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P-002058/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.11.2024)

1. Article 14 of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD)¹ lays down that, in accordance with the polluter-pays principle, the costs of waste management, including for the necessary infrastructure and its operation, shall be borne by the original waste producer or by the current or previous waste holders. Articles 8, 8a and 14 provide for covering these costs by the producer of the product from which the waste came. The waste management of several waste streams that are found in municipal waste is subject to extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations whereby the producers cover waste management costs. This concerns notably packaging, electric and electronic equipment, batteries, and some single use plastic products in municipal waste. The Commission has also proposed to introduce EPR obligations for textiles.

2. In addition to EPR, Annex IVa to the WFD contains a non-exhaustive list of examples of economic instruments and other measures to provide incentives for the application of the waste hierarchy. These instruments and measures can be used, at Member States' discretion, to cover the costs for waste management. The Member States, including local authorities, can also take other measures which are not listed in Annex IVa in order to implement the requirements set out notably in Articles 8, 8a, 11, 14, 15 and 28. The measures may also vary depending on which actors they are imposed, such as businesses/producers or households, for instance.

¹ Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109–140, amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109–140.