

Mr Frans TIMMERMANS
First Vice-President
Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the
Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 6th November 2018

Subject: Single Use Plastics – request for meeting

Dear First Vice-President Timmermans,

FoodDrinkEurope, representing Europe's food and drink industry, is supportive of the ambition of the EU Commission to reduce the impact on the environment of plastic packaging and is equally determined to reduce litter from bottles and caps.

Whilst FoodDrinkEurope and its members share the objectives of the proposal and acknowledge the importance of fighting litter, we see certain provisions raising specific concerns – in particular Article 6 of the proposal mandating for caps and lids to remain attached to beverage containers.

We see this provision as unfit for purpose as it implies using more plastics (for the caps themselves and for adjusting the bottle for the attached closure), which could lead to increasing CO2 emissions. Furthermore, there are currently not enough data to demonstrate whether such a measure will tackle the root cause of the problem of littering.

We kindly request you to meet with a delegation of CEOs representing the European food and drink sector, to allow for the opportunity to present the findings of a third-party impact assessment for the proposal on attached closures, conducted by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. This impact assessment covers the impact of caps on the environment, the economic impact on the supply chain – importantly including SMEs – as well as unintended environmental and other consequences.

At the same time, we would like to take this opportunity to identify together with you a constructive way forward to reach our joint objective: to avoid littering and to further increase collection of bottles and caps. We will also be happy to share our considerations on other aspects of the Single Use Plastics proposal.

We are committed to be constructive partners in advancing the EU's vision for a circular economy, whilst working with you to find the most effective solutions to get us there. We would like to suggest the week of November 19th as potential date for such an arrangement, if this is convenient.

We look forward to maintaining our open dialogue on this important matter for our consumers, our planet and our business.