

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(27.8.2025)

Article 13 of the Waste Framework Directive<sup>1</sup> (WFD) requires Member States to ensure that waste is managed in an environmentally sound way without endangering human health or harming the environment. Waste policy should focus on prevention, preparing for re-use and recycling as set out by the Green Deal<sup>2</sup>, the circular economy action plan<sup>3</sup> and the waste hierarchy in Article 4 of the WFD.

The inclusion of incineration plants in the Greek plan does not contravene the above instruments. Incineration with energy recovery is higher placed in the waste hierarchy than other disposal operations such as incineration without energy recovery and landfilling. However, the competent authorities should only grant permits to waste facilities if the intended method of treatment is acceptable from the point of view of environmental protection and if it is in line with the relevant waste management plans required in the WFD<sup>4</sup>. In particular, in order to protect human health or harm to the environment, they must respect the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)<sup>5</sup>, which lays down emission limits and techniques to stay below certain emission thresholds<sup>6</sup>.

Cohesion Policy does not support investments in waste incineration, in line with EU's commitment to prioritise waste prevention, reuse and recycling<sup>7</sup>. Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, Member States are primarily responsible to ensure compliance with EU legislation and appropriate citizen consultation process in the development of waste management strategies and specific waste treatment plants in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive<sup>8</sup>, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive<sup>9</sup> and the IED.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3-30, as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109-140.

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en).

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en).

<sup>4</sup> Article 28.

<sup>5</sup> Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control), OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17-119.

<sup>6</sup> through the best available techniques conclusions (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2010 of 12 November 2019 establishing the best available techniques (BAT) conclusions, under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, for waste incineration, OJ L 312, 3.12.2019, p. 55–91) for waste incineration, which are the reference for setting the permit conditions.

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02021R1058-20241224>).

<sup>8</sup> Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1-21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1-18.

<sup>9</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p. 30-37.