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New rules to ensure the EU takes greater responsibility for its waste entered into force on Monday 20 May 2024.Thenew Waste ShipmentsRegulation sets out stricter rules on the export of waste to non-EU countries. The Regulation will also increasetraceability and facilitate the shipments of waste for recycling in the EU and beyond. It will support the circular economy and ensure that waste exported from the EU is treated in an environmentally sustainable way.Stricter control of waste exportsWaste exports from the EU to non-EU countries have increased by 72% since 2004, amounting to 35 million tons per year in 2023. 49% of waste exported from the EU goes to non-OECD countries. Under the new Regulation, exports of EU waste to non-OECD countries will only be allowed if these countries inform the European Commission that they are willing to import waste and demonstrate that they have the ability to manage it in a sustainable manner. These new requirements will apply from 21 May 2027.In addition, considering the global problems linked to soaring amounts of plastic waste and the treatment challenges, the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries will be prohibitedfrom 21 November 2026 for a period of 2.5 years, after which those countries may start receiving plastic waste subject to the strict rules of the regulation.The Commission will also monitor waste exports to OECD countries and take action if such exports create environmental problems in the country of destination. In addition, all EU companies that export waste outside the EU will have to ensure that the facilities receiving their waste are subject to an independent audit showing that those facilities manage this waste in an environmentally sound manner. With this measure, the EU aims to prevent environmental degradation and pollution in non-EU countries caused by plastic waste generated in the EU.Easier shipment and recycling of waste within the EUThe new Regulation also sets out modern digitalised procedures to facilitate and better track the shipments of waste within the EU. This should make it easier to ship waste for recycling within the EU. The circulation of waste for recycling and preparing for re-use between Member States is key for the EU's transition to a circular economy and the security of supply of raw materials.Under the new Regulation, the procedures for shipping waste will become digital from 21 May 2026. Fast track procedures for certain eligible facilities designated by the Member States (pre-consented facilities) will also be made easier and more efficient. Additionally, there will be requirements to improve the transparency of shipments of waste within the EU. This will encourage waste to re-enter the circular economy across the EU, without lowering the necessary level of control for such shipments.Tackling waste traffickingThe new Regulation also provides for stronger enforcement and cooperation in fighting waste trafficking. The new law will complement the newEnvironmental Crime Directive, which also entered into force on 20 May 2024.Waste trafficking is one of today's most serious environmental crimes. It damages the environment and, often linked to organised crime, it also harms legitimate businesses.To step up the EU response against waste trafficking, the new Regulation facilitates closer cooperation between EU Member States and provides more deterrent sanctions against criminals involved in illicit waste trade. The Commission will be able to act on the ground to support investigations by Member States on transnational crime linked to waste trafficking, with the direct involvement of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).The new regulation on waste shipments will ensure that when the EU exports waste, this waste arrives at destinations where it can be managed sustainably and support a clean and circular economy. The new regulation is an important part of the green transition in which waste will more and more be turned into valuable resources. It will make shipments smoother, easier and digital, facilitating the growth of the recycling industry and reducing pollution from bad management and illegal trafficking of waste.Virginijus Sinkeviius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries The amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (widely known as WEEE or e-waste) generated every year in the EU is increasing rapidly. It is now one of the fastest growing waste streams. It includes a large range of devices such as mobile phones, computers, televisions, fridges, household appliances, lamps but also medical devices and photovoltaic panels. E-waste contains a complex mixture of materials, some of which are hazardous. These can cause major environmental and health problems if the discarded devices are not managed properly. Modern electronics also contain rare and expensive resources, including critical raw materials. These can be recycled and re-used if the waste is effectively managed. Improving the collection, treatment and recycling of electrical and electronic equipment at the end of their life can increase resource efficiency and support the shift to a circular economy. It can also contribute to the security of supply for critical raw materials, ultimately enhancing the EUs strategic autonomy. EU rules address environmental and other issues caused by the growing number of discarded electronics in the EU. The aim is to contribute to sustainable production and consumption by preventing the creation of WEEE as a priority contributing to the efficient use of resources and the retrieval of secondary raw materials through re-use, recycling and other forms of recovery improving