



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 25.3.2014
C(2014) 1957 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica 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 Senato della Repubblica on the proposal and takes note of the comments relating to bags made of compostable plastic that comply with harmonised standard UNI EN 13432:2002.

With regard to the comments that these bags should be excluded from the definition of lightweight plastic carrier bags and that the proposal should also include as objective the replacement of lightweight plastic carrier bags by reusable bags or bags made of compostable plastic the Commission would like to offer the following clarifications.

As the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags results in high levels of littering and an inefficient use of resources and is expected to increase if no action is taken, the proposal covers all lightweight plastic carrier bags without discrimination.

Under the proposal the choice of the precise measures to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags is left to Member States. Such measures may involve the use of economic instruments such as taxes and levies, as well as marketing restrictions, subject to the requirements laid down in Articles 34 to 36 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the comment raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our constructive political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the
Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama, 1
IT – 00186 ROMA*