



European
Commission



Action against litter and littering – an integral part of the Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan

Julius Langendorff, DG ENV A2

Stop Litter Now! Summit

Brussels, 16 April 2016

The Circular Economy Package

- **Action Plan:**
 - Concrete actions covering the whole product lifecycle
 - Horizontal and sectoral measures (e.g. plastics strategy)
 - Mandate for this Commission's term of office
- **Revised legislative proposals on waste:**
 - Long-term targets to move up the EU 'waste hierarchy' and bring legislation more in line with circular economy principles
 - Other proposals including on use of economic instruments, extended producer responsibility schemes, waste prevention, food waste, separate collection of biowaste, reporting.

But what about action against littering...?

- Litter is very visible in our daily lives ... but – until recently – rather invisible in EU waste legislation
- But times are changing...
- 2015 amendment to the PPWD: measures to reduce consumption of lightweight plastic bags
- 2015 Commission proposal to review the WFD

Let's take a closer look at the WFD proposal

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.

Let's take a closer look at the WFD proposal

Recital 33

*Since the **objectives of this Directive**, namely to **improve waste management** in the Union, and **thereby contributing to** the protection, preservation and improvement of the quality of the environment, the health of the oceans and the safety of seafood by **reducing marine litter**, and to the prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources across the Union, cannot be sufficiently **achieved by the Member States**, but can, by reason of the scale or effects of the measures, be better **achieved at Union level**, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity (...)*

A closer look at the WFD proposal

Article 3: definitions – new para 1a

Municipal waste means

(...)

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

A closer look at the WFD proposal

New article 8a: general requirements for EPR schemes – para 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.*

A closer look at the WFD proposal

Article 8: extended producer responsibility - new para 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, (...) the **prevention of littering**. The Commission shall publish the results of the exchange of information.*

A closer look at the WFD proposal

Article 28: Waste Management Plans to be established by Member States – new para 3f

The waste management plans shall contain (...):

*(f) measures to **combat all forms of littering** and to **clean up all types of litter**.*

A closer look at the WFD proposal

Article 36 on enforcement and penalties – addition to para 1

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



Some conclusions

Action against litter and littering are an integral part of the Commission's waste proposals

Beyond the litter-specific provisions, other elements of the WFD proposal are also of relevance (e.g. use of economic instruments, better separate collection, recycling targets)

Shared responsibility between EU, MS authorities at all level, industry, consumers

Now up to Council and EP to play their role