



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 6.6.2005  
COM(2005) 240 final

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION  
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

**concerning a proposal abolishing overlapping reporting obligations, pursuant to Article 8(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste statistics**

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION  
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

**concerning a proposal abolishing overlapping reporting obligations, pursuant to Article 8(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste statistics**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2002 on waste statistics<sup>1</sup> (Waste Statistics Regulation) came into force on 29 December 2002. The Regulation establishes a framework for the production of Community statistics on the generation, recovery and disposal of waste.

Article 8, “Report”, sets out the reporting obligations of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council.

Article 8(2) stipulates:

*“The Commission shall, within two years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation, submit to the European Parliament and the Council a proposal abolishing overlapping reporting obligations.”*

**2. CURRENT WORK ON THE ABOLITION OF OVERLAPPING REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

The Commission (Eurostat) is currently working on a proposal abolishing overlapping reporting obligations as regards waste, but was not in a position to submit a proposal for a legal act to the European Parliament and the Council by 29 December 2004 as required by Article 8(2) of the Regulation, for the following reasons:

**2.1. Priority on implementation**

Implementing the Waste Statistics Regulation puts a heavy burden on both Member States and Commission departments. In allocating available human resources within Eurostat, priority has had to be given to the adoption of the implementation measures set out in Article 6(a)–(g).

Management of the pilot study programme, in particular, puts a considerable administrative burden on the Commission, while adapting the specifications in Annexes I, II and III (waste categories, waste treatment operations and waste nomenclature), discussing the production of results with Member States in dedicated working groups, defining proper quality evaluation criteria and setting out the data transmission format has required more work by the Commission than originally expected.

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 332, 9.12.2002, p. 1, Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 574/2004 (OJ L 90, 27.3.2004, p. 15).

## 2.2. A first draft analytical report

The Commission cooperates in this domain with the European Environment Agency (EEA), in particular with its “European Topic Centre on Resource and Waste Management” (ETC/RWM).

The ETC/RWM has carried out an analysis of reporting obligations on waste. Twenty-two legislative instruments with reporting obligations were identified, of which four are conventions, two agreements, fifteen Community legal acts (Directives and Regulations) and one is the Waste Statistics Regulation itself. The analysis focused on seven Directives and one Regulation requiring mandatory, quantitative reporting of waste data as specified in the relevant questionnaires that have been adopted by Commission Decisions. The results of the analysis are presented in a draft report and can be summarised as follows:

For three Directives it would be possible to remove most quantitative reporting obligations after minor changes in the respective provisions:

- Waste Framework Directive<sup>2</sup>;
- Hazardous Waste Directive<sup>3</sup>;
- Waste Oils Directive<sup>4</sup>.

For one Regulation and one Directive important reporting obligations could be removed after minor adaptation and harmonisation of waste classifications:

- Waste Shipment Regulation<sup>5</sup>;
- Sewage Sludge Directive<sup>6</sup>.

Partial overlapping reporting obligations could be removed by changes in the respective provisions under three Directives, combined with possible changes in the Annexes of the Waste Statistics Regulation:

- Landfill Directive<sup>7</sup>;
- Packaging Directive<sup>8</sup>;
- Directive on End-of-life Vehicles<sup>9</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> Council Directive 75/442/EEC of 15 July 1975 on waste, OJ L 194, 25.7.1975, p. 39.

<sup>3</sup> Council Directive 91/689/EEC of 12 December 1991 on hazardous waste, OJ L 377, 31.12.1991, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> Council Directive 75/439/EEC of 16 June 1975 on the disposal of waste oils, OJ L 194, 25.7.1975, p. 23.

<sup>5</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 259/93 of 1 February 1993 on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community, OJ L 30, 6.2.1993, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2557/2001 (OJ L 349, 31.12.2001, p. 1).

<sup>6</sup> Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture, OJ L 181, 4.7.1986, p. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste, OJ L 182, 16.7.1999, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste, O J L 365, 31.12.1994, p. 10.

### 2.3. Need for a broader analysis

Important Community legal acts on waste are currently in preparation or under revision. The reporting requirements of the revised Batteries Directive<sup>10</sup> and the revised Waste Shipment Regulation, as well as the future Mining Waste Directive, will have to be analysed. Data reporting requirements arising under the Electronic Waste Directive<sup>11</sup> (WEEE) will also have to be analysed<sup>12</sup>.

Furthermore, potential changes in legislation under the forthcoming Thematic Strategy on waste prevention and recycling<sup>13</sup>, with an impact on reporting obligations, are still under development and are expected to be decided in the course of 2005.

### 3. PLANNED WORK IN 2005

The Commission will complete the analytical work on overlapping reporting in existing Community law by mid-2005. Fact sheets will gradually be made available to present the findings for each legal act which has been analysed<sup>14</sup>.

Forthcoming legislation will be analysed for potential overlapping reporting obligations.

It is planned to complete the task, for Community legislation in force which requires quantitative reporting on waste, before the end of 2005.

By the end of 2005 the Commission will present a draft proposal for a legal act on concrete measures abolishing overlapping reporting obligations for quantitative data on waste.

### 4. PERSPECTIVES BEYOND 2005

The streamlining of reporting obligations as regards waste forms part of a wider initiative to improve the availability of information for environmental policy-making while minimising the associated administrative burden. This initiative includes:

- developing infrastructure and rules for data sharing to ensure that data can be easily located, accessed and managed by a wide range of users, including the public;
- reinforcing and streamlining monitoring and modelling activities needed to produce the required data of the necessary level of detail to enable further assessments to be carried out;

---

<sup>9</sup> Directive 2000/53/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on end-of-life vehicles, OJ L 269, 21.10.2000, p. 34.

<sup>10</sup> Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on batteries and accumulators and spent batteries and accumulators, COM (2003) 723 final.

<sup>11</sup> Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 2003 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), OJ L 37, 13.2.2003, p. 24.

<sup>12</sup> A questionnaire for the report on the implementation of the Electronic Waste Directive has been adopted (Commission Decision 2004/249) and another one on collection/recovery data is to be adopted soon.

<sup>13</sup> Communication from the Commission, Towards a thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste, COM (2003) 301 final.

<sup>14</sup> Fact sheets and interim reports are available at <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/pip/library?l=/wastesstatisticsregulat>

- adapting legal requirements to the overall system and stepping up efforts to improve compliance.

In this context the Commission is currently undertaking a general evaluation of reporting obligations both in Community and in international agreements to which the Community is a party, with a view to identifying opportunities for streamlining. On the basis of this evaluation and after consideration of the results from the simplification exercise carried out by the Council<sup>15</sup>, the Commission will come forward with proposals to revise the obligations as necessary.

The Commission will continuously improve the coordination of reporting on waste to avoid overlapping reporting obligations in existing and forthcoming legislation.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

As outlined in this report, the Commission will need more time to prepare a proposal abolishing overlapping reporting obligations. By the end of 2005 the Commission will present a draft proposal for a legal act setting out practical measures to abolish overlapping reporting obligations for quantitative data on waste.

---

<sup>15</sup> 2624th Council Meeting, Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research) Brussels, 25 and 26 November 2004, press release: [http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/82805.pdf](http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/82805.pdf)