

# pre-waste



## An Obligation for Reusable Containers for Food and Drink at Public Events in the Brussels Capital Region

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# Introduction

- Review existing obligations
- Consider the legality of an obligation in the Brussels Capital Region
- Develop proposal for an obligation
- Assess environmental, social and economic impacts
- Recommendations

# Existing Obligations - Scale

- **Munich**
  - Large scale public events that take place on land owned by the city, and retail spaces owned by the city.
- **Vienna**
  - Where more than 1,000 people can take part;
  - Where more than 500 people can take part in venues recognized as 'permanent' venues by the Viennese Government; and
  - Which are held on property owned by the Viennese Government.

# Existing Obligations - Items

- **Munich**
  - Disposable food and drink containers:
    - Paper plates, plastic cups, forks and knives; and
  - Packaging
    - Single-use cans, plastic or glass bottles
- **Vienna**
  - Drinks should be served from bulk containers where possible;
  - Cups/glasses must be reusable; and
  - Reusable tableware and cutlery must be used.

# Existing Obligations - Costs

- **Munich**
  - No formal appraisal of likely costs and benefits prior to implementation
  - No subsequent assessment of financial impacts
  - We just did it and it worked!
- **Vienna**
  - No quantification of financial costs, either *ex ante* or *ex post*

# Legal Considerations

## – Initial Review

- Such an obligation is not in conflict with EU law, or Belgian local or national provisions

## – Definition of an Event

- “A public event is an occurrence which is organized with a specific political, economic, commercial, cultural, social or similar purpose, at which persons may participate at their discretion, be it against payment for entry; the term includes fairs, regular markets and exhibitions”.

# Logistical Considerations – Monitoring & Enforcement

- At the event level
  - Random checks
  - Could be incorporated into wider health & safety checks
  - Smaller events more difficult
- At the level of the individual
  - Deposit refunds
  - Should at least cover the replacement cost of item
  - Branded items may need higher deposit

## Logistical Considerations – Schedule of Implementation

- Policy Instrument should give a clear, long term indication of expected actions
- Merit in phasing introduction of obligation
- Larger events first
  - Allows regulators to better understand costs
  - Allows smaller events to learn from larger events
- No *de minimis* threshold



# Possible Schedule of Implementation

Timescale	Action
Yr0 (12 months after the obligation has been incorporated into BCR law)	All events > 1000 attendees, permanent events >500 attendees, and all events on property owned by BCR included in obligation
Yr1	All events >500 attendees, permanent events >250 attendees, and all events on property owned by BCR included in obligation
Yr2	All events >250 attendees, permanent events >100 attendees and all events on property owned by BCR included in obligation
Yr3	All public events included in obligation

# Logistical Considerations - Licensing

- Standards
  - Social impacts
    - Long-term unemployed
    - Reformed prisoners
- Framework contract
  - Several licensed providers for a fixed period of time. Competition *within* the market
  - Sole provider. Competition *for* the market
- General certification

## Environmental Impacts

- The literature has focused on cups
- Reported trip rates for cups varies greatly, but the view that reusable cups outperform single-use cups prevails
- Less information on crockery and cutlery
  - Studies show reusable plates can outperform single-use plates in the context of a cafeteria.
- The evidence on crockery and cutlery is less clear

## Social Impacts

- Very little data available on employment levels associated with reusable hire
- Much will depend on the way in which BCR issues licenses to firms for the right to rent reusable items
  - Young offenders
  - People with learning difficulties
- Likely to lead to a net increase in local employment (i.e. within BCR)

