



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**

for the people | for the planet | for the future

Ministerio de Agricultura,
Alimentación y Medio Ambiente,
Paseo Infanta Isabel 1,
28071 Madrid,
España

Brussels, 28 June 2013

Dear Mr. Arias Cañete,

I am writing to you on behalf of Friends of the Earth Europe to express our support for the Spanish association Retorna, and their efforts to implement a deposit system for beverage packaging in Spain.

We consider the deposit return system (DRS), already implemented in 40 countries and regions worldwide (some of them European), to be the most efficient and sustainable management option in order to manage beverage packaging waste.

The current system of waste management in Spain, and specifically that of packaging waste, is unsustainable. Only 15% of waste is recycled, and barely 9% is composted - the rest being sent to landfill or incinerated. Each day, out of 51 million beverage containers that are put on sale, 28 million are sent directly to landfill or for incineration, and four million disappear, usually discarded into the natural environment.

Taking into account these alarming figures, we fully support the initiative of Retorna and the numerous Spanish organisations that are working towards improving waste management in Spain.

Wasting so many resources and raw materials, and so much energy, in Spain is inadmissible – especially in times of crisis. Besides the important environmental benefits of the DSR, such as the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction in landfill use, the system

would provide relevant social and economic benefits including the immediate creation of 14,000 jobs in Spain and savings of up to 90 million euros for the public administration as a result of the elimination of collection and cleaning costs for abandoned containers. Another 36 million euros would be saved through the recycling of raw materials.

For this reason, Friends of the Earth Europe would like to formally request that the Spanish government seize this opportunity to implement the DRS on a national level, improving environmental quality as well as the quality of life of Spanish citizens.

Best regards,



Magda Stoczkiewicz
Director of Friends of the Earth Europe