the environmental performance of everyone involved in the life cycle of EEE of electrical & electronic equipment is put on the markete-waste is collected per person The latest figures are from 2022 and can be found on Eurostat. The WEEE Directiveand theRoHS Directivetackle the issue of the growing amount of WEEE.The WEEE DirectiveRequires the separate collection and proper treatment of WEEE and sets targets for their collection, recovery and recyclingHelps European countries fight illegal waste exports more effectively by making it harder for exporters to disguise illegal shipments of WEEEReduces the administrative burden by calling for the harmonisation of national EEE registers and of the reporting formatWEEE Directive (consolidated version)WEEE DirectiveFind out more about the RoHS Directive. Information about the implementation of the WEEE Directive, including data and reporting and WEEE calculation tools. The Commission has been evaluating the WEEE Directive. This evaluation assessed whether the Directive remains fit for purpose, explored possibilities for simplification, and determined whether a review is necessary. To gather evidence from the public and a wide range of stakeholders, the Commission held an online public consultation, assisted by a study to support this evaluation.You can find the evaluation here, alongside an executive summary of the evaluation, and the studys final report. Key dates related to the WEEE Directive EU rules on batteries and accumulators.EU measures on treating bio-waste, including by limiting the amount sent to landfill.EU rules on the management of construction and demolition waste.EU measures to prevent and limit waste from vehicles once they come to their end-of-life.EU rules to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, as this is the most polluting way to deal with waste.EU rules on the proper management of mining waste.EU rules on packaging and packaging waste, including recycling targets and recycled content.EU rules restricting the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS).EU rules regulating the use of sewage sludge, and promoting its use in agriculture.EU rules on making ship recycling greener and safer.EU rules on waste containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs).EU rules on collecting and treating waste oils.EU rules on transporting waste within and beyond EU borders.EU rules on treating waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). EU countries must report to the European Commission on the implementation of the EU waste laws,including on the achievement of targets for waste collection, re-use, recycling and recovery every year or every two years. A more general overview of how well environmental law is implemented can be found in theenvironmental implementation review. In 2023 the Commission published a reportidentifying Member States at risk of not meeting the 2025 municipal and packaging waste recycling targets and the 2035 landfilling target.This is based on the Member States assessment carried out by the European Environment Agency (EEA). Nine Member States were on track to meet the main recycling targets for municipal waste (coming from households and businesses) and packaging waste for 2025:Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, and Slovenia. Eighteen Member States were at risk of missing one or more targets: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.The Commission has presented recommendations and makes available financial and technical support to these Member States. See here factsheets for each country. The amended Waste Framework Directive, Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive and Landfill Directive have removed the obligation for implementation reports. Now theEuropean Commission, supported by the EEA, is required to publish early warning reports three years ahead of the recycling and landfilling target years. The European List of Waste provides common terminology for classifying waste across the EU. This helps manage waste, including hazardous waste. Codes are assigned in a broad variety of activities, including the transport of waste, installation permits (which often refer also to specific waste codes), or as a basis for waste statistics. The European List of Waste is regularly revised. The latest amendment was made in 2014, following a review study. A guidance document on the classification of wastehelps national authorities, local authorities, and businesses (e.g. for permitting issues) to correctly interpret and apply EU law on the classification of waste. It provides a comprehensive overview of relevant EU law examples of waste types for which classification is considered difficult by stakeholders step-by-step information on how to assess whether waste displays hazardous properties and on how to classify it Find all documents relating to inspections and enforcement and guidance for implementation. Municipal Waste Compliance Promotion Exercise 2013 The aim of this exercise was for the Commission to provide support and guidance to Member States. It focused on waste policy objectives and the requirement for separate collection under the Waste Framework Directive. The Commission organised workshops, and published factsheets and roadmaps for ten European countries. The factsheets provide a summary of the current situation, and the roadmaps provide recommendations for improvement. These documents were based on a report to help Member States improve their waste management performance. View the final report for 2013, as well as country factsheets and roadmaps. The EEA also published a report analyzing municipal waste management in Europe. Municipal Waste Compliance Promotion Exercise 2014-2015 