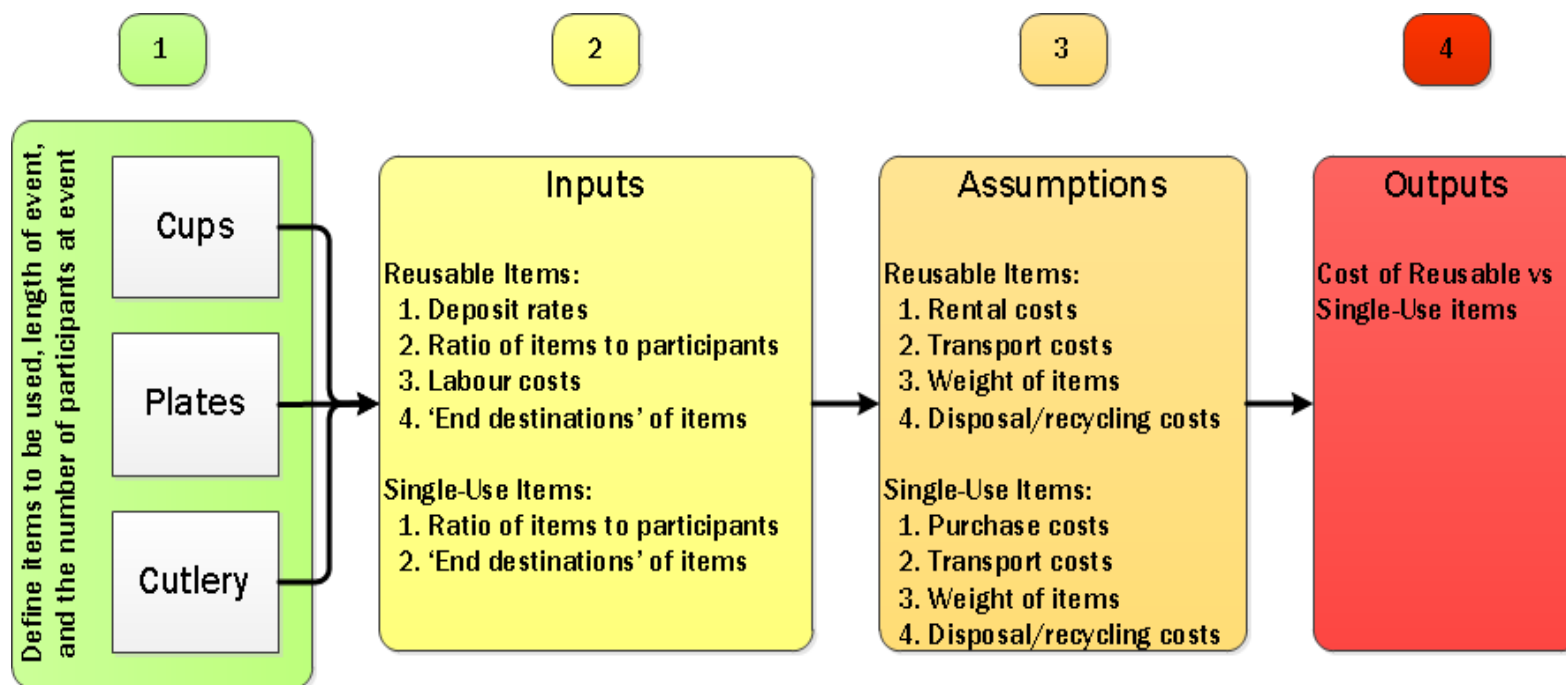
## Economic Impacts

- Munich and Vienna have no record of the number of events that take place
- The same is true for the Brussels Capital Region
- Therefore, costs are modeled from the perspective of an event organiser
- Comparing reusable items against single-use items

