

**European Parliament Committee
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Members**

Brussels, 23 January 2017

Re: Landmark Vote on Food Waste

Dear Members of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee,

On 24th January, the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee will convene to vote on new rules governing waste, as part of the Circular Economy Package. Several amendments have been put forward to Directive 2008/98/EC on waste. Some of these are of particular interest to Euro Coop and our members, because they concern food waste.

We believe that the European Union needs to lead the way in tackling food waste and play its part in achieving **Sustainable Development Goal 12.3** to “halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses” by 2030.

In order to successfully tackle food waste, some **changes are required to our existing legislation**. In particular, a common definition of food waste and a hierarchy for food waste needs to be established, and there needs to be commitment to a binding target to *halve* food waste in the EU by 2030.

To achieve these objectives, we recommend that **the following amendments to Directive 2008/98/EC on waste be adopted and hereby call on your support** to this aim:

1. We believe that a **definition of food waste** needs to be included in Directive 2008/98/EC, as put forward in both **Amendment 196** and **Amendment 197** in order to clarify the scope of “food waste”.
2. We call on MEPs to introduce a **clear definition** of food waste, including that which is wasted at the primary production stage. Euro Coop supports using **the definition used in the FUSIONS Project** (Food Use for Social Innovation by Optimising Waste Prevention Strategies). According to this definition, “Food waste is any food, and inedible parts of food, removed from the food supply chain to be recovered or disposed (including composted, crops ploughed in/not harvested, anaerobic digestion, bio-energy production, co-generation, incineration, disposal to sewer, landfill or discarded to sea)”. We recommend that MEPs **vote for Amendment 508**, which proposes using this definition.

3. A **common methodology** for measuring food waste needs to be developed as soon as possible. Since reducing food waste is such a pertinent issue, we recommend that a deadline is set for developing this methodology by the end of this year. We believe that the methodology should be guided by the food waste hierarchy. To enable this, we ask MEPs to **support Amendment 944**.
4. We support the establishment of a **hierarchy for food waste**. We call on MEPs to support **Amendment 540** which we consider to be the most comprehensive.
5. In order to support food donation, we ask parliamentarians to vote for either **Amendment 206** which includes “food donation schemes” within the list of incentives Member States should put in place in order to properly apply the waste hierarchy, or **Amendment 208** which adds that Member States should “take appropriate simplification measures to promote charitable donations of food or non-food products that can no longer be sold.”
6. We support a **binding 50% reduction in food** waste from the whole food chain **by 2030**, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also support the **establishment of criteria** that enable the food retail sector to distribute unsold products to charitable organizations. **We therefore ask members of the Committee** to support **Amendment 256**, because it adds the 50% reduction target, and states that “Member States should encourage the setting up of conventions enabling the food retail sector to distribute unsold products to charitable organizations”.

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter. We count on your support!

With co-operative regards,



Todor Ivanov
Secretary General