



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.7.2018  
C(2018) 4170 final*

*Dear Presidents,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships, repealing Directive 2000/59/EC and amending Directive 2009/16/EC and Directive 2010/65/EU {COM(2018) 33 final}.*

*This proposal aims to reduce discharges of waste from ships at sea by ensuring the availability and use of adequate waste reception facilities in ports. It forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to promote the Circular Economy. Addressing the problem of marine litter is a priority for the Commission and this proposal should make a significant contribution to reducing the sea-based sources of marine litter.*

*In response to the questions around the added value of the proposed Directive, in view of the existing international system provided by the MARPOL Convention, the Commission would like to emphasise that the Directive aims for effective monitoring and control of the international norms through the legal system of the European Union. By providing for a harmonised system of waste reception and handling plans, cost recovery and inspections, the proposed Directive seeks to ensure compliance with the MARPOL discharge norms and requirements for adequate port reception facilities in all ports of the European Union.*

*Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Cortes Generales in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

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First Vice-President*

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