



21.5.2019

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0820/2017 by D.R. (British) on Cyprus' potential failure to comply with recycling responsibilities as a Member State of the EU

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner complains of the apparent non-compliance with EU recycling rules by Cyprus. He describes a situation in which residents are informed that all household waste, even if correctly sorted, ends up in landfills. He claims that this is true regardless of whether the waste disposal services are handled by public authorities or private subcontractors. The petitioner is therefore asking the European Parliament to investigate whether Cyprus complies with relevant EU legislation on recycling or whether all waste in Cyprus illegally ends up in landfills.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 5 December 2017. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 28 March 2018

Cyprus is indeed one of the Member States with a high rate of household waste ending up in landfills. According to Eurostat statistics, in 2016 only 17% of household waste was recycled (see <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/environment/waste/main-tables>). This rate is well below the average EU recycling rate of 46% and is amongst the Member States short-listed as being at risk of non-compliance with the EU recycling target of 50% for household waste to be reached by 2020 (see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/targets.htm>).

In 2015, the Commission launched the "Early Warning" project to assess the progress made by the EU Member States towards compliance with this target. This project aims at identifying which Member States are at risk of missing the target and what specific recommendations would be needed for these countries in order to fill the implementation gap.

By mid-2018, once the project is finalised, the Commission will publish its results as part of a general report on implementation of waste legislation.

4. REV I Commission reply, received on 31 October 2018

The aim of the "Early Warning" project launched by the Commission in 2015 has been to identify which Member States are at risk of missing the target and what specific recommendations would be needed for these countries in order to fill the implementation gap. The supporting analysis behind the "Early Warning" project as well as the Commission report on the implementation of EU waste legislation, including the early warning report for Member States at risk of missing the 2020 preparation for re-use/recycling target on municipal waste, is published on the Commission's website (see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/early_warning.htm).

Cyprus is identified as one of the countries that are at risk of missing the target, and suggested actions for Cyprus are outlined in the Early Warning report.

5. REV II Commission reply, received on 21 May 2019

Cyprus is indeed one of the Member States with a very high rate of landfilling of household waste. According to Eurostat statistics, in 2017 only 16% of municipal waste was recycled (see <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/environment/waste/main-tables>). This rate is well below the average EU recycling rate of 46%. Cyprus is amongst the Member States identified as being at risk of non-compliance with the EU recycling target of 50% for household waste to be reached by 2020 (see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/targets.htm>).

In September 2018, the Commission published a 'Report on implementation of EU waste legislation, including the early warning report for Member States at risk of missing the 2020 preparation for re-use/recycling target on municipal waste'¹. In this document the Commission included results of an assessment of Member States' progress towards compliance with the EU recycling target of 50% for household waste to be reached by 2020 and identified 14 countries, including Cyprus, that are at risk of not attaining it. For each of these countries, the Commission proposed country-specific actions to fill the implementation gap.

The Commission report, as well as the supporting analysis, is published on the Commission's website (see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/early_warning.htm).

In addition, in September 2018, the Commission opened an EU pilot file to investigate Cyprus' compliance with the obligations under Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the

¹ COM(2018) 656 final.

landfilling of waste¹.

Conclusion

The Commission will continue to monitor the situation.

¹ Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste, *OJL 182, 16.7.1999, p. 1–19*.