

Speech by CoR Rapporteur Mr Domenico GAMBACORTA

Conference

"Waste legislation review - regions & cities for a circular economy"

Subsession 1

Making the new waste legislation work for local and regional authorities - expectations from the negotiations on the waste legislative proposals

Organised by the CoR, ENVE Commission, in association with ACR+, CEMR, Eurocities and Municipal Waste Europe

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The Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions for which I am the rapporteur asked for more ambition in order to enable us, local and regional authorities, to progress towards a circular economy and move our waste management systems up within the waste hierarchy order.

Firstly, this means for the Committee defining robust **extended producer responsibility** schemes.

Member States should take the necessary measures to ensure that the waste holders targeted by the extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes are informed not only about the available waste collection systems, but also about take back systems, as well as recognised reuse and permitted preparation for reuse centres.

Member States should also take the necessary measures to ensure that the financial contributions paid by the producer to comply with its EPR obligations are based on the costs borne by public waste management operators when implementing operational tasks on behalf of extended producer responsibility schemes. Common minimum criteria for EPR schemes should detail costs to be covered and include the obligation to cover litter prevention as well as collection and clean-up initiatives.

We are glad to see that most of our recommendations in this regard have been supported by the European Parliament's ENVI Committee vote last week.

Secondly, moving up the waster hierarchy means phasing out incineration and a ban on **landfilling**. We welcome the European Commission proposal to completely ban the landfill of separately collected waste. Additionally though, the CoR calls on the negotiators to examine the possibility to extend the maximum 10% landfilling target by 2030 to all types of waste.

Thirdly, we need ambitious **re-use and recycling targets** to drive investments towards resource-efficient options.

The European Commission proposed 2030 target for reuse and recycling of municipal waste should be increased by weight from 65% to 70%.

By 2020, the EC should also consider specific targets applying to construction and demolition waste, and to be met by 2025 and 2030.

A 2030 target for preparing for reuse and recycling of plastic waste packaging should be presented within the next few years.

We also recommend setting in future separate binding targets for waste streams such as furniture, fabrics and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

Fourthly, on **food waste**, we propose an EU target for all Member states to reduce food waste by at least 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030 compared to 2015 levels. The potential for composting should be fully exploited. The EU should reinforce the obligation for separate collection of bio-waste. No later than 2018, the European Commission together with the Member states should assess whether minimum quality criteria should be set for compost and digestate produced from bio-waste.

Finally, we insist on the importance to invest in **waste prevention**. A new EU target should be set up in this respect and aim at generating a 10% decrease of municipal waste generated in 2025 compared to 2015 levels. Member states should also use absolute target in waste prevention.

We appreciate that the position taken by the ENVI Committee is overall coherent with our call for more ambition and binding targets.

I do hope, Minister Herrera, that the Council and the European Commission will also hear these convergences as a strong message from the ground and follow it up in a bid to be closer to EU citizens and communities. Because ambition in waste management does not only create better environment for our citizens and companies, it also create jobs!

Thank you
