



Brussels, 17.11.2017

To the Minister for the Environment

Re: Final steps for more ambitious EU waste legislation – your help is needed

Dear Minister for the Environment,

The final stage of the negotiations within the European Council's Working Party on the Environment regarding amendments to the EU Waste Directives is fast approaching. We, the undersigned European-wide civil society organisations, are calling on all national Ministries to urgently support ambitious measures in three key areas: higher recycling targets; action on tackling marine litter; and action to curb food wastage.

We actively support the ambitions of better resource and waste management in the EU and the move towards a circular society. However, we are concerned about the obstructing position of the Council, undermining the negotiations of the Waste Directives as well as job creation and environmental progress in the EU.

As the fifth trilogue negotiation approaches, we call on your government to support the following three key measures in the Council's mandate for the Trilogue of 27th November 2017:

- **Higher targets for preparation for reuse and recycling, and mandatory separate collection:** In order to gain the maximum benefits of resource savings and job creation, it is essential to support a target of 70% of municipal solid waste to be prepared for reuse and recycled by 2030. Countless European countries and municipalities have shown this is possible to achieve. In addition, a key legislative step to reach this target is to remove loopholes around compulsory separate collection;
- **Tackling marine litter:** Include a Union marine litter reduction target of 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030 for the ten most common types of litter found on beaches, as well as for fishing gear found at sea, with the list adapted to each of the four marine regions in the EU.

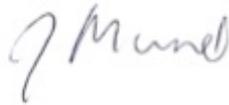
- **Curbing food wastage:** Include a Union food waste reduction target of 30% by 2025 and of 50% by 2030, from farm to fork. In parallel, introduce a review clause calling on the European Commission to propose a binding by 2020 once baseline data and a clear methodology are available, and support the introduction of a food waste hierarchy.

Please find attached supporting documents that expand on these positions and do not hesitate to contact us for further information and discussion.

Best regards,



Jeremy Wates
Secretary General
European Environmental
Bureau



Jagoda Munic
Director
Friends of the Earth
Europe



Monica Verbeek
Executive Director
Seas At Risk



Joan Marc Simon
Executive Director
Zero Waste Europe



Mary Rice
Executive Director
Environmental Investigation Agency



Mickey Reedy
Director
This is Rubbish



Jacques Beall
Vice President
Surfrider Foundation Europe