

MEP Briefing: Recommendations for Ambitious Food Waste Amendments in European Directive 2008/98/EC

Over 60,000 people and 48 organisations from 17 countries call on the European Parliament to vote for ambitious farm-to-fork targets to halve food waste across the EU by 2030.

An estimated 88 million tonnes of food are wasted across the European Union each year. This represents a massive waste of water and land, a huge contributor to climate change, a costly burden to the EU and a loss of food vital to the EU's food security. This runs counter to the tenets of a truly Circular Economy.

To meet its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, the EU must implement legislative measures that will pave the way to achieve this goal. At the present time, the EU has a unique opportunity to tackle food waste by introducing ambitious amendments to the Waste Directive as part of the Circular Economy Package (CEP).

We call on you to vote in favour the ENVI report on the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) at the plenary vote on 14th of March. We are particularly in favour of the following amendments that will contribute to better management of food waste in Europe.

- **AM 98:** Establishes a food waste definition
- **AM 107:** Establishes a food waste hierarchy
- **AM 145:** Sets a 50% food waste reduction target
- **AM 149:** Sets a waste measurement methodology

However, the current ENVI report is still not ambitious enough to significantly reduce food waste across Member States. We would like to remind the EP of the multiple calls¹, it has extended to the European Commission to implement binding food waste reduction measures. The EP should take this opportunity to go beyond political advocacy and to implement binding targets to reduce food waste, from farm to fork.

We call on you to introduce the following complementary amendments to ENVI's compromised amendments

- **Introduce a legally binding minimum reduction target for Member States, in order to achieve the target of 30% by 2025, and of 50% by 2030**
- **Introduce a definition of "primary production losses" to complement the food waste definition.**
 - *"primary production losses" means food that is rendered inedible before harvest at primary production level through non-human factors such as weather and pests. This does not include edible food left unharvested or discarded post-harvest due to human factors, such as overproduction, order cancellations and cosmetic outgrading, and as such food wasted under these circumstances is included in the definition of "food waste" above."*
- **To ensure there is a clear timeframe for gathering data on food waste, to set baselines that make the reduction targets measurable and accountable:**
 - *"Member States should acquire accurate measurements for food waste at all stages of the supply chain by 2020 at the latest. For the 50% food waste reduction target, Member States should use a 2014 baseline for stages of the supply chain where data is of sufficient quality. Member States should use later baselines for stages of the supply chain they do not have sufficient quality data for 2014, with 2020 as the latest possible year."*

For recommended changes in the recital, please see [our list of full amendments](#).

For more information and support on advocating for the above recommendations please contact Martin Bowman – Campaigner for This Is Rubbish
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References

¹ 09/07/2015 - European Parliament resolution of 9 July 2015 on resource efficiency: moving towards a circular economy (2014/2208(INI))

27/10/2016 - Opinion of the Industry Research & Energy Committee on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (COM(2015)0595 - C8-0382/2015 – 2015/0275(COD))

08/12/2016 - [PROCESS ONGOING] DRAFT REPORT on initiative on resource efficiency: reducing food waste, improving food safety (2016/2223(INI))