

Circular economy package

Four legislative proposals on waste

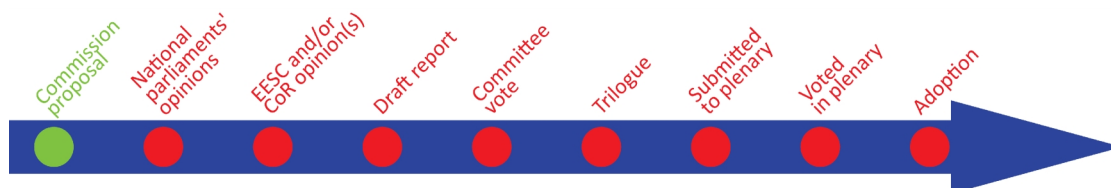
SUMMARY

Although waste management in the European Union (EU) has improved considerably in the past decades, almost a third of municipal waste is still landfilled and less than half is recycled or composted, with wide variations between Member States. Improving waste management could deliver positive effects for the environment, climate, human health and the economy. As part of a shift in EU policy towards a circular economy, the European Commission made four legislative proposals introducing new waste-management targets regarding reuse, recycling and landfilling. The proposals also strengthen provisions on waste prevention and extended producer responsibility, and streamline definitions, reporting obligations and calculation methods for targets. As the Parliament and Council begin their consideration of the proposals, stakeholders are divided.

Proposals for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council

- amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste
- amending Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste
- amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste
- amending Directives 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment

<i>Committee responsible:</i>	Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	COM(2015)593, COM(2015)594, COM(2015)595, COM(2015)596 of 02.12.2015
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Simona Bonafè (S&D, Italy)	<i>procedure ref.:</i>
<i>Next steps expected:</i>	Consideration in ENVI Committee	2015/0272(COD), 2015/0274(COD), 2015/0275(COD), 2015/0276(COD), Ordinary legislative procedure



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Introduction

In July 2014, the European Commission put forward an initial [circular economy package](#). However, in March 2015 the Commission withdrew the [legislative proposal on waste](#) included in that package, to make way for 'a more ambitious proposal that will cover the whole of the circular economy'.

As part of a new circular economy package, in December 2015 the Commission presented an [action plan](#) for the circular economy, as well as four legislative proposals amending the following legal acts:

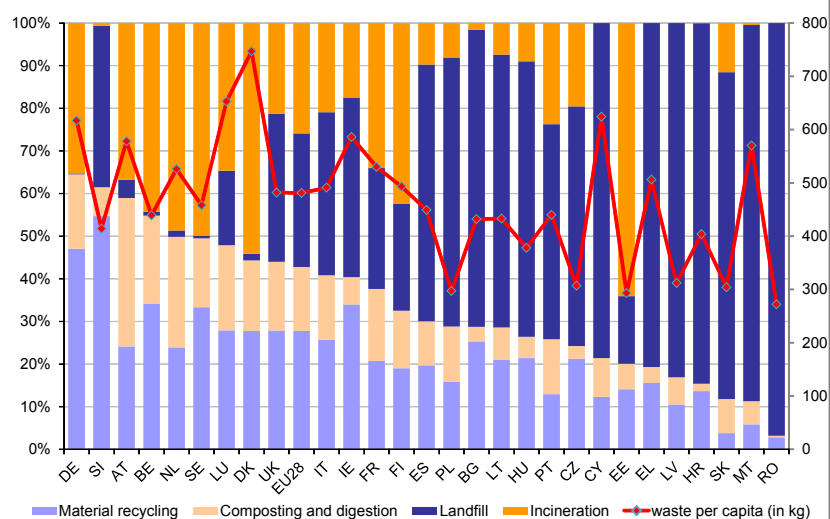
- [Waste Framework Directive](#);
- [Landfilling Directive](#);
- [Packaging Waste Directive](#);
- Directives on [end-of-life vehicles](#), on [batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators](#), and on [waste electrical and electronic equipment](#) (WEEE).