In its second phase, the Commission organised workshops with representatives from eight Member States to discuss the main lessons learned from the 2014-2015 compliance promotion exercise on municipal waste management. The objective was to assess waste management policy in selected Member States and help them get on track to meet EU waste targets. Thefinal reportis available here. View the country factsheets and roadmaps. Every 6 years, Member States must prepare waste management plans. These plans should cover the whole country, but local or regional authorities can prepare local or regional plans. Establishing a waste management plan allows national, regional or local authorities to take stock of the existing situation define objectives define appropriate strategies identify the necessary implementation measures Article 28(3) of the Waste Framework Directive lists the mandatory elements of a waste management plan, and article 28(4) lists additional elements that may be contained. How to prepare a waste management plan? The Commission has published a Guidance Note on preparing waste management plans. The following studies provide practical recommendations for preparing the plans, based on the assessment of national, regional and local plans from several Member States (2015-2018) Report on evaluations 2017-2018 Report on evaluations 2015-2016 Member States should send waste management plans to ENV-WASTE-PLANSec [dot] europa [dot] eu (the Commission) using the format outlined in Annex I. Basic administrative rules Relevant stakeholders, authorities and the general public must have the opportunity to contribute to the plans, and access them once complete. The plans must be placed on a publicly available website. Member States must inform the Commission when plans are adopted or substantially revised. Waste prevention programmes The Waste Framework Directive required Member States to establish Waste Prevention Programmes (WPPs) by December 2013. Member States should notify ENV-WASTE-PLANSec [dot] europa [dot] eu (the Commission)of substantial revisions of the waste prevention programmes. The Commission publishednew rules on Friday for calculating and verifying recycling efficiency and the recovery of materials from waste batteries.Batteries play a crucial role in advancing the green transition, supporting sustainable mobility, and contributing to climate neutrality by 2050. The new rules aim to support a circular, resilient and competitive economy by keeping the materials used in batteries in the economy for longer, thus preventing waste.The objective of these rules is to ensure the high-quality recycling and recovery of materials from waste batteries, particularly those containing critical and strategic raw materials.They establish clear and consistent calculation guidelines for recyclers, aiming to prevent unfair competition in the EUs market for secondary raw materials from waste batteries.The methodology for measuring the recycling efficiency of recyclers, which quantifies the total amount of materials recycled, is established for batteries containing lead-acid, nickel-cadmium, lithium and other materials.The process for measuring the recovery of materials is specifically established for critical raw materials such as cobalt, copper, lithium and nickel, as well as lead.To support the consistent application of the calculation rules, a harmonised format for documentation from recyclers to Member States authorities has also been introduced.Next stepsThe newly established methodology will enter into force on 24 July 2025.BackgroundThe delegated act draws on the JRC report entitled Technical suggestions for the rules for calculation and verification of rates for recycling efficiency and recovery of materials of waste batteries, prepared with the input of stakeholders.Annex XII of the Batteries Regulation mandates ambitious targets for the recycling efficiency to be achieved by recyclers no later than 31 December 2025 (75% for lead-acid batteries, 65% for lithium-based batteries, 80% for nickel-cadmium batteries, 50% for other batteries).The targets will be increased by 31 December 2030 for lead-acid batteries (80%) and lithium-based batteries (70%).The material recovery targets to be achieved by 31 December 2027 are 90% for cobalt, copper, lead, and nickel and 50% for lithium.These will be increased by 31 December 2031 to 95% for cobalt, copper, lead, and nickel and 80% for lithium.More informationDelegated regulation on new waste batteries rules | EUR-Lex pageBatteries Regulation | EUR-Lex pageBatteries | Commission page Since 1993, EU law on the shipment of waste includes rules for transporting waste across borders. Recently, the EU rules on waste shipments within the EU and to and from it were updated.The new Regulation on waste shipments entered into force on 20 May 2024. It aims to:Ensurethat the EU does not export its waste challenges to third countries and contributes to environmentally sound management of waste.Strengthenenforcement to prevent illegal shipments of waste occurring within the EU, as well as from the EU to third countries.Increasetraceability of waste shipments within the EU and facilitate recycling and reuse.Learn more about the Regulation's objectives in this video by Euronews.Although the new Waste Shipments Regulation entered into force on 20 May 2024, most provisions will apply from 21 May 2026 and most export rules will apply from 21 May 2027. Until then, the provisions of Waste Shipment Regulation 1013/2006 continue to apply.Find more information about the regulation's implementation here. For intra-EU shipments, different procedures apply depending on the type of waste, its envisaged treatment and the destination country.For all waste destined for disposal or in the case of hazardous and most mixed waste destined to recovery theprior notification and consent procedureapplies. This means that an operator planning such shipments needs the prior consent of all authorities from the countries concerned (from origin to destination, including transit) before the shipment can take place.For shipments of green-listed non-hazardous wastes within the EU and OECD for recovery,general information requirementsapply. Any basic information on the waste that is shipped, like the quantity, treatment, origin and destination, must be made available before the shipment starts.The Waste Shipment Regulation empowers the Commission to extend the scope of green-listed waste for shipments between EU Member States. In order to explore the potential green-listing of certain waste, the Commission has launched a Public Consultation, seeking the views of all stakeholders on the matter. Please provide your input, underpinned by rationale, data and evidence, via the followinglink. Find out more information on the green-listing of waste here.With the new Regulation, procedures will move away from a paper-based approach to an electronic one. A central EU system will ensure the smooth operation of this exchange from May 2026.Export of waste from EU countriesA general ban on waste exports for disposal and a ban on hazardous waste exports for recovery to non-OECD countriescontinue to apply.For exports for recovery, new rules will apply from May 2027onwards.Those rules differentiate between OECD countries and non-OECD countries.Rules for OECD countriesOverall, the procedural framework for exports to OECD countries outside the EU is very similar to the regime for shipments between Member States.Specifically, regardingexports to OECD countries, trends will be monitored by the Commission. If there are concerns that certain exports are increasing and likely to cause environmental damage in the country of destination, the Commission will engage in dialogue with this country. Ultimately, such exports will be suspended if the waste is not managed in an environmentally sound manner.Particular scrutiny will apply to the export of plastic waste.Rules for non-OECD countriesExports for disposal and hazardous waste exports for recovery tonon-OECD countrieswill continue to be banned, as is already the case under current rules.Starting from21 May 2027, the European Union will enforce stricter rules on non-hazardous waste exports.The export of non-hazardous waste, also known as 'green-listed' waste, will generally be prohibited to non-OECD countries. Exceptions may be granted to non-OECD countries meeting specific environmental conditions in the new Regulation.Non-OECD country authorities wishing to import waste from the EU are invited to notify the European Commission of their willingness and demonstrate their ability to treat this waste environmentally soundly, as per Annexes VIII and IX of the Regulation. Companies exporting waste from the EU will have to demonstrate that the waste exported is properly managed in the facility that manages the waste in the recipient country.Companies must ensure that independent audits are carried out in the facilities to which they ship waste, demonstrating that those facilities manage waste in an environmentally sound manner. In the absence of a positive audit, the companies must stop exporting their waste to the facility concerned. The EU Waste Shipment Enforcement Group has been established to increase cooperation and coordination against illegal shipments of waste, comprising environmental, customs, police and other relevant national inspection authorities, as well as European and international law enforcement networks. Find our more about Waste Shipment Enforcement Grouphere.The Commission will be empowered through its anti-fraud office - OLAF - to support transnational investigations by EU Member States on waste trafficking.Third countries will be supported in fighting waste trafficking through various channels of international cooperation. The classification and rules for shipments of electrical and electronic waste (known as 'e-waste') were recently changed to take account of new international rules agreed under the Basel Convention on this point.New entries were introduced in the Annexes of the Basel Convention to classify e-waste. Hazardous e-waste is classified under entry A1181, while non-hazardous e-waste is classified under entry Y49. This new classification is effective from 1 January 2025.To implement this new classification, the EU has adopted two delegated acts (Commission Delegated Regulations (EU)) (2024/3229 and 2024/3230) to amend the EU's Waste Shipments Regulation.From 1 January 2025:-The export of all e-waste from the EU to non-OECD countries will be prohibited;The export of all e-waste from the EU to OECD countries will be subject to the prior informed consent procedure;The import of all e-waste from third countries into the EU will be subject to the prior informed consent procedure;The shipment of e-waste between EU Member States will be subject to the prior informed consent procedure, except for shipments of non-hazardous e-waste classified, where appropriate, under entries GC010 and GC020, which will remain subject to the general information procedure until the end of 2026.In order to explore the potential of green-listing certain non-hazardous e-waste for shipments within the EU, the Commission has launched a Public Consultation, seeking the views of all stakeholders on the matter. Please provide your input, underpinned by rationale, data and evidence, via the followinglink. Key dates related to the Waste Shipments Regulation New rules on exports start to applyPlastic waste exports to non-OECD countries bannedNew provisions (except on exports) start to applyNew EU rules on shipments of e-waste enter into forceNew Waste Shipments Regulation enters into forceNew Waste Shipments Regulation is adoptedCommission proposes a new Regulation on waste shipmentsRegulation (EU) 2021/1840 is adopted, updating Regulation (EC) No 1418/2007 on the export of green-listed waste to non-OECD countriesEU rules on plastic waste shipments enter into forceWaste Shipments Regulation enters into force Two Regulations, one in 1993 and another in 2006, have implemented the obligations of the Basel Convention (1989) on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. The EU rules also transpose the provisions of the OECD decision (2001) establishing a control system for waste shipments for recovery within the OECD area. Find more information about the regulation's implementation here. European Green Deal Circular economy action plan Getty Images, Nikita Burdenkov These new measures will help give us packaging that is: Plastic packaging must be made in part from recycled content, with increasing targets for 2030 and 2040.All Packaging must be recyclable by 2030: This means packaging must be designed so that all parts can be used for something else afterwards, instead of valuable material being dumped or burned.No more confusing labels or complicated colours, making it easier to sort trash for recycling.People will be able to see what its made of, where to bin it, how to return it for reuse.No more layers of useless packaging or pellets in your deliveries. Small, light packaging without empty space.Encourages re-use, refill & collection Deposit and return systems will be boosted.Some single-use plastics will be banned.Companies must make reuse or refill options available whenever possible, with no extra charge.Brands using non-recyclable or environmentally harmful materials will have to pay to clean them up.Harmful and cancer-causing forever chemicals (PFAS) will be banned from packaging from August 2026. The Commission updated the List of Waste on Wednesday (5 March) to keep batteries and their critical raw materials in the economy for longer.Batteries are a key technology to drive the green transition, support sustainable mobility, and contribute to climate neutrality by 2050.Access to shredded battery waste, known as "black mass", is essential to ensure electric vehicle battery recycling.The Decision is adopted (together with the automotive action plan), both of which pave the way for a more sustainable and innovative automotive sector.Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, said:"To better protect the environment, the Commission will now classify black mass from batteries as hazardous waste. This will lead to better control of black mass shipments and especially a ban on its export to non-OECD countries. By keeping black mass longer in the economy we can boost battery recycling and our circular economy.Todays Decision clarifies that black mass shall be classified as hazardous waste.In accordance with the Basel Convention and theWaste Shipments Regulation, this will lead to better control of shipments of black mass and will ensure that black mass remains in the European economy. This supports theBattery Regulations objective of shifting to a circular economy, increasing security of supply for raw materials and energy, and enhancing the EUs strategic autonomy.The European List of Waste is a key instrument to properly manage waste in the EU and control waste shipments within and outside the EU. It identifies and classifies all different types of waste, including hazardous waste, which can be harmful to human health and the environment. Established in 2000, this list has since been revised to adapt to scientific and technical progress.New battery-related waste codesNew specific waste codes have been introduced to identify and support the proper management of waste from different stages of the batteries life cycle, including:Waste from battery manufacturingWaste from post-consumer batteriesIntermediate fractions from battery recyclingThe amendment takes into account the emergence of new battery chemistries, introducing new waste codes for lithium-based batteries and intermediate waste streams from battery recycling (black mass) to ensure their proper handling within and outside the EU.Black mass, lithium-based, nickel-based, and zinc-based waste batteries, and sodium sulphur and alkaline waste batteries are now classed as hazardous. A new hazardous code for lithium-based batteries for separately collected municipal waste has also been added.The amendment also aims to increase the protection of the environment and human health by ensuring proper management of battery-related waste. More broadly, this should also be seen in the context of a recycling value chain that works well, supporting the application of rules on recycling efficiencies for waste batteries and on recycled content in new batteries.Next stepsThe amendment of the List of Waste will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the EU if the European Parliament or the Council of the EU do not object to it, in accordance with Article 290(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. This scrutiny period generally lasts two months following the adoption of the act (the precise period is specified in the basic legislative act empowering the Commission to adopt the delegated act).Work will then focus on applying the new codes in Member States and by relevant stakeholders. Permit procedures and related documentation will need to be adapted to implement the new codes. Waste operators may have to modify their management procedures to adapt to the more stringent provisions when dealing with and shipping hazardous waste within the EU and to OECD countries.BackgroundThe delegated act draws on the JRC report entitled Technical recommendations for the targeted amendment of the European List of Waste entries relevant to batteries, prepared with the input of stakeholders. The new codes were proposed based on scientific and technical information about the chemistry of the different battery types and generated waste.The classification resulted from the application of established rules for the classification of chemicals and waste. More specifically, the proposed classification of waste as hazardous or non-hazardous is based on up-to-date information about the composition and classification of components according to the EU classification rules provided in the Regulation onClassification, Labelling and Packaging of chemicals(CLP Regulation) and in Annex III of the Waste Framework Directive.Under international law (the Basel Convention) and the EUs Waste Shipments Regulation, the export of all hazardous waste from the EU to non-OECD countries is banned.More informationUpdated List of European Waste with Battery-Related Waste Codes + AnnexTechnical recommendations for the targeted amendment of the European List of Waste entries relevant to batteries | JRC reportBatteries webpage | European Commission According to the EUs waste hierarchy, landfilling is the least preferable option and should be limited to the necessary minimum. In 2018, 24% of all municipal waste generated in the EU was landfilled. This can have dangerous effects on human health and on the environment. The generation of leachate can contaminate groundwater and methane is produced, which is a potent greenhouse gas. In addition, where recyclable waste is landfilled, materials are unnecessarily lost from Europes economy. The Landfill Directive sets out strict operational requirements for landfill sites with the objective to protect both human health and the environment. To support the EUs transition to the circular economy, the Landfill Directive also introduces restrictions on landfilling of all waste that is suitable for recycling or other material or energy recovery from 2030 limits the share of municipal waste landfilled to 10% by 2035 introduces rules on calculating the attainment of municipal waste targets and requires EU countries to put in place an effective quality control and traceability system for municipal waste landfilled requires the European Commission, with the European Environment Agency, to draw up early warning reports 3 years before each deadline to identify shortcomings in attaining the targets and recommending action to be taken allows EU countries to use economic instruments and other measures to encourage applying the waste hierarchy Landfills are divided into landfills for hazardous waste landfills for non-hazardous waste landfills for inert waste The Directive sets specific operational requirements such as permitting, waste acceptance, technical requirements in the operational and after-care phases and reporting EU countries must implement national strategies to progressively reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfills landfill facilities may not accept used tyres or waste which is liquid, flammable, explosive or corrosive, or from hospitals and medical and veterinary practices only waste that has been treated may be landfilled national authorities must ensure that the price operators charge for disposing of waste covers all the costs involved from opening to final closure of the site The Landfill Directive aims to protect both human health and the environment. In particular, it aims to prevent, or reduce as much as possible, any negative impact from landfill on surface water, groundwater, soil, air and human health. It does this by introducing rigorous operational and technical requirements. EU countries must send reports on the implementation of the Landfill Directive to the European Commission every three years. These must be based on a specific questionnaire. In 2018, a review on the implementation of EU waste legislation (including waste sent to landfill) was published. The EUs guidance on landfill gas control is non-binding and aims to help competent authorities improve methane collection through the enforcement of the Landfill Directive requirements provide clarity on landfill gas control requirements within the context of the technical and regulatory requirements of the landfill directive set out the most important criteria in ensuring effective collection, treatment and use of landfill gas Evaluation By 31 December 2024, the Commission shall review the 2035 10% target with a view to maintaining or, if appropriate, reducing it considering quantitative target per capita on landfilling introducing restrictions to the landfilling of non-hazardous waste other than municipal waste Visit Eurostat for statistics on waste generation and treatment, including landfilling. Key dates related to the Landfill Directive Directive (EU) 2018/850 amending the Landfill Directive enters into forceLandfill Directive enters into force For questions about EU environmental policy, please contact Europe Direct. To comply with the objectives of this Directive, EU countries shall take the necessary measures to achieve the following targets by 2020, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of waste materials (such as paper, metal, plastic and glass) from households shall be increased to a minimum of overall 50 % by weight by 2020, the preparing for re-use, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste shall be increased to a minimum of 70 % by weight by 2025, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste shall be increased to a minimum of 55 %, 60% and 65% by weight by 2025, 2030 and 2035 respectively The rules and calculation methods for verifying compliance with these targets can be found in Commission Decision 2011/753/EU. Additional rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data on waste in accordance with the amended Waste Framework Directive can be found in Commission Decision (EU) 2019/1004. The Commission provides guidance on municipal waste data collection, which can be found here. Hazardous wastes pose a greater risk to the environment and human health than non-hazardous waste and therefore require a stricter control regime. The Waste Framework Directive provides additional labelling, record keeping, monitoring and control obligations from the "cradle to the grave", in other words from the waste production to the final disposal or recovery. It also bans the mixing of hazardous waste with other categories of hazardous waste, and with non-hazardous waste. The classification into hazardous and non-hazardous waste is based on the system for the classification and labelling of dangerous substances and preparations. This ensures that similar principles are applied over the whole life cycle of materials. For more information on the classification of all types of waste (including hazardous), see theEuropean List of Waste. Read the guidelines on the separate collection of household hazardous waste. The Waste Framework Directive defines by-products as a substance or object, resulting from a production process, the primary aim of which is not the production of that item. By-products can come from a wide range of business sectors, and can have very different environmental impacts. It is important to classify by-products correctly to avoid environmental damage or unnecessary costs for business. End-of-waste criteria specify when certain waste ceases to be waste and becomes a product, or a secondary raw material.According to Article 6 (1) and (2) of the Waste Framework Directive, certain specified waste ceases to be waste when it has undergone a recovery operation (including recycling) and complies with specific criteria, in particular whenthe substance or object is commonly used for specific purposesthere is an existing market or demand for the substance or objectthe use is lawful (substance or object fulfils the technical requirements for the specific purposes and meets the existing legislation and standards applicable to products)the use will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impactsThis criteria for specific materials is set by the Commission through the comitology procedure. A mandate to set end-of-waste criteria was introduced to provide a high level of environmental protection and an environmental and economic benefit. They aim to further encourage recycling in the EU by creating legal certainty and a level playing field as well as removing unnecessary administrative burden.How are the end-of-waste criteria being developed?A methodology to develop the criteria has been published by the Joint Research Centre (JRC).A JRC publication on 'Scoping possible further EU-wide end-of-waste and by-product criteria' is also available.The Commission is preparing a set of end-of-waste criteria for priority waste streams. These criteria have been laid down for Find out more about how the EU helps member countries to implement the Waste Framework Directive. Read about implementation reports, the European List of Waste, guidance documents and Waste Prevention Programmes. Following a thorough analysis including stakeholder consultations, the Commission has proposed a targeted amendment of the Waste Framework Directive, with a focus on textiles waste. The proposal aims to bring about a more circular and sustainable management of textile waste, in line with the vision of the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles.A provisional agreement was reached on February 18 between the European Parliament and the Council on the targeted revision of the Waste Framework Directive.Under EU rules on waste, Member States are required to set up separate collection of textiles by 1 January 2025. For this to happen, separate collection, sorting, re-use and recycling capacities within the EU have to be strengthened. This requires significant investments to build infrastructure, and to develop new technological solutions.In particular, the Commission is proposing to introduce mandatory and harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for textiles in all EU Member States. EPR schemes require producers to take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products, in particular at the end of the products life. Under the proposal, the level of the financial contributions of the producers will be based on the circularity and environmental performance of textile products (referred to as "eco-modulation").The proposal will foster research and development in innovative technologies that promote circularity in the textile sector. It also supports social enterprises involved in textile collection, sorting, reuse, and recycling, and will ultimately incentivise producers to design more circular products.To reduce illegal waste shipments to non-EU countries, often disguised as intended for reuse, the Commission's proposal further clarifies the definitions of waste and reusable textiles. This will complement the new Regulation on waste shipments, which ensures that textile waste is only exported when there are guarantees that the waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner. For questions about EU environmental policy, please contactEurope Direct.

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