*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-001677/26**
**to the Commission**
**César Luena (S&D)**
*(23 April 2026)*

*Subject:* Waste management, landfill and environmental inspections in La Rioja

The recent fire at the Nájera landfill has exposed recurrent issues in waste management in La Rioja, including shortcomings in monitoring, transparency and compliance with environmental permit conditions. The fire comes after previous incidents and inspection reports containing negative findings in recent years.

This state of affairs reflects extensive reliance on landfill, which is at odds with the Union's objective of limiting municipal waste landfilling to 10% of the total amount generated by 2035. There are also concerns about waste shipping from other countries/regions without proper recovery and a lack of effective prevention, reuse and recycling measures.

In view of the above:

1. What does the Commission make of compliance with EU waste legislation in regions — particularly the monitoring, inspection and proper management of landfill sites?

2. How does the Commission make sure regions use EU funds to reduce waste generation and encourage reuse and recycling over landfilling?

3. Does the Commission believe the current reliance on landfilling in regions such as La Rioja is in line with EU objectives, and what action does it intend to take to remedy this situation?

Submitted: 23.4.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission**
*(10 July 2026)*

The competent Spanish authorities are responsible for the application of EU law, including in the area of waste legislation.

In 2024, the Commission decided to refer Spain to the Court of Justice of the EU for the breach of the obligations under Articles 13 and 15 of the Waste Framework Directive ([1]), in relation to the persistence of illegal/uncontrolled waste landfills ([2]).

Also in 2024, the Commission sent a letter of formal notice to Spain concerning the disposal of municipal waste in landfills across Spain without prior treatment in accordance with the requirements of EU legislation on waste ([3]).

EU policy and legislation, including cohesion regional funding ([4]), aim to ensure that waste management higher up in the waste hierarchy, such as preparing for re-use and recycling, are prioritised over landfilling ([5]).

The European Regional Development Fund ([6]) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility ([7]) are available to support the competent Spanish authorities for this purpose.

The Commission is in close contact with the Spanish authorities as regards the reduction of reliance on landfilling and boosting waste recycling and will monitor the situation closely.

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([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, pp. 3-30.
([2]) Case C-382/25 (INFR (2015)2192), https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate&refId=INFR(2015)2192.
([3]) INFR(2024)2013, https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate&refId=INFR(2024)2013.
([4]) https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/cohesion-fund-cf_en.
([5]) Article 4 of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, as amended.
([6]) https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-regional-development-fund-erdf_en.
([7]) https://next-generation-eu.europa.eu/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.