Some proposals stem from legal obligations to review waste management targets. The Waste Framework Directive requires the Commission to undertake the following actions by the end of 2014: review the 2020 targets on reuse and recycling of household waste and on construction and demolition waste; set waste prevention objectives for 2020; and assess a number of measures, including extended producer responsibility schemes. The Landfilling Directive requires the Commission to review targets by July 2014. The Packaging Directive requires the Commission to review targets by the end of 2012.

Context

Wide differences exist between Member States regarding the **treatment of municipal waste**, generated mainly by households, which represents around 10% of the total waste generated in Europe, measured by weight. As shown in Figure 1, the share of recycling and composting among waste treatment methods ranges from 65% in Germany to 3% in Romania (EU average: 43%); six Member States landfill less than 5% of their municipal waste, while eight Member States landfill over 70% of their

Figure 1 – Municipal waste treatment methods and waste per capita in EU28 (2013)



Data source: Eurostat ([env_wasmun](#)), 2016.

municipal waste (EU average: 31%); the amount of municipal waste per capita and per year varies from 272 kg in Romania to 747 kg in Denmark (EU average: 481 kg).

Packaging waste in the EU, measured in weight, is made up of paper and cardboard (40%), glass (20%), plastic (19%), wood (15%) and metal (6%), according to Eurostat [data](#). In 2012, 65% of packaging was recycled in the EU-28, although material-specific recycling rates varied a great deal: 84% for paper and cardboard packaging; 72% for glass and metallic packaging; 38% for wooden packaging and 36% for plastic packaging. There are wide variations in recycling rates for specific packaging materials across Member States, as illustrated in Figure 2.



Every year, 8-9 million tonnes of **end-of-life vehicles** (ELV) are generated in the European Union. Eurostat [data](#) indicate that across Member States, from 80% to 100% of materials from ELVs collected through regular channels are recovered or recycled.

In the 19 Member States for which information is available, **waste portable batteries and accumulators** in 2013 amounted to 40% of portable batteries and accumulators placed on the market, again according to Eurostat [data](#). Batteries and accumulators not collected separately enter the municipal waste stream and are either landfilled or incinerated.

Electrical and electronic waste, also referred to as 'waste of electrical and electronic equipment', or 'e-waste', is one of the fastest growing waste streams, increasing at 3-5% per year. In 2012, 9 million tonnes of electrical and electronic products were put on the EU market, and 3.5 million tonnes of e-waste were collected through regular channels for treatment – of which 2.5 million tonnes were later recycled or reused. Electrical and electronic waste which are not collected separately are either kept by consumers in their homes, collected outside regular channels or disposed of with mixed ordinary waste (going to landfills or incinerators).

Quality of waste statistics

Figures on waste management ought to be treated with caution, especially as regards comparison between Member States, because of varying data collection methods, the lack of recent data, the wide spectrum of waste types, and the complexity of waste-treatment streams. However, they can provide a rough picture of the situation.

Adverse effects from waste treatment methods can include the following:

- impacts on the **environment** (in particular biodiversity and ecosystems): landfills may contaminate, depending on the way they are built, soil and water with chemicals contained in waste; littering can have severe consequences for wild animals, especially through ingestion of microplastics; more generally, if waste is not recycled or recovered, the raw materials extracted and transformed to produce a product are lost;
- impacts on the **climate**, as landfills release methane, a powerful greenhouse gas;
- impacts on **human health**, primarily associated with landfilling, due to the release of air pollutants in the atmosphere and to the possible contamination of freshwater sources and agricultural soils;
- impacts on the **economy**, as valuable materials are lost.¹

However, a number of **improvements** in waste management have been recorded in recent years:

- **Municipal waste per capita** in the EU decreased from 523 kg per person in 2007 to 481 kg per person in 2013, in part as a result of the economic downturn.
- The share of **recycled or composted municipal waste** in the EU28 increased from 31% in 2004 to 43% in 2013. According to the [European Environment Agency](#) (EEA), trends in the past decade also include a shift away from landfilling and a 56% drop in net greenhouse-gas emissions from municipal waste management between 2001 and 2010.
- As regards **packaging**, the recycling rate for all packaging materials in the EU15 increased from 55.6% in 2004 to 66.4% in 2012.²

What is a circular economy?

