



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 23.10.2012
C(2012) 7452 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank you for the Bundesrat's Opinion on the Proposal for a Council Directive amending Annex I to European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste {COM(2012) 141 final}. It takes particular note of the comments raised in relation to the issue of plastic carrier bags.

As you may know, the Commission is currently assessing various options to reduce the use of single-use plastic carrier bags. The options under consideration include voluntary action, the use of pricing instruments and the introduction of a reduction target. In accordance with standard Commission practice, all potential environmental, economic and social costs and benefits of these options are being comprehensively considered in this assessment. Existing experiences in various Member States and across the world will also be analysed in this context, as will be questions related to possible alternatives to such bags.

A decision on a possible Commission initiative and its scope will be taken upon completion of this assessment process. National Parliaments will be duly informed about any decision taken in this regard.

I am looking forward to continuing our constructive political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr. Georg KEUSCHNIGG
President of the Bundesrat
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