



Parliament of Romania
Senate

Bucharest, 2nd February 2016

Courtesy translation

OPINION

of the SENATE OF ROMANIA

on the Circular Economy Package

COM(2015)614 final - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy

COM(2015)593 final – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment

COM(2015)594 final – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste

COM(2015)595 final – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste

COM(2015)596 final – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste

Taking into account the report of the Committee for European Affairs no. LXII/15/27.01.2016, the plenum of the Senate, during its session of 2nd February 2016, has decided the following:

(1) Notes that:

- a) The new package follows a more integrated approach, with the support of measures from the action Plan;
- b) Targets are balanced and coherent and take into account in general of the situation from the Member States;
- c) The extended use of economic instruments is promoted;
- d) The prevention measures of generating waste are increased;
- e) The calculating methods are simplified;
- f) The legislative proposals are in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality;

g) For Romania, this field is particularly important and complex. During the last years, efforts have been deployed to solve waste issues. Romania remains committed to further promoting projects that provide integrated management and waste hierarchy;

h) Romania supports the main objective of the Circular Economy Package, to stimulate development of new markets and business models in order to develop the economy and create new jobs;

i) The transition towards a circular economy will allow restructuring the economy and improving European competitiveness by reducing consumption of raw materials, sustainable resource use and waste valorisation by transforming them into products;

j) Regarding the ambitious targets proposed for reducing the amount of generated waste in order to develop a circular economy, it is appreciated that the current package responds, in general, to some specific requests from some Member States, including Romania, in the context of the first package (adopted by the Commission Barroso II and withdrawn by the Commission Juncker), namely that the proposed recycling and storage targets for municipal waste take into account the different points of departure/circumstances of the Member States.

(2) It is recommended:

a) For **COM(2015)595 final** – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste and **COM(2015)594 final** – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste:

i) It is appreciated that the overall approach of proposals addresses synergies with other policies and does not focus solely on the final stage of the life cycle of a product, when it becomes waste. The Action Plan covers five types of priority actions addressing production, consumption, innovation and investment, waste management and creating waste market for secondary raw materials;

ii) Proposals on definitions have to be carefully analyzed:

- of municipal waste,
- of biodegradable waste,
- method of calculation

iii) In conclusion, it is considered that, consultations will have to be ample.

b) As for **COM(2015)594 final** – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste and **COM(2015)596 final** – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste:

i) Definitions of terms would be more correct to correlate with the current Directive proposal 2008/98/EC than with the variant proposed by the Commission;

ii) It is appreciated that the targets for recycling and preparing for re-use of municipal waste (60% in 2025 and 65% in 2030) and of packaging waste (with no specific targets yet), to reduce municipal waste disposal up to maximum 10% in 2030 will further remain a challenge, although for the latter Romania is included in the group of Member States that will benefit from the exemptions.

c) Referring to **COM(2015)593 final** – Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment:

i) It is proposed that while amending Directive 2006/66/EC to be as well contained the **amendment of Art. 10 (3): "Member States shall monitor ..., Member States shall transmit reports to the Commission within 18 months of the end of the year..."**

It is very important, from the perspective of Romania, that the proposal take into account the national circumstances of the Member States, this being important for improving the implementation of waste policy.

p. President of the Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MITU', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Augustin-Constantin MITU