



Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission,
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

CC: Vice President Timmermans, Vice President Katainen, Secretary General Italianer, Commissioner Vella

Brussels 12th November 2015

Dear President Juncker,

We, the undersigned Environmental NGOs are writing to express support for the inclusion of urgent action on marine litter in the forthcoming Circular Economy Package, including a headline reduction target as called for by the 7th Environmental Action Programme. Marine litter is a serious problem worldwide, on which many international forums including the G7 and the United Nations have committed to address through preventive action.

The majority of marine litter is sourced from land, and consists of packaging, single use items, and other plastic items. A circular economy which prioritises waste prevention, reuse and recycling is vital for stemming the flow of waste into the oceans, along with the specific marine litter target as proposed by the European Commission in the Communication 'Towards a circular economy: a zero waste programme for Europe.' This target is urgently needed to enhance coordinated implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and to focus the work of the Regional Seas Conventions and Member States.

After agreeing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the world is looking towards Europe for leadership on how to prevent and significantly reduce marine litter. Member states and stakeholders are working hard to establish methods for marine litter prevention from land, but without clear EU targets and legislative action on waste generation and management, their efforts can only go so far.

We call on the European Commission to ensure that the promise of more ambition on the Package extends to action on marine litter, and a headline reduction target is included in the new package.

Yours sincerely,

Monica Verbeek

Executive Director, Seas
At Risk

Magda Stoczkiewicz

Director, Friends of the Earth
Europe

Jeremy Wates

Secretary General, European
Environmental Bureau