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From: Presidency
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Subject: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2008/98/EC on waste, 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste, 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/719/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment

- Follow-up to the last meeting of the Working Party on the Environment

The Working Party on the Environment (WPE) met on 12 December, for the last time under the Italian Presidency, to consider the proposal on reviewing EU Waste legislation as part of the Circular Economy Package which the Commission submitted to the Council and the European Parliament on 3 July 2014. More specifically, the Package includes a Commission proposal for a Directive amending six waste-related Directives and its accompanying Impact Assessment.

The Working Party on the Environment had started discussions on the above proposal on 10 July 2014. Three further meetings of the WPE were held in order to complete a first detailed examination of the legislative proposal, on an article by article basis, in preparation for the orientation debate held by the Council (Environment) on 28 October. This debate was held on the basis of questions prepared by the Presidency to steer future work on this proposal.

Following the orientation debate and in light of its outcome, the WPE met on 13 and 27 November, in order to examine options on a number of core issues with a view to making further progress within the Council. During this examination, a number of options have been explored in relation to, amongst others, the definitions, targets and calculation method, end of waste criteria, by-products, permitting requirements, electronic registry and reporting.

At the last WPE meeting on 12 December, in the light of the Commission's current review of pending legislative proposals, the Presidency announced the intention of adding an AOB point in the agenda of the Environment Council to present the progress made in relation to the legislative proposal. Twenty-three Member States supported the intention of the Presidency and, while stating the need for further discussions on different aspects of the Directive, underlined the importance of this legislative proposal for further streamlining and improving the current EU waste legislative framework. The delegations showed also support for the overall objective pursued by the proposal, also in light of expected positive impacts in terms of economic growth and job creation.