

PlasticsEurope
Association of Plastics Manufacturers

cepi confederation of
european paper industries

CEMBUREAU Association
Européenne
du Ciment
The European
Cement
Association

PLASTICS RECYCLERS EUROPE



CEWEP

ESWET

Mr Janez Potočnik
Environment Commissioner
European Commission
B – 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 24 April 2014

Dear Mr Potočnik,

In the current economic climate we support the European Commission's general approach to focus on existing environmental legislation, while updating it and making sure that it is fully and properly implemented instead of proposing new legislation. Additionally, we believe that there is an untapped potential to increase resource efficiency while at the same time foster growth and competitiveness in Europe.

The review of the Landfill Directive in 2014 will provide the opportunity to ban the landfilling of recyclable and recoverable waste by the end of the decade. While six EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland already landfill less than 10% of their municipal waste, many EU Member States continue to rely on landfilling.

One of the objectives of the 7th Environmental Action Programme for 2020 is to turn the European Union into a more resource-efficient economy by limiting landfilling "*to residual (i.e. non-recyclable and non-recoverable) waste*". The diverted waste should be treated in accordance with the waste hierarchy set out in the Waste Framework Directive: a goal which we fully support. We understand from recent statements, however, that while the European Commission is set to eradicate landfilling of recyclable and recoverable waste, it is uncertain at this stage if the ban should be enforced by 2020, 2025 or as late as 2030.

The signatories of this letter would like to remind the Commission that, from the experience in those countries which have already successfully phased out landfilling of valuable resources, there are good indications that only a ban will provide the legal certainty required for future investments in the necessary sorting, recycling and energy recovery infrastructure. Countries such as Germany, for example, have shown that it is possible to significantly reduce landfilling within a medium time frame. In addition, allowing Member States to continue to send these materials to landfill for the next 10 to 15 years would seem counterproductive to the aim outlined in the Waste Framework Directive, namely, that by 2015 Member States should have set up separate collection for at least paper, metal, glass and plastics.

We would like to thank you in advance for promoting the idea of a landfill ban on recyclable and recoverable waste as an essential element of the Commission's upcoming communication on the circular economy, and to maintain the 2020 target supported in the 7th Environmental Action Programme.

Yours sincerely,



Karl-H Foerster
Executive Director
PlasticsEurope



Teresa Presas
Managing Director
CEPI



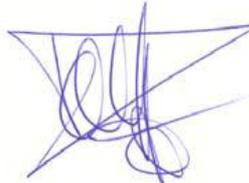
Koen Coppenholle
Chief Executive
Cembureau



Ella Stengler
Managing Director
CEWEP



Patrick Clerens
Secretary General
ESWET



Alexandre Dangis
Managing Director
EuPC



Ton Emans
President
Plastic Recyclers Europe

Cc: Ms Catherine Day, Secretary-General European Commission, Mr Antonio Tajani, Commissioner Industry & Entrepreneurship, Mr Calleja Crespo, DG Enterprise & Industry, Mr Karl Falkenberg, DG Environment, Mr Johannes Laitenberger, Cabinet Potočník