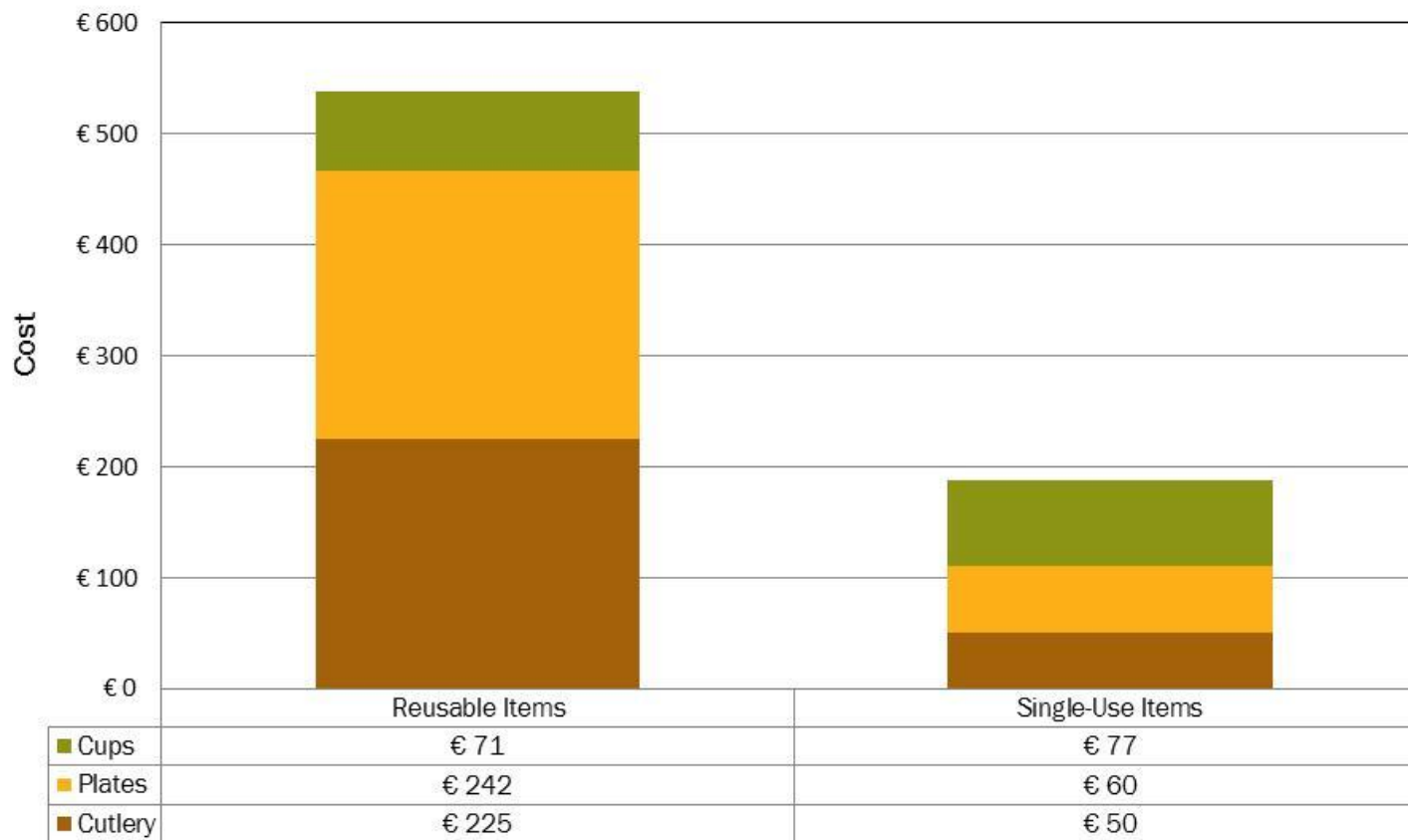
# Cost Model - Items

	Reusable Items	Single-Use Item
Cups	300 ml transparent reusable cups with no handles	300ml transparent PLA cups with no handles
Plates	24cm/26cm porcelain plates	24cm/26cm paper plates
Cutlery	Steel knives, forks and spoons	Wooden/PLA knives, forks and spoons

