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| Hi Andrea, **Food Corporate Affairs – 13 February**  Reminder to complete the Climate Action Roadmap revie questionnaire.  **Not for EU**  A meeting is taking place this afternoon (13.00-14.00). The focus will be on our key points on the practical implementation of the provisions to introduce this labelling in GB. This consultation is very - short 6 weeks, and we wanted to run this meeting to start getting views on the BRC position, and to get members an understanding of areas in which there might be divergent views.  A member asked whether changing the wording of the statement ‘Not for EU; had been previously discussed. It has been discussed, and DEFRA and the Cabinet Office have been clear that since this statement was part of the Windsor agreement and is written into the SPS legislation, changing it will require a re-negotiation with the Commission, which they are not willing to do at this stage.  **WEEE** [**Post-consumer Electrical and Electronic Equipment: your latest briefing (brc.org.uk)**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-eu.mimecast.com%2Fs%2Fxrs7CM7LrIxjvNu1iLju%3Fdomain%3Delinkeu.clickdimensions.com&data=05%7C02%7Candrea.minchausti%40brc.org.uk%7C76c1bf24577940640aaa08dc2c909b1a%7C75071460b4b54635beeb37373bb2ad83%7C0%7C0%7C638434249357497820%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NBu3SyyM%2FWGYbPS7pBxcMfKApNcGYePzAThwXp2rphk%3D&reserved=0) There was a member call last week and there will be another one at the end of February, ahead of the deadline for the consultation and call for evidence on 7 March.  There are 3 main areas of concern: * Timing and the impact of introducing the restrictions when every business is focused on packaging reform.
* Extension to take back like for like. This will have a disproportionate impact on larger businesses.
* Removal of the charge for collection.

 They are also considering kerbside collection in addition to in-store. This will result in two costs. Several members felt the focus should be on kerbside collection only.  Members were concerned about this being another takeback initiative which will take up selling space in-store. This is especially disproportionate in small stores. Some of this do not sell electricals but customers can click ad collect items in those stores. DEFRA must make sure that any policy works for all retailers not only for large electrical retailers.  The group discussed whether the policy was likely to happen or not. It has been in the strategy since 2018, but so far, the government has been focusing on packaging. However, DEFRA seems determined to pursuit. They have to go through all the stages of development, so it is likely to take 2-3 years.  Labour’s focus is on EPR. BRC had a recent meeting with them and DRS or WEEE were not even mentioned. They were interested and asked for more information on our suggestion for sequencing. They mentioned that they will not address any of these issues until the second part of Parliament. Their thinking is not well developed, and we might be able to slightly influence it but they are unlikely to move away from the concept that retailers have deep pockets and they should have an increased responsibility.  **ELECTION / OBESITY**  At a recent round table, Shadow Health Secretary, Wes Streeting mentioned their commitment to reducing the marketing and advertising of junk food and confirmed their commitment to implementing the advertising Regulations. He also mentioned stricter restrictions on packaging but did not expand. The language he used was provocative. He suggested they will be steamrolling the industry, they can either come on board the steamroller or go under it.  BRC has produced a two pager, which we would like to share with The Times and the like to present retailers as honest brokers and thought leaders in the obesity debate. It acknowledges our responsibility and what we would like to see in a strategy from any Government.  Members supported this approach. A couple of suggestions were made; any suggested policy should be based on proper trialled evidenced. Thy should harness industry’s expertise. And on some policies the devil is in the detail, e.g. salt some of the targets are unachievable without causing a safety issue.  **Obesity paper for comments:** [**https://brc.org.uk/media/xr1d1c13/what-will-make-a-difference-to-obesity-feb-24.docx**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-eu.mimecast.com%2Fs%2FZ1c_CN7MvIVow4uzYgRV%3Fdomain%3Delinkeu.clickdimensions.com&data=05%7C02%7Candrea.minchausti%40brc.org.uk%7C76c1bf24577940640aaa08dc2c909b1a%7C75071460b4b54635beeb37373bb2ad83%7C0%7C0%7C638434249357505276%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NFPXjh9m%2BflNC3O2lDJGq7MkdcStiNcRQPXBxVcputc%3D&reserved=0)**Please send comments to Andrew or Andrea by 23 February.**  We would like to produce a few of these on issues to inform the debate ahead of the election. The next one could be on Food Policy covering production and the sale of sustainable healthy food.  This approach was supported.  The BRC has produced an election manifesto:[**accelerating-investment-in-the-everywhere-economy.pdf (netcprev.co.uk)**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotect-eu.mimecast.com%2Fs%2FdFdzCOJNws53EWijHOob%3Fdomain%3Delinkeu.clickdimensions.com&data=05%7C02%7Candrea.minchausti%40brc.org.uk%7C76c1bf24577940640aaa08dc2c909b1a%7C75071460b4b54635beeb37373bb2ad83%7C0%7C0%7C638434249357512739%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JwprjTRo23x3Y4sAeekOc8Gxd3po0074GcePQ4iOJAs%3D&reserved=0) A number of roundtables are being organised with Conservatives and Labour over the next few weeks. Michael Gove and Nigel Huddleston have both expressed strong interest. BRC also catch ups coming up with Labour.  **SCOTLAND**  Minimum pricing for alcohol is going up by 65p on 30 September. Unfortunately, discussions on this issue have led to more discussions on the health tax. SCR continues to strongly lobby against it.  There is a meeting with Health Minister Jenny Pinto next Tuesday, 20 February.  Kind regards, Andrea |