states, the depository-refund system for one-way beverage containers varies more or less slightly and some elements of their regulations are considered when proposing a similar legislation in the Czech Republic.

If correctly implemented, the depository-refund system for one-way beverage containers will not only improve waste sorting, it will also lead the Czech Republic closer towards circular economy through the circulation of materials (plastics) in accordance with the Action plan and the Strategic Framework. The depository-refund system for one-way beverage containers could be implemented as a part of the Act on Packaging or an entirely new act could be introduced focusing solely on the depository-refund system for one-way beverages.

Key words:

depository-refund system, plastics, beverage containers