

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Commission puts litter prevention on the map at EU level

*Litter prevention NGOs and charities welcome measures for litter prevention in the EU Circular Economy package*

**4 December 2015, Brussels:** The Clean Europe Network applauds the pioneering measures put forward by the European Commission to tackle litter prevention. These were made in the context of the new legislative proposals on waste released as part of the EU Circular Economy package. The Network brings together organisations from around Europe to share expertise and experience in preventing littering behaviour.

The waste proposals specifically recognise that: ***“Littering has direct detrimental impacts on the environment and the wellbeing of citizens, and high clean-up costs are an unnecessary economic burden for society. The introduction of specific measures in waste management plans and proper enforcement by competent authorities should help eradicate this problem.”***

The Clean Europe Network estimates that litter clean-up costs the taxpayer €11 to €13 billion annually in the EU, public money which could, in part at least, be better spent on other priorities. The wind and waterways carry litter all across the continent to the seas and the ocean. As 80% of marine litter comes from the land, the problem in our seas cannot be tackled realistically without stopping littering on the land. The Commission proposals presented on 2 December are thus a major step forward for litter prevention across the EU.

Derek Robertson, President of the Clean Europe Network and CEO of Keep Scotland Beautiful said: ***“The Commission has started a process at EU level which we believe will lead to a better sharing of responsibility for litter prevention among all stakeholders. The Clean Europe Network’s goal to achieve a litter free Europe by 2030 is a step closer today. The Commission is giving impetus to work that will make a difference to the everyday lives of hundreds of millions of Europeans. Given our unique reach to citizens concerned with litter across Europe, the members of the Clean Europe Network are eager to assist national governments, public agencies and industry bodies to develop meaningful action plans and long term strategies that will engage the public and deliver positive change to the littering behaviour of many millions of people across Europe.”***

If adopted, ***the legislation will require national governments to develop a litter prevention strategy in their national waste management plans.*** The latter must be prepared periodically and shared with Brussels. From now on, these national plans will need to ***combat all forms of littering and clean-up all types of litter*** (that could include, for example, tobacco waste, chewing gum, packaging, newspapers and magazines, tissue paper, and others). ***The legislation will also require EU member states to implement proper enforcement and penalties.*** ***The proposals require producers to take on the communication of litter prevention information to citizens.*** This obligation would be implemented in practice via the so-called “producer

responsibility organisations” (set up at national level) to manage collectively the individual responsibility of companies to guarantee appropriate collection and waste management of end-of-life products.

-ENDS 04.12.2015-

## *Notes for Editors 1: About the Clean Europe Network*

The **Clean Europe Network** (the **Network**) is a pan-European platform where organizations active in the field of litter prevention share experience, expertise, best practice and research with a view to improving litter prevention across the EU. It aims to develop common programmes/methodologies in areas where there is added-value in a European approach. Work covers communications to stakeholder audiences (especially to citizens) to promote litter prevention; measurement and assessment of litter and littering; and, practical improvement of litter management. The **Network's** work programme is directly relevant to many priority objectives under **the EU's 7th Environmental Action Programme** (7EAP); to furtherance of **EU Waste policy**; and to the EU's overarching programme to become a **Resource Efficient Europe**.

### **For more information:**

Visit our website [here](#)

### **Clean Europe Network members include:**

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland (IR)  
AVPU - Association des Villes pour la Propreté Urbaine (FR)  
Der Gruene Punkt -Duales System Deutschland (DE)  
Håll Sverige Rent (SE)  
Hoia Eesti Merd (EE)  
Hold Denmark Rent (DK)  
IGSU (CH)  
Indevuilbak (Flanders/BE)  
Keep Baltic Tidy  
Keep Britain Tidy (England/UK)  
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (Northern Ireland/UK)  
Keep Scotland Beautiful (Scotland/UK)  
Keep Wales Tidy (Wales/UK)  
Nederland Schoon (NL)  
Paisaje Limpio (ES)  
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## Notes for Editors 2: What the Proposals Say

### Key references to litter/littering in the Proposed Amendments to the Waste Directive

#### ► *Page 11, Recital 25*

“**Littering** has direct detrimental impacts on the environment and the wellbeing of citizens, and high clean-up costs are an unnecessary economic burden for society. The introduction of specific measures in waste management plans and proper enforcement by competent authorities should help eradicate this problem.”

= sets up the rationale for binding litter/litter prevention measures at EU level

#### ► *Article 3 covers Waste Definitions*

*Page 13, Paragraph 1 is supplemented by a new paragraph 1a “municipal waste” means:*

“(a)...

(b)...

(c) **market cleansing waste and waste from street cleaning services, including street sweepings, the content of litter containers, waste from park and garden maintenance.**”

= defines for the first time litter as part of municipal waste at EU level

#### ► *Page 15, Article 8 is amended to include a new paragraph 5*

“ ‘5. The Commission shall organise an exchange of information between Member States and the actors involved in producer responsibility schemes on the practical implementation of the requirements defined in Article 8a and on best practices to ensure adequate governance and cross-border cooperation of extended producer responsibility schemes. This includes, inter alia, exchange of information on the organisational features and the monitoring of producer responsibility organisations, the selection of waste management operators and **the prevention of littering**. The Commission shall publish the results of the exchange of information.”

= litter prevention best practice exchange at EU level

#### ► *Page 15, a new Article 8a is inserted*

**General requirements for extended producer responsibility schemes:**

#### *Page 16, a new Article 8a, paragraph 2:*

“Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the waste holders targeted by the extended producer responsibility schemes established in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 1, are informed about the available waste collection systems and **the prevention of littering**. Member States shall also take measures to create incentives for the waste holders to take part in the separate collection systems in place, notably through economic incentives or regulations, when appropriate.”

= litter prevention communications become part of EPR schemes

► *Article 28 covers national Waste Management Plans*

*Page 22, Article 28, paragraph 3 is amended*

“3. Waste Management plans shall contain as appropriate and taking into account the geographical level and coverage of the planning area at least the following:

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*New paragraph 3(f)*

Measures to combat **all forms of littering and to clean up all types of litter**

**= litter prevention strategies required at national level**

► *Article 36 covers Enforcement & Penalties*

*Page 23, Article 36, paragraph 1 is amended:*

“1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the abandonment, dumping or uncontrolled management of waste **including littering.**”

**= Member States would be obliged by EU law to “police” littering.**