



***Raising standards for consumers***

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## Unpacking the proposed packaging regulation

Lower ambitions for reuse but several steps in the right direction



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**The European Commission today unveiled the proposed revision of the packaging and packaging waste rules as part of its new Circular Economy Package.**

**ANEC Director-General, Stephen Russell, commented:**

**“We welcome the proposal for a Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste, as it proposes important requirements on prevention and reuse, in line with our position. Nevertheless, we regret the main focus of the initiative is on recyclable packaging and use of recycled content in plastic packaging, not the waste hierarchy as we believed. We also expected reuse targets to be more ambitious, and for there to be further restrictions on substances of concern in packaging”.**

Among the improvements offered by the proposal over the present Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive is emphasis on prevention and reuse, while seeking to limit overpackaging. Moreover, the use of a Regulation as the legal instrument will ensure simultaneous and equal implementation of the measures across Member States, to the benefit of consumers and the environment.

We have been critical how the essential requirements of the current Directive are too vague, do not give clear instructions to business, and hence are difficult to enforce. We are pleased to see the proposal indicate that delegated acts will be used with European standardisation to implement the Regulation. This should also mitigate delegation of key requirements to the European standardisation process where industry has the pre-eminent voice.

We do call for more ambitious measures regarding the restriction on the use of hazardous substances which is left to REACH for the most part. We want to see the proposal built on to ensure stricter requirements on chemicals, and phasing out of substances of concern such as CMRs (carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic chemicals) and EDCs (Endocrine disrupting chemicals). This is especially crucial given the high attention in the proposal to recycling and recycled content.

ENDS.



ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and the use of standards, as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 34 countries.

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