



Brussels, 12 March 2026

Joint statement: Call on the European Commission to mandate Extended Producer Responsibility for Food Products

As a coalition of businesses, municipalities, waste managers, and civil society organisations committed to building a truly circular, fair, and resilient European bioeconomy, **we call on the European Commission to consider introducing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for food products (FP).**

The forthcoming EU Circular Economy Act (CEA) offers a unique opportunity to underpin the binding EU food waste reduction targets as well as the obligation to separately collect bio-waste¹ with a solid financial mechanism.

Europeans generate on average 130 kg of food waste every year.² Much of this waste could be prevented, and any remaining food waste should be separately collected. This is why the EU mandated that municipalities separately collect all food waste (bio-waste) and that Member States reduce the amount of food waste generated by 2030. However, based on 2022 data, only 26% of food waste is currently collected separately,³ and without dedicated funding for prevention and separate collection, progress is hampered.

Based on the **study “[The Case of Extended Producer Responsibility for food products](#)”** by the [Bio-based Industries Consortium](#) and [Zero Waste Europe](#), we propose that **food producers help co-finance the prevention and collection of food waste** to:

- Meet EU targets and obligations;
- Alleviate the pressure on public budgets to finance said measures;
- Resource the EU bioeconomy with biomaterials, capture nutrients and valuable minerals, such as phosphorus, and bring them back to our soils, reducing dependency on imports;
- Reduce negative environmental impacts from food waste and waste disposal.

It is crucial for the EU to navigate this action and make it a priority to achieve the desired outcomes. We are ready to work alongside the European Commission and Member States to ensure legislation delivers on its transformative potential.

Yours sincerely,

The signatories

- Comune di Milano
- Consiglio di Bacino Priula anche a nome della società controllata al 100% Contarina spa
- Cré - Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland
- Ecopreneur.eu - The European Sustainable Business Federation
- European Bioeconomy Bureau
- European Biogas Association
- European Environmental Bureau
- SAFE - Safe Food Advocacy Europe
- Zero Waste Europe

¹As mandated via the Directive 2008/98/EC/[Waste Framework Directive](#) (WFD), Articles 9a.4 and 22.1

²[Food waste and food waste prevention - estimates \(Eurostat\)](#)

³[Bio-waste generation in the EU: Current capture levels and future potential - Second edition.](#)