In a [circular economy](#), products and the materials they contain are valued highly, unlike in the traditional, linear economic model, based on a 'take-make-consume-throw away' pattern. In practice, a circular economy implies **reducing waste to a minimum** as well as re-using, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products. What used to be considered as 'waste' can be turned into a valuable resource.

Moving towards a more circular economy could deliver **benefits**, among which reduced pressures on the environment, enhanced security of supply of raw materials, increased competitiveness, innovation, and growth and jobs. However, it would also face **challenges**, among which finance, key economic enablers, skills, consumer behaviour and business models, and multi-level governance.

Existing situation

The 2005 [Thematic strategy on waste](#) sets out the **general policy framework**: modernising legislation, introducing an approach based on product life cycles, preventing waste generation and promoting recycling. The 2011 [Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe](#) deals, inter alia, with waste management and aims to 'manage waste as a resource' by 2020. The [Seventh Environment Action Programme, 'Living well, within the limits of our planet'](#) also addresses waste management in its priority objective aiming 'to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy.'

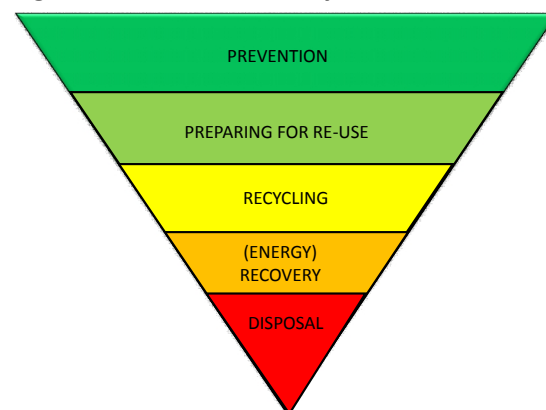
Waste Framework Directive

The 2008 [Waste Framework Directive](#) sets the overarching legislative framework. It defines the main concepts linked to waste management, including the 'polluter pays

principle' (ensuring that the costs of preventing, controlling and cleaning up pollution are reflected in the cost of goods), the 'waste hierarchy' (a priority order set among waste prevention and management options, pictured in Figure 3) and the 'end-of-waste status' (i.e. when waste ceases to be waste after recovery). The Directive sets binding targets to be achieved by 2020: preparing for reuse and recycling of 50% of certain waste materials from households and similar sources, and preparing for reuse, recycling and other recovery of 70% of construction and demolition waste. It also requires Member States to set up separate collection of waste where appropriate, and to draw up [waste management plans](#) and [waste prevention programmes](#).

Progress towards the target to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020 has been uneven. A 2013 [report](#) by the EEA indicates that, while five Member States have already achieved the target and another six will achieve it if they continue to improve their recycling rate at the current pace, the majority of Member States would need to make an extraordinary effort in order to achieve the target of 50% recycling by 2020.³ The overall increase in the recycling rate appears to be mainly driven by materials such as glass, paper/cardboard, metals, plastic and textiles. In contrast, increases in bio-waste recycling are much more modest.

Figure 3 – Waste hierarchy



Source: [European Commission](#).

Extended producer responsibility (EPR)

Extended producer responsibility schemes imply that producers take over the financial and/or organisational responsibility for collecting or taking back used goods, as well as sorting and treatment for their recycling. They provide an incentive for producers to take into account environmental considerations from the design phase to the end-of-life of their products, and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy.

The Waste Framework Directive sets principles regarding the implementation of EPR schemes in Member States. Three stream-specific directives (end-of-life vehicles, batteries and accumulators, waste electrical and electronic goods) introduce EPR as a policy approach. It is also used for packaging and other waste streams at varying levels in Member States. According to the Commission and stakeholders, EPR schemes are the main driver for reaching the targets set in the Packaging Directive, although in the absence of requirements, their effectiveness varies a great deal.

Although EPR is in theory an individual obligation, in practice producers often exert this responsibility collectively through 'producer responsibility organisations' (PROs). A [report](#) published in 2014 by the European Commission looks at differences in performance between PROs across Member States and six waste streams. It concludes that, in most cases, the best performing schemes are not the most expensive ones, and that no single EPR model emerges as the best performing and the most cost-effective.

