

Statement on food waste in Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC

The estimated 88 million tonnes of food wasted across the European Union each year represents a massive waste of planetary resources, demonstrates inefficiencies in the market and runs counter to the tenets of a truly circular economy.

At the present time the EU has a unique opportunity to tackle the issue of food waste and help Europe lead the world in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 through amending the Waste Directive as part of the Circular Economy Package (CEP).

We, the undersigned, support the below proposals, and call on the European Parliament, Council and Commission to support these proposals for a more ambitious Circular Economy Package (CEP):

- 1) The CEP to introduce a clear definition of food waste which includes food wasted at the level of primary production, and develop a methodology for measuring it by 31 December 2017. A clear timeline be introduced to measure and baseline food waste farm-to-fork by 2020.
- 2) The CEP to establish a specific food waste hierarchy, rather than relying on a generic waste hierarchy
- 3) The CEP food waste reduction target of 50% by 2030 to be specified as farm-to-fork. This means that it should include not just retailer and consumer food waste, but also food wasted at the primary production, manufacturing and distribution levels.
- 4) The CEP food waste reduction target of 50% by 2030 to be binding at Member State level rather than a voluntary aim.

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