

EN
E-004952/2025
Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.3.2026)

EU law requires Member States to prioritise waste prevention, organise separate collection to avoid incineration of recyclable waste and achieve targets for the preparing for re-use and recycling¹. The Commission monitors compliance with these requirements and supports Member States to implement the waste hierarchy².

In an early warning report, the Commission recommended Romania to extend separate collection of waste across the whole country, improve public awareness and participation in waste separation and waste prevention, implement economic instruments such as pay as-you-throw, and develop waste-treatment infrastructure associated with the higher steps of the waste hierarchy³.

If waste incineration takes place, Member States shall comply with strict requirements to protect environment and health in the Industrial Emissions⁴ and Environmental Impact Assessment Directives⁵. Overcapacity in waste incineration must be avoided as it could create lock-in effects, undermine recycling and thereby impair the circular economy. EU funding is thus dedicated to the higher tiers of the waste hierarchy. Incineration of hazardous, truly non-recyclable waste may on the other hand play a role in the circular economy by providing treatment of waste that cannot be prepared for re-use or recycled. The Commission is currently also assessing the feasibility of including municipal waste incineration installations in the EU Emissions Trading System⁶ as part of the upcoming review by July 2026, to incentivise cost-effective emissions reductions and support waste reduction and recycling.

¹ 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, in particular Articles 4, 9–11, 22.

² Article 4, 11(b) of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, as amended, ‘Early warning report’, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0304>.

³ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/waste-early-warning-report-staff-working-documents_en.

⁴ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial and livestock rearing emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (Recast), OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17–119, as amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 OJ L, 15.7.2024.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Article 30(7) of Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC, as amended, OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, pp. 32–46.