



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 22.04.2015  
C(2015) 2546 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the Commission Communication "Towards a circular economy: a zero waste programme for Europe" {COM(2014) 398 final}. This Communication has been an important step in launching the circular economy debate in Europe.*

*The new Commission has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting the transition towards a resource-efficient, circular economy in Europe, which will have a major positive impact on jobs, growth, competitiveness and innovation. To make the circular economy a reality, its development is supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds and falls entirely within the scope of the strategic European investment fund recently proposed by the Commission under the new investment plan.*

*In line with its Work Programme for 2015, the Commission on 25 February 2015 withdrew the waste proposal in order to make way in 2015 for a more ambitious approach that can be more effective. While a revised waste proposal will take better account of the situation in the various Member States, as has also been requested by the Bundesrat, the broader approach to the circular economy wants to address all elements of the cycle, inter alia looking at supporting better product design and sustainable consumption on the one hand, and at facilitating the development of a market for recycled products and raw materials on the other hand.*

*The detailed Opinion of the Bundesrat provides an important contribution in this context and will be duly taken into account.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing our constructive dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Volker BOUFFIER  
President of the Bundesrat  
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