

EUROCHAMBRES reaction on the European Commission Circular Economy Action Plan Implementation Report

The report published yesterday by the European Commission about the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan shows that the EU is on a very good way to achieve full delivery of the 54 actions included in the Plan. We very much welcome some of the actions, such as enhanced enforcement of waste legislation, voluntary industry-led certification systems and identification and dissemination of good practices on waste collection systems. Yet, the implementation of some of the actions lags behind the Commission's level of ambition.

From our point of view, in order to reach a truly Circular Economy, the emphasis must have been from the start on the creation of a market for secondary raw materials.

Quality standards for secondary raw materials and issues related to cross-border waste shipment as well as the overlap between chemical, waste and product legislation have not been tackled to a sufficient extent so far.

At the same time, the single-use plastics directive shows how a hasty legislative procedure can lead to an absurdly unsatisfactory result. In our opinion the act does not contribute to its own stipulated goal, namely preventing marine littering, but more importantly it even jeopardises European jobs and innovation, e.g. when considering the potentially sunk costs of R&D activities in bio-degradable plastics. For those Eco-design regulations that have already been adopted, it remains to be seen whether they are able to avoid unnecessary restriction of entrepreneurial freedom and creativity.

"From the business perspective, what is paramount for any plan is priority setting. The Circular Economy Action Plan includes a multitude of actions, some of which we explicitly welcome. Yet, we would have liked to see a number of them being tackled earlier and more vigorously, especially those targeting the creation of a market for secondary raw materials", Arnaldo Abruzzini, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES, noted in a brief comment.

Additional information:

➔ Download EUROCHAMBRES' Circular Economy Report at <http://bit.ly/2RCLCRW>

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