

Revised Waste Framework Directive

Summary: The [Waste Framework Directive](#) (WFD) establishes fundamental principles and definitions concerning waste management, outlining key concepts such as the definition of waste, recycling, and recovery. It sets out how waste should be managed to avoid adverse impacts on health, the environment, noise, and other aspects. The European Commission has now proposed a revision of the WFD to place a greater emphasis on the reduction and processing of textile and food waste.

Key Words: Waste Management, Waste Reduction, Circular Economy, Environment, Sustainability.

Textile Waste

The proposal calls for the introduction of extended producer responsibility (EPR) applying to household textile products, articles of apparel, clothing accessories and footwear that are made available on the EU market for the first time. A full list of products falling within scope is provided in the accompanying [Annex](#) to the proposal. The current WFD specifies that member states may take legislative and non-legislative measures to ensure extended producer responsibility, included the acceptance of returned products after use and the subsequent management of waste and associated financial responsibilities.

The new proposal further adds that producers should cover the costs of: (i) collecting used textiles; (ii) carrying out of compositional surveys of collected mixed municipal waste; (iii) providing information on sustainable and circular practices; (iv) data gathering; and (v) supporting R&D to improve waste processing.

These obligations concerning textile waste shall apply to:

- Manufacturers of the aforementioned products, which are established in the EU.
- Resellers of such products, which are established in the EU.
- Operators which make such products available on the EU market for the first time, even from third countries (non-EU).
- Operators which sell such products by means of distance communication, even from third countries (non-EU).

Financial contributions to fulfil EPR obligations shall (i) consider the weight of the products concerned; (ii) be adjusted based on any revenues from re-use, preparing for re-use, or from the value of secondary raw materials; (iii) and ensure equal treatment of producers regardless of size or origin, without placing a disproportionate burden on SMEs.

Producers shall be obliged to set up collection systems (free of charge) for used and waste textiles falling within the scope of this proposal. Likewise, member states are required to set up their own separate collection of textiles by 1 January 2025.



Producers must also publish online information relating to amount of products placed on the market, the rate of separate collection, and the rates of reuse, recycling, recovery, disposal and exports.

To ensure compliance, member states will set up a mandatory register of producers of textile products falling within scope of the revised Directive. Registrations should be provided within a maximum period of 12 weeks, and cost-based proportionate fees may apply.



Food Waste



Latest EU statistics have shown that roughly 139kg per person is wasted in the EU annually, which corresponds to approximately EUR 132 billion or 10% of all food made available to EU consumers. The WFD is being amended to address this challenge by setting binding food waste reduction targets on member states.

Through this proposal, member states will be obliged to introduce appropriate measures to prevent generation of food waste along the supply chain. Such measures shall include:

- Supporting behavioural change and raising awareness.
- Addressing inefficiencies in the functioning of the food supply chain.

- Encouraging food donation and redistribution.
- Training and skills development, and access to funding opportunities.

The proposal sets down the following binding targets which all member states must meet by 31 December 2030, based on 2020 figures:

- Reduce food waste generation in manufacturing and processing by 10%.
- Reduce food waste generation in retail and other distribution, restaurants and food services, and households by 30%.

The Commission is empowered to provide supplementary legislation providing guidance on a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of food waste levels.



Link to more information:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-targeted-revision-waste-framework-directive_en

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