

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

Brussels, 12 November 2014

Dear President Juncker

The Glass Packaging Industry urges you to support the Circular Economy Package

The Glass Packaging Industry, represents 44,000 direct jobs and 155 glass factories in the EU contributing directly to local economies often in remote regions. We strongly welcome the European Commission's Circular Economy Package to bring growth and jobs to Europe and deliver a better environment as waste is turned into one of Europe's most valuable resources. For this reason, we are concerned to hear that the Commission may be considering a withdrawal of the proposal. This, in our view would be a costly missed opportunity.

The European Glass packaging manufacturing industry works in a circular economy recycling used bottles and jars to manufacture new ones. Once produced, glass is one of those rare materials that can be recycled infinitely without any loss of quality. Recycled glass thus becomes a permanent resource available to replace the industry's need for virgin raw materials. Glass recycling has many benefits: it reduces energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in container glass production, it avoids virgin material extraction, keeps valuable resources out of landfills and creates businesses and jobs in the EU. Today more than 70% of all post-consumer glass packaging in the EU is collected for recycling but this could be even higher with the support of the Commission's Circular Economy Package.

Besides the clear environmental benefits that better recycling brings to Europe, the economic benefits for Europe, through job creation and adding value to goods put on the market, are substantial. Jobs in glass recycling have grown thanks to the recycling targets in the existing legal framework. These jobs are also local and contribute directly to local economies. In a recent study by Ernst & Young, the glass recycling sector represents at least 4,000 jobs in the EU (6% of the indirect jobs generated by container glass production).

The Circular Economy Package successfully marries environmental and economic benefits and on this basis we urge you to confirm your support for this proposal to make the EU a genuine circular economy.

Yours sincerely



Erik Bouts
President

Cc: Mr. Karmenu VELLA, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Mr. Karl Falkenberg, Director-General, DG Environment
Mr. Julio GARCIA BURGUES, Head of Unit, DG Environment/A/2