

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003027/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(21 July 2025)**

Subject: Disposal of aluminium processing waste in accordance with health and environmental regulations

Products and by-products of aluminium processing are included in the European list of hazardous waste. This means that such waste, which is classified as hazardous, will likely require special treatment before its sanitary and safe burial in the ground.

In the Greek region of Boeotia, there are plans to build a landfill for hazardous waste near the town of Tanagra, specifically in an area where there is a risk of contamination to the ground water and the river Asopos. However, before construction was completed, a landfill site for aluminium waste was hastily excavated in the meanwhile, specifically for salt slag, a type of waste present in the area from nearby industries. Given that the waste in question is on the European list, there has been strong backlash from local residents as it does not seem that the buried waste is being treated in any way. Besides the responsibility for proper disposal methods, or for the lack thereof, lying with the local authorities, a major issue arises regarding the EU's oversight of their actions.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to monitor — and in what way — the implementation of the treatment of products included in the European list of hazardous waste?
2. Does it intend to comprehensively protect the European Union's ground water against such practices, even though the responsibility for their implementation may have been delegated to the Member States?

Submitted: 21.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(9 October 2025)**

The European list of hazardous waste was replaced in 2000 by the Commission decision establishing a list of waste s ⁽¹⁾. This covers products which have become 'waste', including hazardous waste, as defined by EU law ⁽²⁾.

The Commission monitors the treatment of waste in the Member States and has taken legal action against Greece for its failure to treat waste prior to landfilling ⁽³⁾.

The Landfill Directive's ⁽⁴⁾ requirements for groundwater protection shall be implemented by national authorities because they are better placed than the Commission to assess the conditions on site.

A permit for the landfill may not be given unless the characteristics of the site or the corrective measures to be taken indicate that the landfill does not pose a serious environmental risk ⁽⁵⁾.

The location of the landfill must take into consideration distance to waterways, water bodies, the existence of groundwater, coastal water, and the geological and hydrogeological conditions in the area ⁽⁶⁾.

During the landfill's operation and after-care, water control, leachate management, protection of soil, groundwater and surface water shall be ensured ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Decision of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste, as amended, OJ L 226, 6.9.2000, pp. 3-24.

⁽²⁾ Article 3(1) of 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.

⁽³⁾ Infringement case INFR(2021)2166, [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR\(2021\)2166&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR(2021)2166&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate).

⁽⁴⁾ Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste, OJ L 182, 16.7.1999, p. 1-19, amended by Directive (EU) 2018/850 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 100-108.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 1, 7-11 and Annex I, Section 1.2 of the Landfill Directive.

⁽⁶⁾ Annex I, Section 1.1 of the Landfill Directive.

⁽⁷⁾ Article 12-13 and Annex I, Sections 2-3 of the Landfill Directive.

Member States shall also ensure that all groundwater bodies achieve a good chemical status which is not deteriorated ⁽⁸⁾ and set national threshold values for certain pollutants ⁽⁹⁾.

⁽⁸⁾ Article 4(1) of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1-73.

⁽⁹⁾ As listed in Part B Annex II, including chloride and parameters indicative of saline or other intrusions, of Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration, OJ L 372, 27.12.2006, p. 19-31.