

Rome, 15 December 2014

Dear President Juncker,

it is our understanding that the EU Circular Economy package is to be axed by the European Commission from its 2015 Work Programme.

Since their adoption in July 2014, many stakeholders, including industry, NGOs and municipalities have expressed their support for the proposals whilst fully recognizing that a full democratic and reasoned debate is necessary on aspects of the package.

For many years European industry has invested time and resources in R&D in order to create an environmental sustainable system which could lead to a new, and more efficient, business model.

Supporting the package...

- boosts recycling preventing the loss of valuable materials. According to recent [statistics](#), in Europe we use 16 tons of material per person per year, of which 6 tons become waste. Europe has improved in its waste management, but it is also true that a significant amount of potential “secondary raw materials” such as metals, wood, glass, paper, plastics goes to landfill; just in terms of household waste, each person in Europe is currently producing, on average, half of tons of such waste. Only 40 % of it is reused or recycled and in some countries more than 80% still goes to landfill;
- helps reducing greenhouse emissions and environmental impacts. More than 20 years, this is the range of time that the EU took to reduce its greenhouse emissions. Thanks to serious regulatory frameworks, taken at European level and by Member States, Europe is going straight ahead in order to meet its goals on the issue. Nowadays only 10% of the greenhouse gases emitted worldwide in 2012 come from the European Union;
- creates jobs and economic growth. 180.000 new jobs could be created, if we continue to move towards the goals already set up. With the package we can adequate workers’ skills to industrial change guiding a labour market transition, and strengthening governance and partnership-based initiatives;
- shows how new business models, eco-design and industrial symbiosis can move us towards zero-waste. Such a model can bring net savings for EU businesses up to 600 billion euros and reduce Europe’s demand for and dependency from costly scarce resources from outside the continent.



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These are the main reasons why there is a very broad consensus in Europe that the Circular Economy package offers huge potential for green job creation, resource security, environmental protection and economic growth.

Particularly, the requirement to establish an EU-wide mandatory separate collection and ban on the landfilling of bio-waste recognizes the environmental and economic value of the recovery and re-introduction in biological and economic cycles of the organic matter.

Therefore we respectfully ask you today to retain the Circular Economy package for the long term benefit to Europe's environment, economy and competitiveness.

The President