



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11 VI 2014
C(2014) 3961 final*

Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Commission proposal for a Directive amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags {COM(2013) 761 final}.

The Commission welcomes the favourable opinion by the Senát on the proposal and takes note of the comments made.

With regard to the comment that the use of lightweight plastic carrier bags should not be prohibited completely and that the proposal should not apply to small bags used for packaging loose foods such as bakery products, fruit, vegetables and meat products, the Commission would like to clarify that the proposal aims at reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags and leaves the choice of the precise measures to Member States. The proposal applies to all lightweight plastic carrier bags because the Commission considers that there is scope to reduce the consumption of all these bags, while taking into account hygiene and food safety considerations. National measures may involve the use of economic instruments such as taxes and levies, as well as marketing restrictions, subject to the provisions in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council at which your government is represented.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the comments made by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our constructive political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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