



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Department
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EU Waste Policy Review: Stakeholder Newsletter January 2015

Our first newsletter of 2015 follows an eventful December for the EU Waste Policy Review. As you are most likely already aware, the Commission have announced their intention to withdraw from their Work Programme for 2015 the waste proposals and replace them with more ambitious proposals to promote the Circular Economy.

At this time, there are no further details on likely content or timing, but we are keen to gain more clarity as soon as possible, and can hopefully bring you more information in due course.

Withdrawal of the Waste Legislative Package

In a speech to the European Parliament on the 16th December announcing the Commission's Work Programme for 2015, Commission Vice-President Timmermans announced the Commission's intention to withdraw the waste proposals from their work programme for 2015. He then announced the Commission's intention to bring forward broader and more ambitious proposals, focussing on the whole of the Circular Economy rather than simply waste, during 2015.

Last week, Defra and BIS representatives met with delegates from the Commission to try and learn more about the details of this withdrawal and the Commission's plans going forward. Commission officials were keen to convey that the withdrawal of the package has not yet been confirmed, and that the ongoing deliberations of the European Parliament could yet affect the decision of Commissioners, although no timetable for this decision was known. Commission officials are just starting to collect and reflect on what should now fall into the "other half of the circle" to meet Timmermans' brief.

The UK Government supported the Communication on the Circular Economy and remains committed to making better use of resources. We therefore look forward to working with the Commission, the European Parliament, and other Member States on a balanced package of proposals which has ambition, is evidence based and feasible for all Member States.

Stakeholder Engagement

In light of the above developments, we will postpone our next stakeholder meeting until we have a better sense of the Commission's plans, and how we can best feed into and respond to these using your input and expertise. However, we will continue to provide updates through these newsletters and other correspondence.

We will continue to bear in mind the valuable input we have had from all stakeholders to this point, both from our initial meeting in July and from your regular correspondence. Given the Commission's intentions to increase the ambition of their proposals, all your input to date, and more, will be vital in informing the UK position further down the line. We will update you as soon as we can on the process going forward.