

**Question for written answer E-006994/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Commission attitude to mechanical biological waste treatment in Croatia

The Croatian Minister for Environmental Protection is in favour of scaling down large waste management facilities. That approach is also supported by a letter from the Commission to the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection – published in the Croatian media – to the effect that funding for new residual waste treatment plants, using, for example, incineration or mechanical biological treatment (MBT), will be authorised only in a limited number of justified cases, provided that there is no risk of overcapacity and the aims of the waste hierarchy are fully complied with. The letter made the further point that the waste management system in Croatia had previously developed in the wrong direction, as it had failed to allow for a criterion to be met by 2020, namely the 50% separate collection rate. In the run-up to accession, the operational programmes on environmental protection, enabling Croatia to make use of EU funding under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) in order to bring itself up to EU standards, provided for regional facilities using MBT technology, which were designed in collaboration with Commission experts and adopted with the Commission's agreement.

How does the Commission explain the fact that before accession had even happened, it supported the IPA operational programmes for Croatia in the field of environmental protection, including the construction of regional MBT technology facilities, whereas it is now opposing that option?