



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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Green Card on food waste

Dear colleague

At the 53rd COSAC in Riga last week we had a constructive discussion on developing a 'Green Card'—a form of enhanced political dialogue by means of which national parliaments could jointly propose either a new legislative or non-legislative initiative, or changes to existing legislation, to the European Commission. I was delighted by the generally positive response from colleagues to these evolving ideas, and also by the commitment by the incoming Luxembourgish Presidency to take forward discussion of the modalities of the Green Card at the forthcoming meeting of COSAC Chairs on 12-13 July.

As I said during my intervention during our debate in Riga, I believe it is now time to launch a pilot Green Card, so that we can start to learn lessons from practical experience and incorporate them into our discussions.

I therefore attach our proposal for a Green Card on food waste, which was formally adopted by the European Union Committee of the House of Lords on 9 June 2015.

We have designed our proposal in such a way as to avoid pre-empting any discussions next month on process—we have not, for example, suggested a threshold for signatories; nor have we specified fixed deadlines. But our aim is to take this forward as rapidly as possible: the Commission has indicated that it is likely to re-table the Circular Economy Package later this year, and we aim to submit our Green Card before the August holiday, so as to give ourselves, collectively as national parliaments, a chance to influence the Commission's thinking.

In order to meet this target, we be grateful if by 15 July you could indicate—either by writing directly to me or via the network of national parliament representatives in Brussels—whether or not you wish to co-sign this proposal. We would also be very happy to consider any proposals for amendments to the substantive text of the Green Card on food waste that reach us before 15 July.

We will also have an opportunity to reflect, in the final text of the covering letter, any agreements on the process reached at the COSAC Chairs meeting in Luxembourg.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to continuing our discussions in Luxembourg next month.

Best wishes
Lord Boswell

Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Committee