

(English version)

Question for written answer E-005073/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(29 December 2025)

Subject: Illegal, opaque waste transfer from Corfu to the Vlacherna landfill. Circumventing local government, government involvement, environmental degradation.

The four Municipalities of the Arta Regional Unit (Arta, Nikolaos Skoufas, Georgios Karaiskakis, Central Tzoumerka) have appealed to the Prosecutor's Office requesting an investigation into the transfer of waste from Corfu to the Vlacherna landfill, which is licensed to accept only treated residue. Despite the pending prosecutorial process and the explicit orders of the Municipalities not to take any action, the transfer began 'in secret', without institutional information, and the Municipality of Arta was forced to close access to the Vlacherna landfill temporarily.

According to official announcements, the order for the transfer was allegedly initiated by a document from the Secretary General of Waste Management in the Ministry of Environment, while the Epirus Mandatory Solid Waste Management Association proceeded to accept loads without a meeting, without informing the municipalities and without transparency, bypassing local bodies and the law. There are also allegations that the loads consisted of mixed and untreated waste, which is contrary to Directive 2008/98/EC and the environmental conditions of the landfill.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission monitoring the involvement of state authorities in the alleged circumvention of institutional procedures and assessing a possible violation of EU legislation?
2. Is the burial of mixed, untreated waste in landfills compatible with Directive 2008/98/EC?
3. Does the Commission intend to request immediate information and/or suspension of the transfer from the Greek authorities until legality, transparency and environmental protection are ensured?

Submitted: 29.12.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(11 March 2026)

The Landfill Directive requires that waste is treated before landfilling ⁽¹⁾. This includes sorting of the different waste types and stabilising the organic fraction of the waste ⁽²⁾.

Only after such treatment may landfilling take place and, thus, burial of mixed, untreated waste is not allowed. The Commission has taken infringement action in this type of case against Greece for its failure to ensure adequate treatment of waste before landfilling ⁽³⁾.

In the specific case of the Vlacherna landfill, the national authorities are better placed than the Commission to assess the conditions on site and characteristics of the waste and to carry out eventual inspections.

National authorities, including judicial ones, are responsible to ensure compliance with EU law, including applying the above requirements in individual cases like the one in question. In line with its strategic approach on enforcement action, the Commission focuses on systemic non-compliance ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Article 6 of 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.
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.

⁽²⁾ The ruling of the Court of Justice of the EU in the Malagrotta-case, <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?language=en&num=C-323/13>, 'un traitement comprenant une sélection adéquate des diverses fractions des déchets et la stabilisation de leur fraction organique'.

⁽³⁾ INFR(2021)2166, reasoned opinion sent on 16/12/2024, [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⁾ As set out in the communication of 19 January 2017: EU law: Better results through better application — C/2016/8600, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10-20 and in the communication of 13 October 2022: COM(2022) 518 final — Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers.