



## STATEMENT

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### **BUSINESSEUROPE argues for a recycling society**

In recent decades, European industry has hugely improved the management of its waste. BUSINESSEUROPE believes that better regulation is now needed to move towards a recycling society.

Following the recent vote in the Environment Committee and anticipating the forthcoming Parliamentary plenary vote, BUSINESSEUROPE has recognised that the opportunities of the revision of the Waste Framework Directive may be missed.

Therefore, we urge EU institutions to:

- secure effective application of waste law
- achieve a single market
- promote the use of secondary raw materials
- manage waste cost-efficiently

#### Effective waste law:

Clear simplified definitions are needed in the directive, in particular, by-products, recovery and end-of-waste status. BUSINESSEUROPE stresses that by-products are covered by product legislation such as REACH.

#### Single market:

Market mechanisms should ensure environmentally sound and cost-effective recovery of waste. Creation of artificially constrained, national markets in waste treatment should be avoided. The self-sufficiency principle should therefore not be extended to wastes for recovery.

#### Secondary raw materials:

To conserve natural resources, use of recovered materials must be encouraged with suitable safeguards for public health and the environment. All wastes need to be considered for end-of-waste status and a suitable procedure must be developed.

#### Cost-effective waste management:

The waste hierarchy is an appropriate guiding principle but needs to remain flexible, for example to avoid long transport to waste treatment facilities, and to achieve the best overall environmental outcome.

Further to the main issues raised above, there are additional amendments, which cause European industry concern such as on waste stabilisation and prevention targets, producer responsibility and unexcavated contaminated soil.