

ITALY

REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION: INCENTIVIZE THE USE OF REUSABLE, COMPOSTABLE OR BIODEGRADABLE TABLEWARE IN THE CATERING SERVICE

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME: Self-Sustainment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND

There are evidences that the majority of plastic pollution is due to single-use and disposable plastics. Globally and within the UN system, concerted efforts are ongoing to reduce plastic pollution. In particular, Italy has taken actions to reduce the use of single-use and disposable plastics. To move forward the issue in the military and police contingents, an appropriate language could be found to adjust Chapter 3, annex B, under Catering (Self-sustainment reimbursement rate for catering) in order to incentivize the use of compostable, bio-degradable or reusable dishes, glasses/cups and cutlery.

The 2017 COE Working Group reviewed the reimbursement rates, policies and standards for contingent-owned equipment. Key outcomes from that Working Group strengthened provisions for environmental management, in particular, the article 7 septies of the model memorandum of understanding on environmental compliance and waste management included the requirement for contingents to leave premises and the physical environment in the condition in which they were provided to them, except in exceptional circumstances of operational imperative. Particularly, that article states that contingents “*will take concrete steps to [...], reduce and segregate waste [...] for which they are responsible*”.

The 2020 COE Working Group tried to reach an agreement in order to incentivize the use of bio-degradable or reusable dishes, glasses/cups and cutlery in the catering service but a consensus was not reached on the proposed Issue Paper.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL AND PROPOSED MANUAL TEXT

It could be considered to incentivize the use of compostable, biodegradable or reusable dishes, glasses/cups and cutlery in providing the catering service to military and police contingents. The COE Manual could be amended accordingly in order to allow Member States to have an increase of the Catering monthly reimbursement rate under Self-sustainment if they reduce plastic pollution. For the purpose, Chapter 3, annex B, under Catering could be integrated with the following:

“An environmental enhancement supplement of a maximum 6 per cent of the Catering monthly reimbursement rate will be added if dishes, glasses/cups and cutlery used for the service are reusable, compostable or biodegradable. On the contrary, an environmental enhancement reduction of a maximum 6 per cent of the Catering monthly reimbursement rate will be deducted if dishes, glasses/cups and cutlery used for the service are single use – disposable or not compostable/biodegradable.”

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The current Catering monthly rate, excluding factors, is 28,54\$ per person. The proposal will increase or decrease that amount of a maximum of 1,71\$/person/month up to 30,25\$ or down to 26,83\$ per person.

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (b) + (c) + (d)	(f) = (a) + (e)
Catering	Monthly rate (excluding factors)	Environmental enhancement supplement or reduction			Maximum supplement 6 per cent of the reimbursement rate	Monthly rate (excluding factors with maximum environmental enhancement supplement)
	28,54 \$	Reusable, compostable or biodegradable				
		Dishes +2%	Glasses/cups +2%	Cutlery +2%		
		+0,57 \$	+0,57 \$	+0,57 \$	+1,71 \$	30,25 \$
		Single use – disposable non-biodegradable or not compostable			Maximum reduction 6 per cent of the reimbursement rate	Monthly rate (excluding factors with maximum environmental enhancement reduction)
		Dishes -2%	Glasses/cups -2%	Cutlery -2%		
-0,57 \$	-0,57 \$	-0,57 \$	-1,71 \$	26,83 \$		