Landfilling Directive

The 1999 [Directive on the landfill of waste](#) bans landfilling of untreated waste⁴ and sets targets. Compared to 1995, the base year, the share of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfills may not be greater than 75% in 2006, 50% in 2009 and 35% in 2016, with derogations granted to 16 Member States.⁵

The reduction of biodegradable waste going to landfill mandated in the Landfilling Directive is progressing, albeit at varying speeds. The above-mentioned EEA [report](#) indicates that, while almost all of the 12 Member States without derogation are on track to meet the 2016 targets, just seven of the 16 Member States with derogations are estimated to have achieved the 2010 target. The report cites significant increases in the generation of municipal waste as an important factor explaining slow progress in some countries, since reduction targets are set compared to the total amount of municipal waste generated in 1995. In addition, illegal landfills remain a problem in some Member States.⁶

Packaging Waste Directive

The 1994 [Directive on packaging and packaging waste](#) aims to protect the environment and to safeguard the functioning of the internal market. It requires Member States to take measures to prevent packaging waste and to develop packaging reuse systems. The original 1994 Directive, and the amended version from 2004, set targets with regard to recovery and recycling of packaging waste. Targets set in 2004, to be met by 2008 (except for Member States with a derogation),⁷ relate to the overall recovery and recycling rates (60% and 55-80%, respectively) and to minimum recycling rates for specific materials: glass (60%), paper and board (60%), metals (50%), plastics (22.5%), and wood (15%). The Directive was modified in 2015 to introduce requirements on [lightweight plastic carrier bags](#).

In its 2014 [report](#) on the 'fitness check' of five waste stream directives, the European Commission concludes that targets have generally been [met](#), with a large number of Member States over-achieving on targets, and only a few Member States lagging behind, although there are some uncertainties about the quality of data provided by Member States. The report highlights, however, that the market share of reusable household packaging is decreasing and identifies potential conflicts between packaging reuse schemes and recycling schemes.

Directives on end-of-life vehicles, batteries and accumulators, and WEEE

The 2000 [Directive on end-of-life vehicles](#) aims to ensure appropriate management of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) in the EU. It encourages manufacturers and importers to limit the use of hazardous substances and to develop the integration of recycled materials. The Directive sets [targets](#) for recovery and recycling to be met by 2006 and 2015. In its 2014 'fitness check' report, the European Commission indicates that although Member States are on track to meet the 2015 targets,⁸ the collection and treatment by illegal operators and the illegal shipment of ELVs remain major implementation challenges.

The 2006 [Directive on batteries and accumulators](#) aims to improve the waste management and environmental performance of batteries and accumulators, as well as to ensure the functioning of the single market by establishing rules for their collection, recycling, treatment and disposal. It also sets limit values for certain hazardous substances (in particular mercury and cadmium) in batteries and accumulators. The Directive provides for the creation of extended producer responsibility schemes and sets recycling and collection [targets](#) to be met by 2010, 2012 and 2016. In its 2014 'fitness check' report, the European Commission provided an overview of the [implementation of collection rate targets](#) in Member States and indicated that four Member States did not comply with the Directive.

The [Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment](#) (WEEE Directive), updated in 2012, sets incremental targets on several aspects: minimum rates for separate

collection, recovery and recycling/preparing for reuse.⁹ Official data on the implementation of the updated Directive are not yet available. However, the European Commission recently launched court proceedings against [Poland, Slovenia](#) and [Germany](#) for failure to transpose the WEEE Directive.

Changes the proposals would bring

The [proposal](#) amending the **Waste Framework Directive** sets **targets** regarding the share of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling to be met by 2025 and 2030 (see figure 4). Seven Member States which recycled less than 20% of their municipal waste in 2013¹⁰ are granted five additional years to reach the targets. The proposal requires the Commission to examine, by the end of 2024, whether a more ambitious target for 2030 can be set.

The proposal also defines general **requirements for extended producer responsibility schemes**. It requires in particular financial contributions paid by producers to EPR schemes to be modulated based on the costs necessary to treat their products at the end of their life.

In addition, the proposal requires Member States to use economic instruments to implement the waste hierarchy, to take measures to prevent waste generation and to ensure the separate collection of bio-waste where appropriate.

