



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 10.12.2020
C(2020) 8899 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on A new Circular Economy Action Plan: for a cleaner and more competitive Europe {COM(2020) 98 final}.

The Commission takes note of the views expressed and appreciates the support of the Camera Deputaților in achieving a regenerative and sustainable model for growth and in developing a coherent and robust monitoring framework. The Commission adopted in 2018 a framework of indicators to monitor the transition to a circular economy at EU and Member State level. It is planning to update it in 2021 to reflect new policy priorities and include further indicators on resource use, including consumption and material footprints.

The Commission takes note of the importance of EU-wide initiatives to foster education and skills in a circular economy and is committed to facilitating the creation of sustainable jobs that contribute to the social economy, notably through the review of the Pact for the Skill Agenda. The Commission also appreciates the support of the Camera Deputaților on the role of urban areas to foster the transition towards a circular economy and their contribution to a sustainable built environment. The Commission has recently adopted the Renovation Wave, and cities will have a key role to play in making a success of this initiative.

The Commission will ensure that the actions of the action plan are implemented in accordance with the better regulation principles and in synergy with other policy areas, namely digitalisation, industrial policy and climate action.

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The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Virginijus Sinkevičius
Member of the Commission*

ANNEX

The Commission has carefully considered each of the issues raised by Camera Deputaților in its Opinion, and is pleased to offer the following clarifications.

Further development of a robust monitoring framework

The Commission adopted in 2018 a framework of indicators to monitor the transition to a circular economy at EU and Member State level and plans updating it in 2021 to include new indicators. These could take into account the interlinkages between circularity, climate neutrality and the zero pollution ambition. In particular, indicators on resource use will also be further developed and will be linked to monitoring and assessing the progress towards decoupling economic growth from resource use and its impacts in the EU and beyond.

Concerns about the European Commission's ambition to provide guidance in order to achieve high levels of separate collection of textile waste, which Member States must ensure by 2025

Actual separate collection of used textile products across the EU is not known and reporting collection is mandatory only in those Member States where collection of used textiles is defined as waste collection. The Waste Framework Directive in article 11.2 stipulates that EU Member States must establish systems for the separate collection of textiles by 1 January 2025. In light of this, the Commission will prepare guidelines to assist and facilitate Member States in implementing the separate collection of textiles.

Encourage non-formal scientific and technical education

The Circular Economy Action Plan states that instruments already in place in support of skills and job creation will also contribute to the transition. In particular, in the context of updating its Skills Agenda, launching a Pact for Skills with large-scale multi-stakeholder partnerships, and the Action Plan for Social Economy. In addition, further investment in education and training systems, lifelong learning, and social innovation will be promoted under the European Social Fund Plus. The Commission will also continue supporting successful experiences that promote citizens awareness and education on new ways of consumption and production, such as the European Week for Waste Reduction.

Exploitation of the European Data Space for smart applications in the circular economy

The data space for smart circular applications is part of a broader European strategy on data. This strategy aims to create a common European data space where personal as well as non-personal data, including sensitive business data, are secure and can flow within the EU and across sectors, in full respect of EU values and rules (i.e. EU data protection legislation).

The first priority of this strategy is to put in place an enabling legislative framework for the governance of common European data spaces. Such governance structures should support decisions on what data can be used in which situations, facilitate cross-border

data use, and prioritise interoperability requirements and standards within and across sectors, while taking into account the specific needs on different sectors. The Commission also works to ensure that rules for data access and reuse are clear, fair and practical. For that reason, and among other initiatives, the Commission will explore the need for legislative action on issues that affect relations between actors in the data-agile economy in a Data Act (in 2021). Together with other issues related to data access and reuse, the Data Act would aim to support business-to-business data sharing, in particular addressing issues related to usage rights for co-generated data (such as Internet of Things data in industrial settings).