

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.5.2026)

Member States shall establish an integrated, adequate network for the recovery of mixed municipal waste and for waste disposal¹. This network shall enable the EU as a whole to become self-sufficient in waste management. Member States shall also move towards that aim individually. The Waste Shipment Regulation² imposes strict rules on shipments for recovery of mixed municipal waste and refuse-derived fuels processed from such waste. Shipments of such waste destined for disposal shall be prohibited according to the Regulation³. Other refuse-derived fuels are subject to prior consent procedures in most Member States.

The impacts on health do not determine if the practices are recovery or disposal⁴. All waste management shall be carried out without risks to health and environment⁵.

Waste-derived fuels subject to incineration or co-incineration fall under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)⁶. Plants performing activities listed in Annex 1 to the IED must operate in accordance with permits based on Best Available Techniques⁷. National authorities and the judiciary are primarily responsible to ensure that EU law is properly implemented and better placed to carry out investigations in individual cases such as this.

¹ Article 16 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.

² Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on shipments of waste, amending Regulations (EU) No 1257/2013 and (EU) 2020/1056 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006, OJ L, 2024/1157, 30.4.2024.

³ Article 4(3) of the Waste Shipment Regulation.

⁴ Article 3(15), 3(19) and Annex II of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, as amended.

⁵ Article 13 of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, as amended.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Best Available Techniques (BAT) means the most effective and advanced techniques, developed on a scale allowing implementation in the relevant industrial sector, under economically and technically viable conditions.