# Cost Model – Calculation Steps

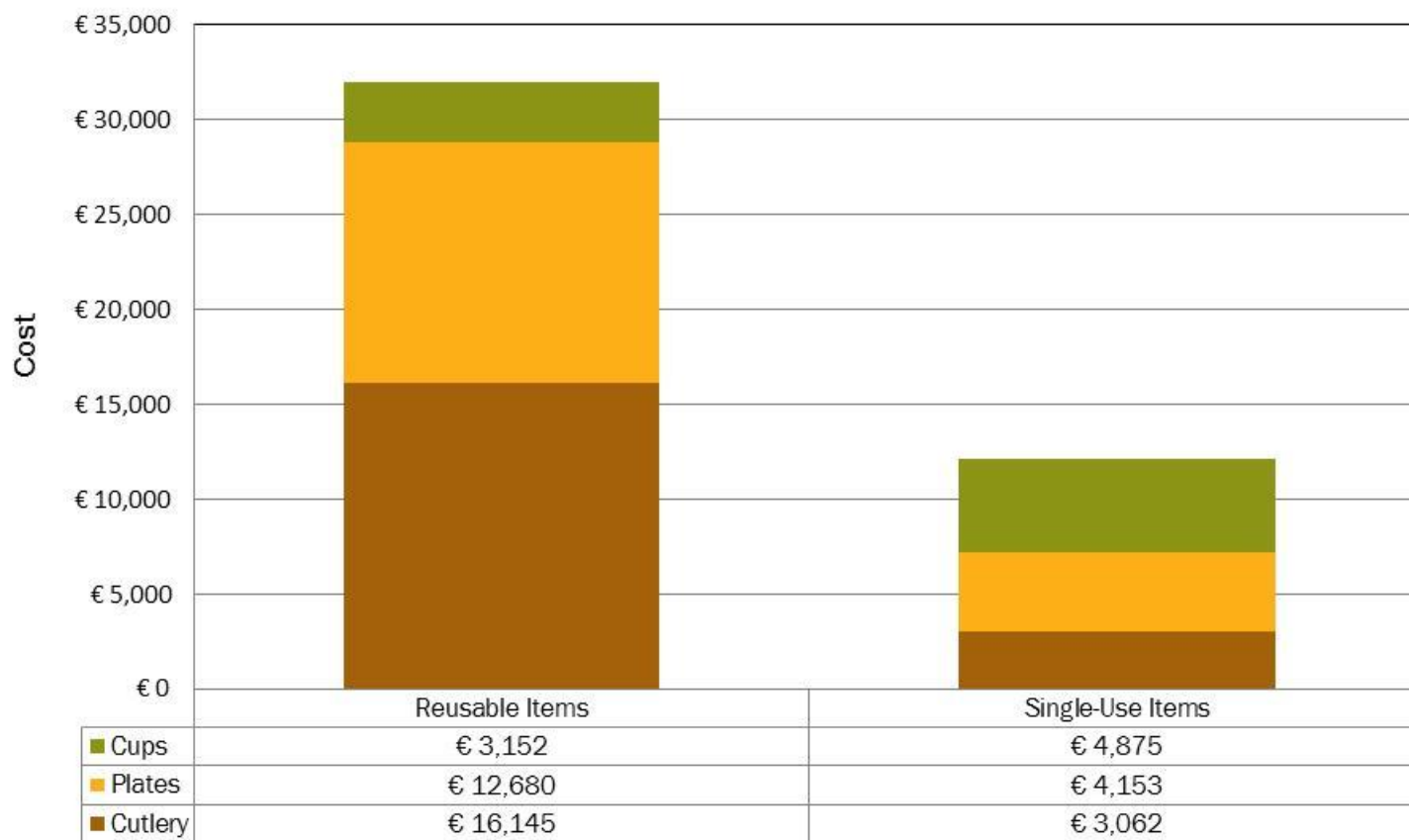


# Relative Costs – 500 Participants

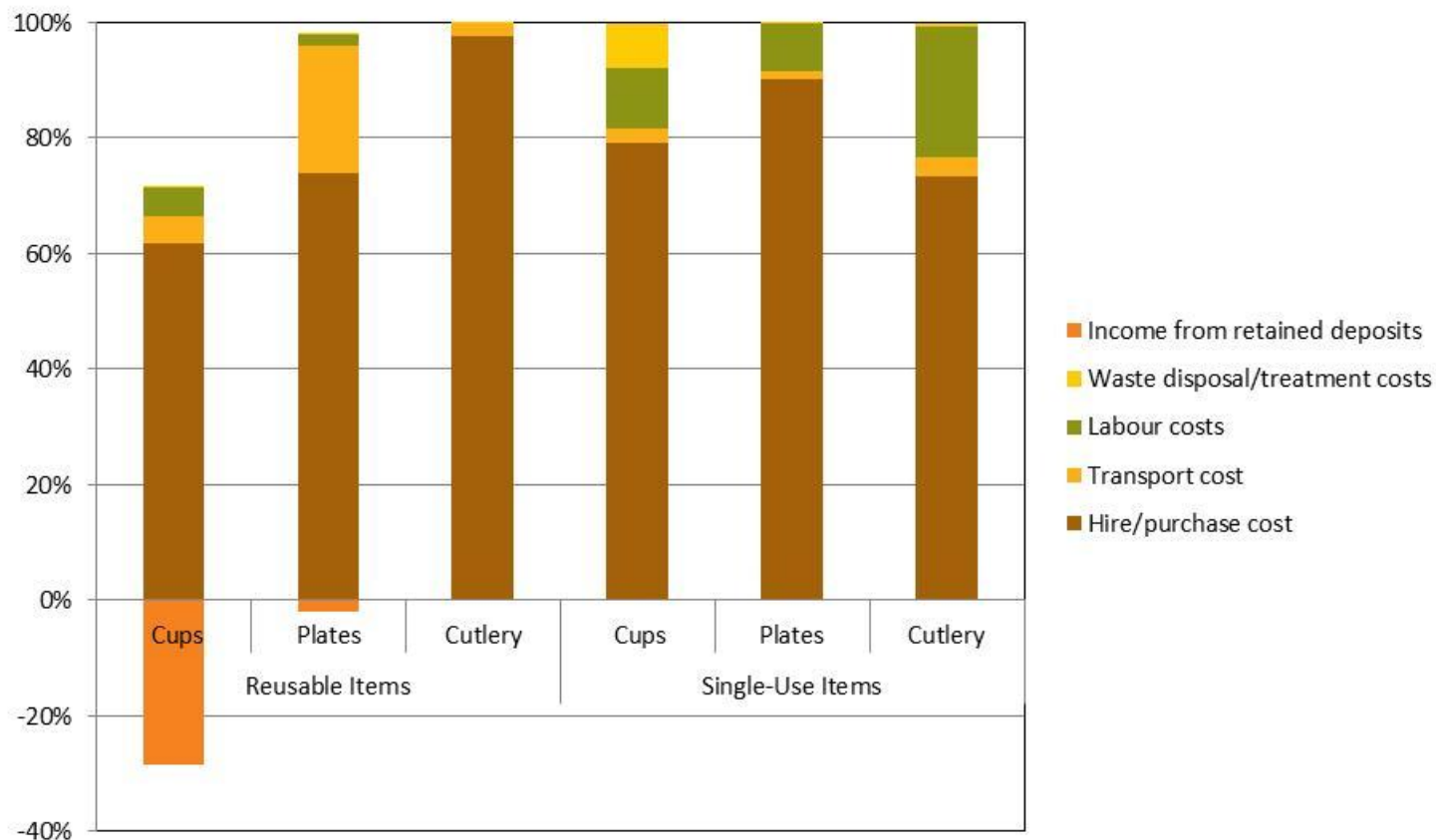




# Relative Costs – 50,000 Participants



# Proportional Breakdown of Costs



# Sensitivities

- Rates of littering
  - Very little impact on overall costs
- Retained deposits
  - More significant impact – lower return rates increase revenue to event organiser
- On site dishwashers
  - Increase the cost-effectiveness of reusable cutlery and crockery, but still more expensive than single-use
- Use of bulk containers
  - Saves money and reduces waste

## Recommended Obligation

- Solely for reusable cups in the first instance
- The use of bulk containers for beverages e.g. barrels of beer
- Potential for other items to be included when justified on environmental grounds
- Should encourage rental firms to innovate to reduce environmental impact and costs

## Extent of Obligation

- On property managed by Brussels Environment including regional parks;
- On property owned by the Brussels Capital Region including regional roads;
- On other public property, owned by municipalities including schools, municipal parks and roads;
- At public events held on private property, such as conference centres, concert halls, theatres and sports stadiums; and
- At temporary points of sale on either public or private property (including regular markets) (although likely constrained by scale, unless on land owned by BCR).

## Event Scale

- In the first instance:
  - All events where attendance will be greater than 1000;
  - All events at permanent venues (typically indoor events although this will include sports stadiums) where attendance will be greater than 500
  - At all events on property owned by the Brussels Capital Region Government

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# Cumulative Savings

Event Size (Number of attendees)	Net cost of reusable cups (€)	Net cost of single-use cups (€)	Saving Relative to Single-use Cups	% Saving Relative to Single-use Cups
500	71	77	6	7.8%
3000	308	382	74	19.4%
50,000	3152	4875	1723	35.3%

Event Size (Number of attendees)	Number of Events per annum	Total Saving (€/annum)
500	500	3,000
3000	50	3,700
50,000	10	17,230
<b>Total Saving</b>		<b>€ 23,930</b>



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