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Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste
[14976/15 ENV 772 IND 201 CODEC 1663 - COM(2015) 596 final]
Opinion on the application of the Principle of Subsidiarity and Proportionality

Delegations will find annexed a copy of the above opinion.



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Politisk udtalelse om to forslag til direktiver om cirkulær økonomi

1. juli 2016

Europaudvalget og Miljø- og Fødevareudvalget afgiver hermed en udtalelse om henholdsvis affaldsdirektivet KOM (2015) 0595 og direktivet om emballage og emballageaffald KOM (2015) 0596, der indgår i Kommissionens pakke om cirkulær økonomi.

I denne forbindelse bemærker Europaudvalget og Miljø- og Fødevareudvalget følgende:

Målsætning

Udvalgene anerkender, at den cirkulære tanke er rigtig og nødvendig, fordi det både kan styrke erhvervslivet, imødekomme problemer med knappe ressourcer samt give miljøgevinster.

Affald skal betragtes som en ressource, der kan bruges igen og igen, og det er derfor nødvendigt at gentænke den måde, vi producerer og forbruger varer på. Der er behov for at producere og forbruge smartere – ikke blot mere effektivt. Der skal tænkes rundt om hele cirklen fra produktion til genanvendelse. Bedre produktionsdesign er nøglen til at fremme genanvendelse og medvirker til, at der fremstilles produkter, der er lettere at reparere eller holder længere.

Udvalgene finder derfor generelt, at Kommissionens meddelelse om cirkulær økonomi samt forslagene til ændringer af affaldsdirektiverne er et vigtigt skridt på vejen mod en cirkulær økonomi. Meddelelsen sætter rammerne for en helt nødvendig nytænkning af vores ressourcesyn.

Reducer mængden af affald

Cirkulær økonomi er udtryk for bevægelse fra affald til ressource. Arbejdet med cirkulær økonomi og målsætningerne bør derfor også forholde sig til mulighederne for at reducere mængden af affald, der skal håndteres. Det er godt, at der stilles mål for genanvendelse, men det bør samtidigt være muligt at vurdere i hvor høj grad mængden af affald reduceres. I den forbindelse er fokus på forbedring af virksomhedernes produktionsprocesser og industriel symbiose, så f.eks. de affaldsfraktioner, der kan anvendes i en anden virksomhed som en ressource, bliver anvendt. Til gavn for virksomheden og for miljøet.

Udfordringer for en øget genanvendelse

Der er en række barrierer for at øge genanvendelsen. Udvalgene noterer sig særligt følgende:

- *Produktdesign*
Fremtidens produkter skal designes, så de har en lang holdbarhed, så de kan repareres og i sidste ende genanvendes.
- *Nye forretningsmodeller*
Nye forretningsmodeller, der kan understøtte en cirkulær økonomi f.eks. et skift fra produkt til service, genfremstilling og industriel symbiose skal undersøges nærmere.
- *Efterspørgsel på sekundære råvarer*
Sekundære råvarer og materialer skal gøres interessante, teknisk som økonomisk. Effektive markeder for sekundære råvarer skal understøttes og efterspørgslen af sekundære råvarer samt varer produceret af sekundære råvarer skal stimuleres.
- *Genanvendelse med kvalitet*
Der skal sikres en øget og korrekt sortering så ressourcerne kan genanvendes i den rigtige kvalitet.

Udfasning af farlige stoffer

Genanvendelse vanskeliggøres i dag af, at en række produkter indeholder problematiske stoffer. Udvalgene finder det afgørende, at de problematiske stoffer fra fortidens produkter ikke genanvendes i nye produkter. Vi skal forpligte os til at fjerne disse stoffer fra affaldsstrømmen, så forbrugerne ikke risikere at støde på farlige stoffer i genanvendte materialer.

Halvmiljø og plast

Udvalgene værdsætter, at havmiljøet har fået plads i strategien. En stadig stigende mængde plast havner i vores vandmiljø. Det er efter udvalgenes opfattelse centralt at forholde sig til, hvordan vi kan nedbringe mængden af mikoplast i vores miljø, både ved at se på alternativer i anvendelsen og ved at styrke rensningen af spildevand for mikropplast m.m.

