

**Question for written answer E-010817/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: End-of-waste status: draft regulation on biodegradable waste

With the help of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Commission has taken a step aimed at establishing criteria so that compost and digestates from the processing of biodegradable waste can be given product status.

Reading the latest version of the report issued by the JRC highlights the fact that nearly all Member States have already put in place legislation to regulate the return to soil of compost, and that more than half of them have established their criteria for claiming product status. On this last point, it has been possible to reach national agreements by taking into account specific local characteristics and the sensitivity of the various stakeholders.

The result is that there is a rather diverse range of quality criteria, which seemingly should not be called into question, particularly if we take into account the fact that compost exchanges between Member States are almost non-existent (less than 1 % of the tonnage produced). Consequently, the principle of subsidiarity seems entirely relevant to this issue.

- To what extent does the Commission intend to take into account the need for subsidiarity in its draft regulation? How can it explain the fact that, in its study, the JRC did not take into account the option of having subsidiarity take precedence over a piece of European legislation?
- Can the Commission indicate the upcoming deadlines and the publication of the above-mentioned regulation?