

**From:** Richard Macrory <[r.macrory@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:r.macrory@ucl.ac.uk)>  
**Date:** 9 January 2015 11:37:01 GMT  
**To:** [Karmenu.VELLA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Karmenu.VELLA@ec.europa.eu)  
**Subject:** **Better Regulation and environmental policy**

Dear Mr Vella

The Avosetta Group (<http://www.avosetta.org/>) is a small informal group of leading environmental law scholars in nearly every Member State. It does not normally become directly involved in the policy-making world, but the Commission's announcement of its new work-programme on 16 December last year and the proposed withdrawal of a number of significant environmental initiatives raised considerable concern within the Group. So much so that the majority of our members have put their names to the attached paper, and have asked me, as chairman of the trustees, to communicate it to you.

You will see that it raises issues concerning both the substance of the proposal and the legality of the Commission's powers to withdraw developed proposals in this manner. Given the expertise and independence of the signatories, I do hope the document will be taken seriously. We recognize that the proposed decision needs to be seen in the context of the new Commission's Better Regulation Agenda, and I have therefore sent a copy to Mr Timmerman's Chef de Cabinet. If it would assist, I am sure that we could arrange a meeting with some of our members to discuss the issue further.

I have also posted you a hard copy of the document.

Yours sincerely

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