The [proposal](#) amending the **Landfilling Directive** introduces a landfilling ban for separately collected waste and limits the share of municipal waste landfilled to 10% by 2030. To ensure consistency with the targets set in the Waste Framework Directive, the proposal grants the seven Member States mentioned above five additional years to reach the target. The proposal requires the Commission to examine, by the end of 2024, whether a more ambitious target can be set.

The [proposal](#) amending the **Packaging Waste Directive** sets targets for the share of packaging waste prepared for reuse and recycling to be met by 2025 and 2030, with specific targets for various packaging materials (see Table 1 for details). Although no 2030 target is proposed for plastic packaging, the Commission may propose one at a later stage, based on a review of progress towards the target, the evolution of the plastic packaging market and the development of recycling technologies.

Table 1 – Proposed waste management targets

	2025	2030
Share of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling	60%	65%
Share of municipal waste landfilled	/	10%
Share of all packaging waste prepared for reuse and recycling	65%	75%
Share of plastic packaging waste prepared for reuse and recycling	55%	/
Share of wood packaging waste prepared for reuse and recycling	60%	75%
Share of ferrous metal packaging waste prepared for reuse and recycling	75%	85%
Share of aluminium packaging waste prepared for reuse and recycling	75%	85%
Share of glass packaging waste prepared for reuse and recycling	75%	85%
Share of paper and cardboard packaging waste prepared for reuse and recycling	75%	85%

Data source: [European Commission](#), 2015.

Other **changes** are **put forward in several of the proposals**:

- aligning definitions and introducing an early warning system for monitoring progress towards the targets (Waste Framework Directive, Landfilling Directive, Packaging Waste Directive);
- clarifying methods used to calculate progress towards targets (Waste Framework Directive, Packaging Waste Directive);
- simplifying and streamlining Member States' obligations as regards reporting; improving the quality and reliability of statistics; aligning provisions to Articles 90 and 291 TFEU on delegated and implementing acts (all four proposals).

The proposals are expected to deliver economic and environmental **benefits**. According to the Commission, the four legislative proposals put forward would create over 170 000 direct jobs in the EU by 2035; avoid greenhouse gases emissions (over 600 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent between 2015 and 2035); increase the competitiveness of the EU waste management, recycling and manufacturing sectors; reduce the dependency of the EU on raw material imports; and reduce the administrative burden. In addition, the proposals would reduce the impacts on environment and human health described earlier.

The proposals would also generate **costs**, which would most likely fall on public authorities, businesses and ultimately consumers. A 2015 Ellen MacArthur Foundation [report](#) calculates, extrapolating from UK government estimates, that the cost of creating a fully efficient reuse and recycling system in the EU could be about €108 billion. The Commission indicates however that the proposals will not have an impact on the European Union budget.

Preparation of the proposal

The current proposal is largely based on preparatory **work for the 2014 proposals**. Studies were carried out on [climate benefits from better waste management](#), [waste management and generation modelling](#), and [extended producer responsibility](#). The European Commission consulted key stakeholders and the wider public in 2013 in the context of an external consultation.

The Commission carried out an [impact assessment](#) with the support of a [preliminary assessment of options](#). In July 2014, the Commission published, on the basis of an [external study](#), an [ex-post evaluation](#) of five waste stream Directives¹¹ in the context of the regulatory fitness and performance programme (REFIT).

In order to prepare the **2015 proposals**, the European Commission consulted Member States and stakeholders in the course of 2015. The Commission also published a short [supplementary impact assessment](#) focusing on potential impacts of new policy options.

Parliament's starting position

In its [resolution of 9 July 2015](#) on 'Resource efficiency: moving towards a circular economy', Parliament urged the Commission to put forward an ambitious proposal by the end of 2015, as it had announced. On the legislative proposal on waste, Parliament advocated, inter alia, strictly limiting incineration of recyclable and biodegradable waste by 2020; gradually implementing, by 2030, a ban on landfilling (except for certain hazardous waste and residual waste); and increasing targets for recycling and preparation for reuse to at least 70% of municipal solid waste and 80% of packaging waste by 2030. Parliament called for EU and national targets to increase resource

efficiency by 30% by 2030 compared to 2014 levels, and for a 'dashboard' of indicators to measure various aspects of resource consumption.

