

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001606/26
to the Commission**

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(20 April 2026)

Subject: Fostering the circular economy by ensuring the mutual recognition of end-of-waste schemes

Article 6 of Directive 2008/98/EC states that Member States can adopt their own end-of-waste (EoW) criteria in the absence of harmonised EU standards, and that they must then communicate these changes to the Commission. Italy complied with the above by issuing Ministerial Decree No 188/2020 (the 'EoW paper regulation'), as a result of which standard travel documents can be used to ship EoW paper held in collection facilities.

Seeing as Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 (on waste shipments) applies to waste and does not include materials that have ceased to be waste in its scope, and that EoW legislation is considered to be a central pillar of the EU circular economy:

1. As regards the national criteria laid down by EoW regulations that have been adopted and notified in accordance with EU law, could the Commission confirm that any materials that comply with these criteria and which can be shipped as non-waste goods in the country that enacted the relevant EoW regulations cannot, when they are being exported, be made subject by other Member States to the provisions of the Waste Shipment Regulation, a process that unfairly strips these materials of their EoW status?
2. Does the Commission agree that it should ensure the mutual recognition of Member State EoW regulations as a means of fostering the circular economy, facilitating the free movement of goods and preventing the emerge of trade barriers within the single market?

Submitted: 20.4.2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission

(7 July 2026)

Article 6(1) of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) ⁽¹⁾ sets out general conditions under which waste which has undergone a recycling or other recovery operation is considered to have reached end-of-waste (EoW) status.

Whether to adopt specific EoW criteria is left to the discretion of each Member State. When Member States establish EoW criteria, they shall notify the Commission of those criteria in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 ⁽²⁾ where so required by that directive.

In the case of shipment of material or a substance that reached EoW status in compliance with national EoW criteria, potential disagreements between Member States can still take place as to whether the status of shipped objects or substances is waste or non-waste.

For such cases, Article 29(2) of the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) ⁽³⁾ introduces a procedure to resolve potential disagreements: if the competent authorities of dispatch and of destination cannot agree on the classification as regards the distinction between waste and non-waste, taking into account the provisions Article 20(1) of the WSR, and any conditions or decisions taken at EU level or by Member States pursuant to Article 5 or 6, the object or substance shall be treated as if it were waste for the purpose of the shipment.

In addition to the provisions included under the WSR, the Commission is considering possible additional measures to facilitate the recognition of EoW criteria between Member States under the forthcoming Circular Economy Act ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽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.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (codification), OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, pp. 1-15.

⁽³⁾ 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.

⁽⁴⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy_en, expected to be adopted in the second half of 2026.