



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the Communication 'Towards a circular economy: A zero waste programme for Europe' {COM(2014) 398 final}.

The Commission welcomes the overall support of the Camera dei Deputati for the principles governing the Circular Economy package. Following the withdrawal of the initial proposals, a new package on the circular economy was adopted by the Commission on 2 December 2015 which covers the whole life cycle of products and materials and contains concrete, realistic, and ambitious actions that will be implemented during the mandate of this Commission.

There are many good reasons for moving away from our linear economic model that is extremely resource intensive. In a world where the population increases every day and huge demands are placed on land, water, food, raw materials and energy, we can no longer rely on a 'take, make, use and throw away' approach. A circular economy means switching to more durable, repairable, and resource-efficient products which minimise the generation of waste overall.

The Circular Economy package is a key contribution to the Commission's 10 priorities and to the broader agenda of the European Union for jobs and growth. It is also closely linked with our energy and climate policies and contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development adopted by the United Nations in September 2015.

As highlighted by the Camera dei Deputati, the transition to a more circular economy will require public and private investments. For this reason, the implementation of the Circular Economy package will also rely on support from EU funding programmes such as Horizon 2020 and the Cohesion Policy funds. Additionally, the Commission has been encouraging private funding through instruments such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments

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(EFSI) and is preparing a dedicated platform to mobilise financial intermediaries together with the European Investment Bank and national promotional banks. The legislative proposals on waste management should also reinforce economic incentives and implementing tools such as Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera dei Deputati and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella
Member of the Commission*