

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 26. 11. 2015
C(2015) 8306 final

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Houses of the Oireachtas for their Opinion on food waste and has taken note of their support for the measures recently proposed by the House of Lords and 15 other chambers to address this important issue.

Tackling food waste, which has both economic and environmental costs, will require concerted efforts at many levels. The Commission, for its part, is working to bring forward an ambitious circular economy package before the end of the year.

The Houses of the Oireachtas will find enclosed a copy of the Commission's reply to the joint Opinion of the 16 national parliamentary chambers.

The Commission hopes that the Houses of the Oireachtas find the clarifications provided in this reply useful and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Vytenis Andriukaitis
Member of the Commission*

Encl.: Copy of the Commission's reply to the Opinion of 16 national parliamentary chambers on food waste.

*Mr Seán BARRETT T.D.
President of Dáil Éireann
Houses of the Oireachtas
Leinster House
Kildare Street
IRL – DUBLIN 2*

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.11.2015
C(2015) 7982 final

Dear Presidents, dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the 16 chambers that are signatories for their Opinion on food waste and has taken note of their invitation to the Commission to adopt a more strategic approach to the reduction of food waste in the EU when it comes forward with a circular economy package.

As the Commission stated at the July meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC in Luxembourg, if Europe is to be successful in the future, it needs to move to a truly circular economy and to do so faster than its competitors elsewhere in the world. In order to facilitate this transition, we must ensure that we have the right legal environment in place and this is why the Commission is working hard on an ambitious circular economy package to be adopted later this year.

*Ms Tsetska TSACHEVA
President of the Narodno Sabranie*

*Ms Ināra MŪRNIECE
President of the Saeima*

*Mr Josip LEKO
President of the Hrvatski sabor*

*Ms Loreta GRAUŽINIENĖ
President of the Seimas*

*Mr Yiannakis OMIROU
President of the Vouli ton Antiprosopon*

*Mr Mars DI BARTOLOMEO
President of the Chambre des Députés*

*Mr Jan HAMÁČEK
President of the Poslanecká sněmovna*

*Mr Anglu FARRUGIA
President of the Kamra tad-Deputati*

*Mr Claude BARTOLONE
President of the Assemblée nationale*

*Ms Anouchka VAN MILTENBURG
President of the Tweede Kamer*

*Mr Gérard LARCHER
President of the Sénat*

*Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President of the Assembleia da República*

*Mr László KÖVÉR
President of the Országgyűlés*

*Mr Peter PELLEGRINI
President of the Národná Rada*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica*

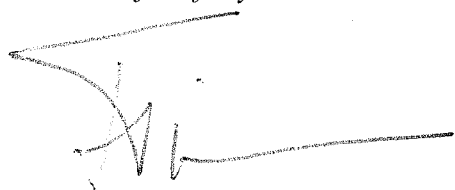
*The Lord BOSWELL OF AYNHO
Chair of the House of Lords European Union
Select Committee*

The Commission appreciates the chambers' highlighting of areas for policy development to support food waste reduction in the EU. The Commission indeed considers this as an integral part of the circular economy and one which requires action at all levels; national and local levels will also be key to ensuring that concrete progress is made.

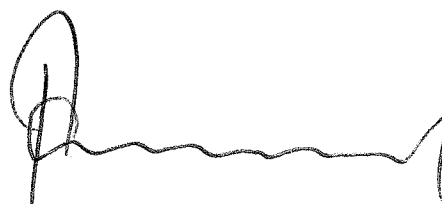
The Commission has been working with stakeholders and Member States to identify the most appropriate actions at EU level to fight food waste¹ without compromising on food safety and building on actions taken by Member States. The Commission recognises that food waste is associated with impacts in terms of water and land resource use, biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to broader social and economic impacts. As the circular economy package is under preparation and has yet to be discussed by the College, it is not possible at this stage to comment on specific initiatives that may form part of it. We would like to reassure you, however, that the Commission will pay particular attention to your suggestions in developing its action plan including on food donation and on data collection and monitoring. The Commission will also take into account the comments it received from a wide range of stakeholders in the context of the public consultation which closed on 20 August 2015.

In closing, the Commission would again like to thank the chambers for their contribution on this important matter which it views as a clear demonstration of their readiness to contribute in a proactive and constructive manner to the policy debate at EU level. As you are aware, in the past year we have stepped up the Commission's engagement and dialogue with national Parliaments, both in terms of meetings and exchanges of view with parliamentary committees, and by a renewed commitment to the political dialogue on draft proposals. We plan to build on this further in 2016 with further steps to ensure that national Parliaments have a strong voice in European policy-making, as was set out in the Commission Work Programme for 2016.

Yours faithfully,



*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*



*Vytenis Andriukaitis
Member of the Commission*

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/stop/index_en.htm