

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 of the following amendments to the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) at the plenary vote on 14th March. This would set ambitious farm-to-fork reduction targets to halve EU food waste by 2030:

- **AM 98:** Establishes a food waste definition (with below suggested changes)
- **AM 107:** Establishes a food waste hierarchy
- **AM 145:** Sets a 50% food waste reduction target
- **AM 149:** Sets a waste measurement methodology

We also ask that you table the following amendments, and advocate for them to be included in the EP plenary voting list.

- **To ensure the reduction targets are binding at EU level:**
 - Propose ITRE AM 78
- **To ensure the reduction targets are truly farm-to-fork:**
 - **In AM 98** remove the phrase *“with the exception of primary production losses”* to ensure agricultural food waste is unambiguously included in the definition, *or* clarify that crops left unharvested due to human factors *are* included in food waste definition.
- **To ensure there is a clear timeframe for gathering data on food waste, to set baselines that make the reduction targets measurable and accountable:**
 - **Propose a new amendment** *“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.”*

We also ask you support the following changes to the recital:

- Support **AM 36** with the following text *“Member States should aim to achieve, a Union-wide food waste reduction target of 30 % by 2025 and of 50 % by 2030”* replaced with the ITRE AM 12 text *“Member States should establish specific food waste prevention measures in their national waste prevention programmes in order to reach at least 30% of food waste reduction by 2025 and 50% by 2030 and should measure progress in food waste reduction.”*

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