



Model letter to Jean-Claude Juncker, Frans Timmermans, and Karmenu Vella, asking them not to withdraw the Circular Economy package.

Dear Jean-Claude Juncker/Frans Timmermans/Karmenu Vella,

I am writing to you, as a European citizen, to ask you not to withdraw the Circular Economy Package. The package represents a progressive step to reduce our resource consumption and our negative impact on Earth, holding within it the potential to benefit both the planet, and European citizens. Although the package is not perfect, it is a step in the right direction. Rather than scrapping the work done to date, it would be better to build on the good work already done.

The package would bring considerable environmental, economic and social benefits. Reducing landfill waste and increasing recycling rates is an important start for moving towards a circular economy. The package's targets for reducing waste would increase European well-being: reducing costs for businesses, creating jobs, and helping the environment.

Continuing work on the package would send a clear signal that policy-makers are beginning the transition to a circular economy, which would encourage innovation and investment amongst businesses. Withdrawing the package and re-tabling it only creates unnecessary uncertainty for innovative businesses and investors, as well as delaying the steps necessary to reduce the impact of European lifestyles on natural resources and sustainability.

The Circular Economy package represents a strong starting point for moving towards a Europe-wide circular economy. Improvements would include adding increased support for the reuse, maintenance, refurbishment and re-manufacturing sectors that will form an integral part of any circular economy and regulating the waste streams of certain sectors. It will also be crucial to include circular objectives (such as increasing durability, designing for easy disassembly, working on a cradle-to-cradle basis) in eco-design directives. Circular principles must be encouraged at all stages of products' life-cycles.

The best way to make these improvements would be to retain the package, and debate its contents in public, between the European Parliament, the European Council of Ministers, the European Commission, civil society organisations, and the public. Withdrawing the package only serves to delay its implementation, and reduce the transparency of the political process, lessening trust in the European Union. It may well be that the intention is to strengthen the package, but that does not require withdrawal, which only increases suspicion and uncertainty.

In short, I urge you - together with the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers - not to withdraw the Circular Economy Package. Rather, work to improve the policy through the democratic process together with the other European institutions in the public eye.

Yours sincerely,
