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E-002020/2022
Answer given by Mr Sinkevičius on behalf of the European Commission (9.8.2022)

The Commission has been working with stakeholders and authorities from the Member States to improve the collection and management of end-of-life recreational boats. The Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (“HELCOM Convention”) has also taken initiatives on this issue.

To the knowledge of the Commission, France is so far the only Member State, which has put in place a dedicated extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme for end-of-life recreational boats.

EPR schemes are a key instrument to finance the collection and environmentally sound treatment of waste, as well as to support the design and production of goods, which take into account and facilitate the efficient use of resources during their whole life-cycle including their repair, re-use, disassembly and recycling. There are currently no requirements at the EU level for Member States to set up EPR schemes for end-of-life recreational vessels, but such vessels are subject to the general rules applying to waste, which are contained in the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). According to these rules, the Member States are notably obliged to take the necessary measures to prohibit the abandonment, dumping or uncontrolled management of waste. The WFD also invites Member States to consider applying EPR schemes nationally where it would provide a more appropriate waste management option.

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