Partnerskaber

Udvalgene opfordrer Kommissionen til at undersøge mulighederne for at oprette industrisamarbejder omkring nogle af de største udfordringer i forhold til genanvendelse; f.eks. plastik/emballage, tekstiler, madaffald og andet organisk materiale.

Internationalt samarbejde

En stor del af vores affald kommer fra produkter, der ikke er produceret i Europa. Det er ikke tilstrækkeligt, at vi stiller krav til os selv – vi skal stille krav til vores samhandelspartnere. EU bør arbejde for, at der også hos vores samhandelspartnere er fokus på produkternes mulighed for at genindgå i kredsløbet.

Med venlig hilsen



Pia Adelsteen

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**Political opinion submitted to the Commission on two proposals for
Directives on a circular economy**

1 July 2016

The European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament and the Environment and Food Committee of the Danish Parliament submit the following opinion on the Directive on Waste COM (2015) 0595 and on the Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste COM (2015) 0596 respectively, which form part of the Commission's Circular Economy Package.

In this connection, the European Affairs Committee and the Environment and Food Committee wish to make the following comments:

Objectives

The Committees recognise that the idea of a circular economy is right and necessary as it can strengthen the business community, respond to problems of scarce resources, and lead to environmental benefits.

Waste must be regarded as a resource to be used again and again. Therefore, it is necessary to reconsider the way in which we produce and consume goods. There is a need for production and consumption to be smarter – not just more efficient. We must consider the full lifecycle of products: from production to recycling. Better production design is key to fostering recycling and will contribute to the manufacturing of products that are more repairable or more durable.

Therefore, the Committees find in general that the Commission Communication on the circular economy as well as the proposals for amending the Directives on waste are important steps towards a circular economy. The Communication provides the framework for an absolutely necessary innovation of our approach to resources.

Reduce the amount of waste

The circular economy is a reflection of a move from waste to resource. Work on the circular economy and the objectives should, therefore, also relate to the opportunities for reducing the amount of waste to be managed. It is very good to set targets for recycling, but it must at the same time be possible to assess the extent to which the amount of waste is reduced. In this connection, the focus is on the improvement of companies' production processes and industrial symbiosis, which implies that for example the waste fractions that can be used in another company as a resource are used. For the benefit of the company and of the environment.

Challenges to increased waste recycling

There are a number of barriers to increasing waste recycling. The Committees note in particular the following:

- *Product design*
Future products must be designed so as to promote durability, reparability and, eventually, recyclability.

- *New business models*
New business models to underpin a circular economy, for example a change from product to service, re-manufacturing, and industrial symbiosis must be examined more closely.
- *Demand for secondary raw materials*
Secondary raw materials and materials must be made more interesting, both in a technical and economic sense. Efficient markets for secondary raw materials must be supported and the demand for secondary raw materials as well as goods produced from secondary raw materials must be stimulated.
- *High quality recycling*
Steps must be taken to ensure increased and proper sorting of waste so as to boost high quality recycling of the resources.

Phase-out of hazardous substances

Today, recycling is made difficult in that a number of products contain problematic substances. The Committees find it crucial that the problematic substances from products manufactured in the past should not be recycled in new products. We must make a commitment to removing these substances from waste streams to ensure that consumers face no risk of encountering hazardous substances in recycled materials.

The marine environment and plastic waste

The Committees appreciate that the marine environment has been included in the strategy. An increasing amount of plastic waste ends up in our aquatic environment. The Committees find it essential to address the question of how we can reduce micro plastics in our environment, both by looking at alternatives to the use of plastics and by strengthening the treatment of wastewater to remove micro plastics, etc.

Partnerships

The Committees call on the Commission to examine the opportunities for setting up industrial partnerships regarding some of the greatest challenges to recycling, for example plastic/packaging waste, textiles, food waste and other organic material.

International cooperation

Much of our waste derives from products that have not been manufactured in Europe. It is not sufficient that we make demands on ourselves – we must also make demands on our trading partners. The EU should work towards placing focus, also among our trading partners, on how products may re-enter the recycling cycle.

Yours sincerely,

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