

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002217/25
to the Commission
Beatrice Timgren (ECR)
(3 June 2025)**

Subject: Consequences of the EU's Waste Directive

Under Directive (EU) 2018/851, Member States are required to set up separate collections for textiles. The aim is to promote a more circular way of managing textile waste. In Sweden, the implementation of this requirement has already resulted in second-hand organisations being inundated with textiles. This is a problem because they do not have the storage space or the resources to deal with the volumes concerned. The organisations are warning that they are now receiving large quantities of clothes that are damaged or unusable. ⁽¹⁾ Thanks to EU rules, shops are now forced to spend time and money on sorting large quantities of textiles and sending them for recycling.

At the same time, local councils are warning that the textiles containers at recycling points are full to bursting. One council has now been forced to remove the containers because the collection firm cannot cope with the volumes. ⁽²⁾

In view of the above:

1. What guidance are the Member States given on dealing with the practical challenges arising from municipal infrastructure being overwhelmed as a result of the Waste Directive?
2. Has the Commission assessed the risk of second-hand organisations being overwhelmed with products that they cannot sell on, which is pushing costs up?
3. What steps is the Commission taking to ward off the risk of second-hand organisations turning into waste-sorting centres, rather than operators that focus on re-use?

Submitted: 3.6.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2025)**

The obligation for Member States to set up separate collection for textiles by 1 January 2025 was introduced in the 2018 revision of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) ⁽¹⁾.

The WFD does not include specific requirements on the types of textiles to be collected or on the collection methods; Member States have the flexibility to design systems targeting their specificities and needs.

To make the textile waste management more sustainable, the Commission adopted a targeted revision of the WFD in July 2023, which introduces amongst other measures national extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes. The adoption of the amending Directive is planned in October 2025.

The Commission is aware of the challenges the textile second-hand sector is facing mainly because of the growing volume of used textiles and textile waste resulting from ultra- and fast fashion practices.

Once the EPR schemes for textiles are established in Member States, producer responsibility organisations will be responsible for, and financially contribute to the collection and management of end-of-life textiles. This will benefit reuse operators and social economy entities, which should have access to the collected EPR fees.

In its information note ⁽²⁾ presented to the Council (Environment) on 17 June 2025, the Commission provided an update on the current state of the recycling sector, including the textiles second-hand sector.

The note highlights envisaged measures at EU-level to support the recycling sector and invites Member States to complement these efforts with national measures.

¹ <https://www.sverigesradio.se/artikel/mer-skrap-till-second-hand-efter-nya-lagen-jattetrakigt>

² <https://www.tranastidning.se/2025-04-30/overfulla-behallare-efter-nya-lagen-nu-plockas-de-bort/>

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109-140.

⁽²⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9967-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.