

# RPC Position Statement: Circular Economy

## Background

A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy of 'make, use, dispose' in which the lifecycle of a material is extended for as long as possible, with recovery, regeneration and recycling at the end of each service cycle. This gives maximum value from each resource used.

The European Commission has developed the Circular Economy Package to transition Europe into a circular economy. The Circular Economy Package aims to harmonise various waste directives including The Waste Framework Directive and The Revised Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, and will contain new targets for the increased recycling of plastic.

## RPC's Position

RPC supports the Plastics Europe view that 'the unique characteristics of plastics allow them to make a strong contribution to a more environmentally sustainable and resource efficient Europe'\*. Plastic products are lightweight, versatile, durable and recyclable and contribute to energy and resource savings in many markets.

RPC supports the view of a circular economy in its requirement to be more resource efficient and increase plastic recycling. Lifecycle thinking should be adopted when considering the design of plastic products so that the emphasis is not entirely on end-of-life solutions.

In relation to the Circular Economy Package RPC recognises that countries are at different levels of maturity with end-of-life disposal methods and there is a need to bring all EU Member States to an optimum level of plastics recycling taking infrastructure and economic viability into account. RPC will support initiatives to increase plastic recycling and also the use of recycled plastics in countries where it operates.

\* Plastics Europe (<http://www.plasticseurope.org/>)