In its [resolution of 12 December 2013](#) on 'eco-innovation – jobs and growth through environmental policy', Parliament called for an ambitious sustainable industrial policy with emphasis on resource efficiency, and highlighted the dual environmental and economic benefits of transition to a green sustainable economy.

Stakeholders' views

Business associations generally welcomed the proposals, while making specific, both supportive and critical, comments. Non-ferrous metals association [Eurometaux](#) particularly welcomed the landfilling and recycling targets, as well as the requirements for separate collection and increased recyclability. European Steel association [Eurofer](#) called, among other things, for a move away from 'waste management' to genuine 'resource management' and for more recycling of construction and demolition waste. [European Aluminium](#) advocated phasing out landfilling and called for more ambition on construction and demolition waste targets. Paper association [CEPI](#) welcomed the recognition of the role of biomass and bio-based products. Container glass federation [FEVE](#) recognised the glass packaging recycling targets as ambitious. [Europen](#), representing the packaging supply chain in Europe, particularly favoured the intention to improve the functioning of EPR schemes. [Eurochambres](#), the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, underlined that EPR provisions are problematic and that packaging waste targets seem unrealistic. [Plastics Europe](#) called for the phasing out of landfilling and voiced concerns about 'extremely ambitious' plastic packaging recycling targets.

Stakeholders from the **waste sector** also generally welcomed the proposals, nevertheless issuing a mix of positive and negative comments. Waste management federation [FEAD](#) particularly welcomed the binding waste management targets and called for greater regulatory pull to help create markets for secondary raw materials. [Municipal Waste Europe](#), representing municipalities and publicly-owned companies responsible for waste management, expressed satisfaction with the waste management targets, the requirements for EPR schemes, and the new definition of municipal waste; and also highlighted the need for waste-to-energy (incineration). Waste-to-energy sector association [CEWEP](#) called for more ambition on landfilling and highlighted the role of waste-to-energy in a circular economy. [Plastic Recyclers Europe](#) criticised the lack of concrete action on plastics recycling, especially as regards sorting and exports.

NGOs were generally critical of the proposals. The [European Environmental Bureau](#) and [Friends of the Earth Europe](#) criticised the proposals for lowering waste management targets and not living up to the promise of more ambition. [Zero Waste Europe](#) highlighted that the proposals fail to address waste prevention and reuse, although some improvements have been introduced as regards methodologies, definitions and requirements for EPR schemes.

Advisory committees

The **European Economic and Social Committee** is expected to adopt an opinion on the new circular economy package in April 2016. In its [opinion](#) of 10 December 2014 on the initial circular economy package, the European Economic and Social Committee welcomed the initiative while calling on the Commission to focus more specifically on impacts on employment.

The **Committee of the Regions** is expected to adopt its opinion on the legislative proposals on waste in June 2016. In its [opinion](#) of 12 February 2015 on the initial circular economy package, the Committee of the Regions called for ambitious waste management targets underpinned by a general resource efficiency target. It also advocated mandatory targets for waste prevention.

Council

At a Council [meeting](#) of Environment Ministers on 16 December 2015, Member States generally welcomed the new circular economy package as an improvement on the initial one, although two expressed concern that the targets have such a high level of ambition. The Competitiveness Council is scheduled to hold an exchange of views on the package on 29 February 2016, and the Environment Council is expected to hold a policy debate on the proposals on 4 March 2016.

National parliaments

The deadline for national parliaments to submit comments on the proposals is 2 February 2016.

Parliamentary advice

The European Parliamentary Research Service published **appraisals** of the [initial Commission impact assessment](#) in October 2014 and on a [specific impact assessment on food waste](#) in November 2014. A briefing on the supplementary impact-assessment information is due to be published soon.

