



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Circular Economy  
From Waste to Resources

Brussels  
ENV.B.3/DB/sd

Francesca Stevens  
By email:  
<francesca.stevens@europa.eu>

Dear Mrs Stevens,

Thank you for your letter to President Von der Leyen and Commissioners conveying the views of a number of stakeholders across the packaging value chain on the review of the EU rules on packaging and packaging waste.

Let me assure you that the Commission acknowledges the economic importance of the packaging value chain and the sector's commitment to the Green Deal objectives. Your concerns have been taken into due consideration in the process of developing the Commission proposal for a Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste adopted on 30 November<sup>1</sup>, to replace the current Directive 94/62/EC.

The proposal delivers on the objectives of the Circular Economy Action Plan, responds to societal expectations as regards the sustainability of packaging and will foster innovation of the packaging sector. It is well balanced and comes with clear definitions and requirements to improve on market failures identified in its comprehensive impact assessment<sup>2</sup>. With this proposal, for the first time, the Commission proposes specific targets and measures on waste prevention and reuse fully aligned with the waste hierarchy and the principles of the circular economy.

Please let me stress here that the proposal for the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation is about stimulating improvements both in reuse *and* recycling, leading to an optimised coexistence of both and maximising environmental and economic performance. The proposed reuse targets for selected sectors are part of an overall framework with supporting measures to make reuse more efficient. This framework includes requirements for reuse and refill systems, standardisation of reusable packaging formats, and clear definitions relating to reusable packaging. The gradual phase-in of the new rules will ensure predictability and adequate time for the sector to adjust.

Let me also mention that the proposal reinforces provisions on the separate collection of packaging, including through a harmonised labelling for consumer information at this respect, and allows the economic operators to implement and operate separate collection systems.

---

(<sup>1</sup>) [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-packaging-and-packaging-waste\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-packaging-and-packaging-waste_en)

(<sup>2</sup>) see (1), SWD(2022) 385 final, SWD(2022) 385 final PART 1 / 2 and PART 2/2

The proposal will now be considered by the European Parliament and the Council, in the ordinary legislative procedure. There is a possibility to provide feedback for a period of 8 weeks from adoption, in line with the Commission's Better Regulation Guidelines under the following link: [Reducing packaging waste – review of rules \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e300042/1/68012022001_en.pdf).

Thank you for your valuable contributions to our work on the development of EU legislation. The Commission is fully committed to making the EU a circular economy that benefits citizens, businesses and the environment.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)  
Mattia PELLEGRINI  
Head of Unit