



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2017/2211(INI)

31.1.2018

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Regional Development

on cohesion policy and the circular economy
(2017/2211(INI))

Rapporteur: Stanislav Polčák

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Considers that the transition to a circular economy can create new jobs, increase the competitiveness of SMEs, strengthen the development of clean technologies and reduce Europe's dependence on imported raw materials and energy;
2. Calls for the introduction of financial incentives for waste prevention, and stresses the need to lay down rules setting out the instruments and bodies responsible for monitoring waste reduction data in all strands of production, processing and consumption;
3. Supports the strengthening of producer responsibility requirements and calls for the setting-up of reusable packaging schemes by large retail chains as a practical waste prevention tool; highlights that further steps must be taken to extend the durability and encourage the re-use and recyclability of products;
4. Underlines the need to sort bio-waste and to create the necessary framework for the use of compost from bio-waste in agriculture and other sectors; highlights that bio-waste represents a high percentage of mixed municipal waste, and the fact that such waste is not sufficiently sorted makes it impossible for bio-waste to be used and returned to the soil as compost;
5. Is concerned about China's new restrictive approach to European waste, as this will have a negative impact on EU waste management; welcomes in this context the Commission's new plastic strategy;
6. Calls on the Commission to ensure that all definitions relating to waste comply with the Waste Framework Directive and that comparable data are available on progress made by Member States and local and regional authorities.