

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.12.2018  
C(2018) 8724 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Houses of the Oireachtas for their Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment {COM(2018) 340 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the overall support the Houses of the Oireachtas for this legislative proposal. The Commission believes that this proposal will contribute to an effective reduction of littering of plastics, in particular in the marine environment, fulfilling the objectives of the Plastics Strategy {COM(2018) 28 final} and respecting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.*

*The Commission is working with the European Parliament and the Council in order to reach an ambitious agreement on this proposal as soon as possible. After the Directive has entered into force, the Commission will start the necessary work for its quick implementation.*

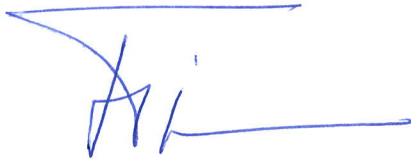
*Ms Hildegard NAUGHTON T.D.  
Chairman of the Joint Committee  
on Communications,  
Climate Action and Environment  
Houses of the Oireachtas  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
IRL – DUBLIN 2*

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

*Senator Denis O'DONOVAN  
President of the Seanad Éireann  
Houses of the Oireachtas  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
IRL – DUBLIN 2*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Houses of the Oireachtas.*

*Yours faithfully,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'F' followed by 'Timmermans' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karmenu Vella' in a cursive style.

*Karmenu Vella  
Member of the Commission*