



Press Release

Brussels 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

### European Commission publishes new Circular Economy proposal

Yesterday (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>) the European Commission published its long awaited Circular Economy package, following the withdrawal of a previous proposal at the beginning of 2015. When withdrawing the previous proposal, the European Commission promised that it would deliver a *'more ambitious'* proposal before the end of 2015. Whilst EuPC welcomes this new package and many of the initiatives contained in the four legislative proposals (on Waste Framework Directive, Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive, Landfill Directive, and WEEE), EuPC regrets the level of ambition and legal clarity contained in the package.

The proposal leaves a lot to be desired for Europe in its attempted move towards a more circular economy. Speaking on the proposal, EuPC Managing Director Alexandre Dangis stated *"EuPC was hoping for more clarity and harmonisation of the EU waste acquis across EU 28 Member States, however, we fail to see how this package is 'more ambitious', as promised by the Commission in early 2015, when we look at proposed provisions on a recycling calculation methodology, actual recycling targets, landfilling, EPR schemes and end-of-waste criteria."*

The proposal needs more clarity on the difference between recycling and reuse and the calculation methodology remains very ambiguous. Instead of pursuing an eventual landfill ban for recyclables by 2025, as supported by EuPC, the Commission proposes a 90% reduction in landfilling of municipal waste by 2030.

The proposal also includes economic incentives for producers to put greener products on the market and support recovery and recycling schemes. Speaking on this, Dangis added that *"plastics converters are constantly innovating to produce more sustainable products and are working on increasing the recovery and recycling of their products in the building and construction sector, packaging sector, automotive and many more."*

The package will now be sent to the European Parliament and the Council for scrutiny and both institutions will carry out work on their positions in the first quarter of 2016. EuPC will continue advocating its priority points to these institutions as follows:

- Zero recyclable plastics to landfill by 2025
- A harmonized calculation methodology for recycling targets
- Ambitious targets for recycling (actual recycling and not collection for recycling)
- EU standard on quality of plastics packaging bales and an end-of-waste criteria for plastics.