
With apologies for the delay, please see below Defra and BIS’s February update to stakeholders regarding the EU Review of Waste Policy and Legislation. We have been holding back this update in order that we were able to send it out with more concrete information as to the Commission’s final decision regarding the withdrawal of their current proposals; for more information on that, see below. If you have any further questions, please contact euwastereview@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Withdrawal of the Waste Legislative Package

Ministers at the General Affairs Council gave opinions on the Commission’s 2015 Work Programme, which announced the withdrawal of the waste legislative package, on the 10th February; whilst there was notable support for the waste package being retained, there was no move from Ministers to reject the Commission Work Programme – reflecting the European Parliament’s mixed messages from January, where a majority of MEPs backed retaining the package, but no resolution stating this could be passed by the Parliament. On the 26th February, there were media reports that the Commissioner’s College had met to discuss and approve the 2015 Work Programme, and in doing so, gave final confirmation of the withdrawal of the waste legislative package and the plan to introduce a new package on the whole of the Circular Economy in 2015. We haven’t yet had official confirmation of this from the Commission.

In reaction to the announcement of the withdrawal of the package, the Latvian Presidency has continued to hold working parties to discuss the package, but has also called for Member States to submit ideas for what a new set of proposals covering the whole Circular Economy might look like. The UK Government welcomes the chance to play a constructive part in developing the new package.

Stakeholder Engagement

You may have received a “Save the Date” email from the team announcing a second stakeholder workshop to be held during the week commencing 23rd March, tentatively on the 25th March; we will confirm the date shortly and send papers closer to the time.