

Amending the Waste Framework Directive

In March, Parliament is due to vote on the report adopted by its Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on a proposal for a targeted revision of EU waste rules to speed up the fight against food waste and to involve textile producers in the fight against the waste of used clothes and shoes.

Background

Every year in the EU, nearly [60 million tonnes](#) of food are wasted. This represents 131 kilograms (kg) per person. Over half of all food waste is generated in households (53 %), with processing and manufacturing sectors accounting for the next largest share (20 %). The costs of collection and treatment exceed €9 billion. The EU also generates [12.6 million tonnes](#) of textile waste per year. Clothing and footwear alone account for 5.2 million tonnes of waste, equivalent to 12 kg of waste per person per year. Currently, only 22 % of consumer textile waste is collected for re-use or recycling, with the remainder often incinerated or landfilled.

European Commission proposal

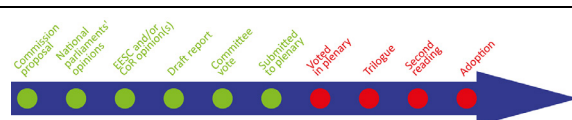
The Commission [proposal](#) to amend the 2008 Waste Framework Directive would set national targets to cut food waste by 10 % in upstream processing and manufacturing, and by 30 % (per capita) in restaurants, retail and households – both by 2030, based on 2020 levels. The new provisions would empower the Commission through delegated acts to establish a common methodology and minimum requirements for EU countries to measure the amount of food waste generated. The Commission would have to review progress towards meeting the 2030 targets by December 2027, and could potentially extend them 'to other stages of the food supply chain' or consider setting new targets beyond 2030. Additionally, the proposed directive would introduce rules to make producers responsible for the full lifecycle of textile products and to support the sustainable management of textile waste across the EU through extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes. These schemes would have to cover the costs of collecting textiles, shoes and textile-related products for re-use or recycling, along with transport and sorting, analysing textile content of mixed municipal waste, and providing information on the sustainable use of textiles.

European Parliament position

The European Parliament's ENVI committee [adopted](#) its [position](#) on 14 February 2024 by 72 votes to none, with three abstentions. MEPs want to [increase](#) the 2030 binding reduction targets from 10 % to 20 % in food processing and manufacturing, and from 30 % to 40 % per capita in retail, catering, food services and households, compared to the annual average generated between 2020 and 2022. These targets should be achieved at national level by 30 December 2030. Instead of a review in 2027 to set a target to halve food waste by 2030, the text provides for the Commission to assess the situation and present appropriate legislative proposals to introduce higher targets for 2035 (at least 30 % and 50 % respectively). Concerning textile waste, MEPs included in the list of products falling within the EPR scheme some non-household products such as carpets and mattresses, and provided for the monitoring of exported used textiles. MEPs also want EU countries to set up EPR schemes 18 months after the directive comes into force, and for Member States to ensure separate collection of textiles for re-use and recycling by 1 January 2025.

First-reading report: [2023/0234\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: ENVI; Rapporteur: Anna Zalewska (ECR, Poland). For further information, see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).

[Outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe](#): This proposal is relevant for measures 1(3); 5(3), (8), (9), (11).



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