

Laszlo Solymos
Minister for the Environment
Slovak Republic

11 October 2016

Dear Minister,

The under-signed organisations strongly support the transition towards a circular economy in order to deliver environmental and economic benefits across Europe. This radical change in the way we use and value resources is already under way, but it now requires strong political signals to drive ambition and innovation, and to secure the investments needed.

For this reason, as the negotiations on the Waste Package advance during the Slovakian Presidency, we urge all Member States to commit to adopting ambitious 2030 targets on waste recycling.

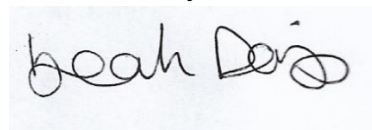
Binding and ambitious targets on recycling will bring long-term certainty, creating the conditions that will encourage concerted action from municipalities, regional and national authorities, businesses, NGOs, and others to improve recycling rates across Europe. These must be complemented with other measures, such as Eco-design standards, to reduce the amount of waste produced and support the creation of a market for secondary materials.

It is of course important that these targets be based on good evidence and that a robust methodology for calculating recycling rates is agreed. But this must not be an excuse for deferring, or entirely avoiding setting binding 2030 targets.

There is no time to lose: the withdrawal of the original circular economy package by the European Commission has already cost time, and it is now crucial that Member States demonstrate their commitment to unlocking the environmental and competitiveness benefits that greater levels of resource efficiency and a closed loop would bring.

The Environment Council was united in welcoming the European Commission's proposals on the circular economy earlier this year. The case for action remains clear and compelling. It is now important that the Council reaches a position which reflects its support for the circular economy, including binding and ambitious recycling targets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Davis", is written on a light blue background.

Leah Davis
Acting Director
Green Alliance

On behalf of the following organisations:

