

Question for written answer E-000498/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: Compatibility of the import and co-incineration of solid recovered fuel (SRF) and refuse derived fuel (RDF) in Volos with Directives 2008/98/EC and 2010/75/EC and with the principle of proximity

The cement company Heracles General Cement Corporation [AGET Heracles] (Volos, Greece) has been incinerating significant quantities of SRF/RDF imported from other Member States, in particular Italy and Bulgaria, as well as from non-EU countries, such as Albania, for decades. This practice raises issues of compatibility with Articles 4 and 16 of Directive 2008/98/EC, in particular with the principle of proximity, according to which waste must be treated as close as possible to its place of production, in order to avoid environmental burden from transport and the transfer of risks to other areas.

At the same time, Directive 2010/75/EU provides for strict requirements for co-incineration facilities and for the distinction between ‘recovery’ and ‘disposal’. In this context, the Medical Association of Magnesia has highlighted aggravating factors for public health, calling for enhanced monitoring and epidemiological assessment.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission ensure that the import and co-incineration of SRF/RDF in Volos complies with the principle of proximity and Article 16 of Directive 2008/98/EC?
2. Does the Commission consider that, taking into account the medical findings, this practice constitutes ‘recovery’ or ‘disposal’ within the meaning of Annex II?
3. Does the Commission intend to investigate possible circumvention of Directives 2008/98/EC and 2010/75/EU?

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