



European
Commission

Action against litter and littering

an integral part of the
Commission's Circular
Economy Action Plan

Pack2Go Europe Spring Meeting
Brussels, 9 June 2016

- **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



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.

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 (...)*



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.*



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.*



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.*



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.***



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