

**Question for written answer E-002233/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Statistics on municipal waste

Eurostat published recommendations on municipal waste in November 2012. These recommendations are not binding on Member States and are not applied consistently across the European Union. There are two main factors which make comparisons difficult:

1. Statistical methodology: Eurostat recommends that waste imported for recycling should not be counted. However, some Member States improve their performance by doing so. Eurostat also recommends that waste coming out of sorting facilities and mechanical-biological processing plants should be accounted for according to the ultimate processing method (landfill, incineration, recycling and composting), which makes it possible to calculate exactly what percentage is actually recycled, as well as the tonnage of residual matter not recycled. However, some Member States estimate their recycling rate by counting only inbound flows without taking off the processing residues, which will be eliminated. This has the effect of overstating their recycling performance and masking the requirement to eliminate the non-recyclable residual tonnage.
2. Different definitions: Member States have different definitions of biodegradable waste, treatment residues and household and similar waste.
 - Does the Commission envisage making these recommendations binding?
 - How does it plan to exclude waste imported from within the European Union from the calculation of 'national' recycling performance?
 - How does it intend to apply the Eurostat recommendation that waste should be accounted for according to the amounts actually processed by the facilities?
 - How does it plan to harmonise the definitions of household and similar waste and biodegradable waste, in order to improve the comparability of performance between Member States?
 - Does the Commission envisage developing statistical tools for waste of commercial and industrial origin?