

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003725/25
to the Commission
Andreas Schwab (PPE)
(25 September 2025)**

Subject: Impact of Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 on cooperation with Switzerland on cross-border waste management

Under Regulation (EU) 2024/1157, the EU Waste Shipment Regulation (the recast WSR) the export of mixed municipal waste outside the EU will be banned as of 21 May 2026. By mid-2029 at the latest, this will also disrupt decades-long cooperation between four districts in southern Baden and nearby Swiss waste incineration plants.

Every year, some 110 000 to 120 000 tonnes of waste from the districts of Konstanz, Lörrach, Waldshut and Bodenseekreis are sent to Switzerland for thermal recycling. These partnerships are based on decades of cooperation and make good environmental and economic sense: short transport routes by rail, contribution to Swiss energy and district heating supply, and avoidance of significant heavy goods vehicle traffic to Germany.

Switzerland is not a 'third country' in the usual sense, but rather a close EU partner with extensive ties to the internal market. Extending the export ban set out in Article 44(2)(f) of the recast WSR to cover Switzerland is regulatory overreach which neither serves neither climate-related nor environmental objectives but rather leads to more mass transport, higher emissions and additional costs.

1.Has the Commission assessed the impact of Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 on cooperation with Switzerland on cross-border waste management?

2.Does the Commission agree that extending the ban to cover Switzerland is ecologically counterproductive and contradicts the objectives of the circular economy?

3.Is the Commission prepared to make an exception for Switzerland in order to maintain existing cross-border cooperation arrangements?

Submitted: 25.9.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(5 December 2025)**

Overall, the export of waste to Switzerland falls under the same EU rules as the transboundary shipment of waste between EU Member States.

One exception is the export of mixed municipal waste, which is the residual waste from households that was not separately collected and which is not allowed for export outside the European Economic Area (EEA).

The Commission would like to recall that Switzerland has decided not to become a member of the EEA and, therefore, the EU rules applicable within the EEA do not apply in Switzerland.

The Commission is aware of the recently raised concerns related to the upcoming prohibition to export mixed municipal waste from the Land of Baden-Württemberg to nearby facilities located in Switzerland.

The Commission recently received from the authorities of the Land Baden-Württemberg more information on the matter and is currently analysing the matter further.
