

EUROCHAMBRES' concerns remain mostly unheard in yesterday's EP plenary vote on single-use plastics

EUROCHAMBRES agree with the Commission that the disposal of single-use plastics is one of the most pressing environmental concerns. The European business community is aware of the huge environmental impact of improperly disposed plastic products. We do, however, not see how the position of the European Parliament, agreed upon yesterday, effectively tackles the issue of marine littering.

Unfortunately, the position of the Parliament in our view **does neither steer business in the desired direction nor does it help businesses to adapt accordingly**. First of all, the major **definitions** including the one for single-use plastics **remain unclear**, which does not add to legal certainty, neither for companies active in the plastic sector nor for investors.

Secondly, while increasing consumers' responsibility, additional objectives and further targeted sectors have been added **without impact assessments**.

Thirdly, in our view the **90% separate collection target** for beverage bottles together with the proposed rigidity of the actual bottle design **does not bring much additional value**. The Waste Framework Directive and Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive provide appropriate measures to develop infrastructure to manage packaging waste as a whole, including for beverage bottles.

Last but not least, although the costs of the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme have been somewhat alleviated, we still consider it as an **inappropriate tool to tackle** the issue of **marine littering**.

"What business needs is a coherent legal framework and not a rag-rug of measures and targets. And above all, in a market-based economy, the outright ban of any product can only be a measure in the most extreme cases. EUROCHAMBRES will of course continue to work together with the European Institutions in order to put forward a practicable solution, but we need to check the small print!", Arnaldo Abruzzini, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES said in a brief note.

Additional material: EUROCHAMBRES' Position Paper in single-use plastics: <http://bit.ly/2uXL0bv>

Further information: Mr Clemens Rosenmayr, Tel. +32 2 282 08 90, rosenmayr@eurochambres.eu

Press contact: Mr Luis Piselli, Tel. +32 2 282 08 92, piselli@eurochambres.eu

All EUROCHAMBRES' press releases can be downloaded from

<http://www.eurochambres.eu/Content/default.asp?pagename=Pressreleases>