

**Question for written answer E-003186/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Elsi Katainen** (Renew)

**Subject:** Improving waste sorting capacity in the EU Member States

As concluded in a European Environment Agency (EEA) report from 2022, most Member States will not reach their 2025 recycling targets. This is a reminder that recyclable waste is continuously being landfilled, contrary to the waste hierarchy. Contributing to these challenges is the lack of EU-wide best available techniques and waste sorting plants.

Improving sorting capacity in EU Member States would mean recyclable waste would be diverted for recycling and reuse, leaving only non-recyclable waste to be disposed of. Especially in the case of hazardous waste, the most sensible treatment method is currently incineration combined with energy recovery. To render this practice even more sustainable, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by incineration could also be captured and stored or used. However, there are currently no significant incentives for the use of carbon-capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) solutions.

1. How does the Commission plan to develop the definition of recyclable and non-recyclable waste to minimise the incineration of recyclable waste?
2. What kind of role does the Commission see for the Sevilla Process and best available techniques relating to waste sorting in increasing recycling rates?
3. How could the incentives for capturing the greenhouse gas emissions from the incineration of non-recyclable and hazardous waste be improved?

Submitted: 26.10.2023