

**Question for written answer E-003889/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Marko Vešligaj (S&D)

Subject: Competitiveness and Cohesion Programme 2021-2027

Thematic condition 2.6. of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 requires Member States to have updated waste management planning covering their entire territory, including an evaluation of the existing system, infrastructure needs, the investment gap, and sources of revenue to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the infrastructure. Croatia continues to face serious challenges in managing its municipal waste: it failed to achieve the 50 % recycling target for 2020, more than half of its municipal waste is still landfilled, and the economic instrument to reduce landfilling through a landfill tax was only introduced at the end of 2024. The Commission also identified in its list of priority measures for Croatia the need for a gradual increase in disposal charges to reduce the disposal of recyclable and recoverable waste.

1. On the basis of what criteria did the Commission determine that Croatia had met thematic condition 2.6, and did it, in making that assessment, take into account the achievement of recycling targets, the still high proportion of municipal waste sent to landfill, the introduction of a landfill levy only at the end of 2024, and the need to ensure long-term revenues for the operation and maintenance of waste management infrastructure?
2. Can the Commission clarify whether, in the event that shortcomings are identified in meeting that condition, any consequences can be brought to bear for the approval and payment of funds under the Competitiveness and Cohesion Programme 2021-2027, in particular for projects related to waste management infrastructure?

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