



The Hague, 7 September 2020
RA/LN/HvS/EP20-086

Subject: Latest draft guidance Single Use Plastics Directive

Dear Permanent Representative,

We write further to previous correspondence to express our deep concern that the latest draft guidance covering the Single Use Plastics Directive does not meet Europe's Better Regulation Agenda and will not provide the legal certainty required by business.

In particular, the newly inserted reference excluding a de minimis threshold would not respect the principle of proportionality as the legal note attached by Van Bael and Bellis underlines it.

This would be an attempt to reduce Member States' ability to implement the Directive in ways to achieve a rapid and efficient plastic consumption reduction in beverage cups and containers. In the case of cups, this reduction in plastic content is 90% by using paper rather than plastic.

We therefore recommend that the Commission should remove this sentence.

We would also highlight issues related to the three following topics included the current draft and document:

- In their current wording, guidance around single-portion food servings will be too complex for both Member States and business to implement, resulting in moving to larger portion size, which is environmentally damaging.

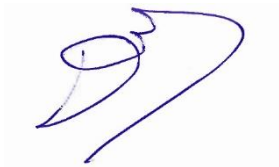
- The reporting system to measure consumption reduction is currently too complex to be implemented by Member States. We believe this is made more burdensome than necessary because of the focus on items rather than polymeric content.
- It appears from the consultants' report that the paper industry may be penalized by investing in alternatives to plastic lids. The consultants' comment could be read as giving the impression that fiber or paper lids are to be treated as single-use plastic items, which they are not. We do not believe this to be the case but would be grateful for your review.

We urge you to support practical and proportionate guidance, avoiding the current wording resulting in an estimated loss for Europe's paper industry alone of over 720 million euros and 6 500 jobs.

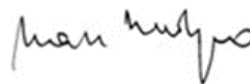
Further to the 50,000 employees in the paper packaging sector, the restrictions provided in the Directive will significantly affect the out-of-home industry (the European Foodservice sector, which is worth around 335 billion euros and employs over 8 million workers) and its upstream supply chain – the agri-food industry. The global impacts are likely to run into several hundred thousand employees.

We remain at your disposal should you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,



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President Alliance Gobelet Carton



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Mr. Maurizio D'Adda
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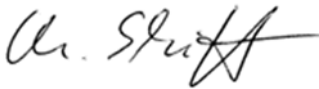
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