Parliamentary services produced several publications on **waste policy**:

- an [implementation appraisal](#) on EU waste policy highlights, inter alia, large variations between Member States in meeting waste policy targets;
- a briefing on [waste management](#) describes EU waste policy, including challenges linked to toxic substances, downcycling and weaker norms outside the EU;
- a briefing on [waste streams](#) describes in detail the state of material-related streams (including metals, glass, paper, plastics, bio-waste) and product-related streams (including packaging, electronic waste, batteries, end-of-life vehicles);
- a briefing on [waste to energy](#) underlines the challenges and the opportunities linked to waste incineration, in particular in relation with recycling;
- a briefing on [food waste](#) puts this issue in a global perspective and describes initiatives to address it at EU, national and local level;

and more specifically on the **shift towards a circular economy**:

- a comparison of the [2014 and 2015 circular economy packages](#);
- a briefing on the new [circular economy package](#) analyses the circular economy action plan presented in December 2015 as well as the opportunities and challenges related to a shift towards a circular economy;
- a study on [resource-efficiency indicators](#) summarises the presentations and discussions at a workshop on this topic held in April 2015;
- a study on the [recovery of rare earths from electronic waste](#) highlights opportunities for high-tech SMEs in this field.

Legislative process

On 21 December 2015, the European Parliament Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) held an exchange of views with Environment

Commissioner Karmenu Vella on the circular economy package. The ENVI Committee is expected to consider the proposals in the coming months.

References

Resource efficiency. Circular economy package: [Waste](#); [Landfill of waste](#); [Packaging and packaging waste](#); [End-of-life vehicles, batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, waste electrical and electronic equipment](#), European Parliament, Legislative Observatory (OEIL).

[Circular economy in Europe: Developing the knowledge base](#) / European Environment Agency, January 2016.

[Closing the loop: new circular economy package](#), European Parliamentary Research Service, January 2016.

[Understanding waste streams: treatment of specific waste](#), European Parliamentary Research Service, July 2015.

[Understanding waste management: policy challenges and opportunities](#), European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2015.

[Resource Efficiency Indicators](#), European Parliament Policy Department A, June 2015.

[Growth Within: a circular economy vision for a competitive Europe](#), Ellen MacArthur Foundation, June 2015.

Implementation Appraisal briefing on [Resource efficiency and waste](#), European Parliamentary Research Service, September 2014.

[Well-being and the environment: Building a resource-efficient and circular economy in Europe](#), European Environment Agency, June 2014.

Endnotes

¹ A 2015 Ellen MacArthur Foundation [report](#) estimates that by 2030, a shift towards a circular economy could reduce net resource spending in the EU by €600 billion annually, bringing total benefits estimated at €1.8 trillion per year once multiplier effects are accounted for.

² EU28 data is only available as of 2012.

³ Nine Member States would need to increase their recycling rate yearly by 2-4 percentage points until 2020, a rate that only three Member States achieved between 2001 and 2010. A further seven Member States would need to achieve an unprecedented increase of more than four percentage points annually up to 2020.

⁴ Examples of treatment include sorting of waste.

⁵ Twelve Member States (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the United Kingdom) have been given a four-year derogation, meaning that they must meet their targets by 2010, 2013 and 2020. A further four Member States have been given specific derogations: Ireland has to meet the 2006 and 2009 targets by 2010 and 2013; Portugal has to meet the 2009 and 2016 targets by 2013 and 2020; Slovenia has to meet the 2016 target by 2020; Croatia must meet the targets by 2013, 2016 and 2020.

⁶ The Court of Justice fined [Italy](#) in December 2014 for failure to bring 218 landfills into conformity with EU waste legislation. In 2015, the Commission launched court proceedings against [Greece](#) and [Spain](#) over illegal landfills.

⁷ Sixteen Member States have derogations to meet the 2008 targets. For more details, see an [overview of targets and derogations](#) by Eurostat.

⁸ However, the Commission initiated court proceedings against [Poland](#) in 2014 for failings in its ELV legislation and against [Romania](#) in 2015 for failure to transpose the Directive on ELVs.

⁹ [Minimum rates for the separate collection](#) of WEEE are to be met by the end of 2015, between 2016 and 2018 and as of 2019, with derogations granted to 10 Member States. [Recovery targets](#) as well as [recycling/preparing for reuse targets](#) for individual product categories are to be met by August 2015, and between August 2015 and August 2018. [Recovery and recycling targets as of August 2018](#) have also been set.

¹⁰ Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Malta, Romania and Slovakia.

¹¹ Including the Directive on packaging and packaging waste, the Directive on end-of-life vehicles, and the Directive on batteries and accumulators.

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