

OPINION

of the Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Republic of Poland
on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste, COM(2015)594; the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, COM(2015)595 and the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, COM(2015)596,

adopted at the meeting of 29 January 2016

1. The Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Republic of Poland (FEUAC) welcomes the launch of work on the circular economy package, including the revision of the Directive on the landfill of waste, the Directive on waste, and the Directive on packaging and packaging waste. Although the FEUAC evaluates some of the proposed measures as positive, it considers that the proposals require significant changes in order to ensure that the texts finally adopted take into account the specificities of individual Member States and will in fact contribute to balanced implementation of the circular economy.
2. The FEUAC does not agree with the very restrictive limits on landfill of waste (reduction of the amount of landfilled municipal waste to 10% of total municipal waste by 2030, or the absolute ban on landfilling separately collected waste). The new requirements are much more restrictive than those set out in Directive 1999/31/EC, which will pose a significant difficulty in the implementation of the Directive.
3. The FEUAC is critical, among others, of: the change of scope of waste management plans and waste prevention programmes; the increase in levels of preparation of municipal waste for re-use and recycling by 2025 and 2030, combined with the change in the definition of municipal waste and the new methods for calculating these levels.
4. The FEUAC draws attention to the lacking definition of food waste and the lack of a uniform method at EU level for food wasting measurement, which makes it impossible for Member States to fulfil reporting requirements concerning, among others, a reduction of food waste.
5. The FEUAC underlines that imposing new reporting obligations is contrary to the curbing of administrative burdens announced by the Commission.
6. The provision obliging Member States to set up an independent body to supervise the fulfilment of obligations resulting from extended producer responsibility arouses doubts of the FEUAC, as it is unclear what the supervision by that body would consist of and what its tasks would be.
7. In the opinion of the FEUAC the new levels of preparation of packaging waste for re-use and recycling are unacceptable if applied in conjunction with the change in the methods of calculating these levels.
8. The FEUAC calls for extending the period for transposing the Directives to at least 24 months.
9. The FEUAC considers that the powers to adopt delegated acts conferred on the Commission by the proposals are too broad, which significantly restricts the participation of Member States in the decision-making process.