



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 29.04.2015
C(2015) 2834 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the 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. The development of the circular economy is supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds and falls entirely within the scope of the European Fund for Strategic Investment recently proposed by the Commission under the new investment plan. The Commission agrees with the Senato della Repubblica that turning waste into a resource represents a major challenge for the EU and further measures are needed to increase recycling, reduce landfilling, and address specific waste issues.

In line with its Work Programme for 2015, on 25 February the Commission 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, 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.

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the
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Piazza Madama, 1
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The detailed Opinion of the Senato della Repubblica 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*