

# Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	<a href="#">1996/2166(COS)</a>	Procedure completed
Waste management: Community strategy		
Subject 3.70.12 Waste management, domestic waste, packaging, light industrial waste		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PSE <a href="#">JENSEN Kirsten M.</a>	25/09/1996
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">General Affairs</a>	<a href="#">1989</a>	24/02/1997
	<a href="#">Environment</a>	<a href="#">1978</a>	09/12/1996
	<a href="#">Environment</a>	<a href="#">1956</a>	15/10/1996

Key events			
30/07/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0399	Summary
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/10/1996	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1956</a>	
11/11/1996	Vote in committee		
11/11/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0364/1996</a>	
12/11/1996	Debate in Parliament		
14/11/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0597/1996	Summary
14/11/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/12/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		
09/12/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
24/02/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2166(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/08161

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1996)0399	30/07/1996	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0364/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0016</a>	11/11/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0597/1996 <a href="#">OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0225-0241</a>	14/11/1996	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		<a href="#">CDR0339/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 116 14.04.1997, p. 0074</a>	15/01/1997	CofR	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		<a href="#">CES0096/1997</a> <a href="#">OJ C 089 19.03.1997, p. 0002</a>	29/01/1997	ESC	Summary

## Waste management: Community strategy

**OBJECTIVE:** the Commission communication aims at reviewing the Community waste strategy introduced in 1989 and to adapt it to the requirements of the next five years. It is followed by a draft Council resolution on waste policy. **SUBSTANCE:** the proposed review confirms the following hierarchy of principles established by the strategy document of 1989: 1. prevention of waste; 2. recovery; 3. safe disposal. The implementation of this hierarchy should be guided by considering the best environmental solution taking into account economic and social costs. - As regards prevention: emphasis will be laid on the following measures: promotion of clean technologies and products; reducing the hazardous character of waste; development of technical standards and Community rules limiting the presence of certain dangerous substances in products; promotion of systems for re-use and recycling; promotion of economic instruments capable of influencing waste prevention; development of eco-audit and eco-label schemes; consumer information and education campaigns; - as regards recovery: preference should be given to the recovery of material over energy recovery operations; - as regards final disposal: care should be taken to avoid incineration operations without energy recovery. The Commission will present a new proposal for a Directive which will fix strict requirements for authorizing landfill sites. The new strategy will also propose that the principle of producer responsibility should now be integrated in all measures adopted by the EU under its waste management policy. As regards shipment of waste: the Commission proposes actions designed to encourage cooperation between Member States aimed at further reducing illegal shipments of waste and related criminal activities. Finally, to achieve the targets set, the Commission calls for the employment of the following instruments: regulatory and economic instruments, reliable and comparable waste statistics, waste management plans, implementation of existing legislation, and impartial application of life-cycle analyses and eco-balances. ?

## Waste management: Community strategy

In adopting the report by Mrs Kirsten JENSEN (PSE, DK), Parliament called on the Commission to present an action programme on Community waste management in 1997 pursuant to Article 130s(3) of the EC Treaty setting out priority waste policy objectives and measures. It called for the drawing up of a proper waste strategy based on the principle of sustainable development, which respects the hierarchy of prevention, recovery, recycling, recovery of materials, energy recovery and final disposal. This strategy should allow 50% recycling/reuse of paper, glass and plastics and a stabilization of waste production of 300 kg per capita per year by the year 2000. It would also be necessary: - to avoid 'waste tourism', including the shipment of waste for incineration with recovery of energy; - to take steps aimed at introducing uniform taxes on tipping and environment-friendly incineration; - to outlaw mixed landfilling; - to promote a market for the recovery of waste by putting forward proposals for the taxation of virgin raw materials and for the internalization of environmental costs in order to enforce the 'polluter pays' principle and the principle of pollution prevention at source; - to reduce the presence of hazardous substances in waste such as chlorine, mercury, PVC, cadmium and other heavy metals. Parliament called for an environmental liability Directive; it also called for application of the principle of shared responsibility for waste management, by virtue of which all public and private entities must have a role in waste management. It urged the Commission to present: - before the end of 1996, a Directive for the marking of packaging which includes mandatory reusability or recyclability of 'recycled content'; - in the first half of 1997, an Incineration of Non-hazardous waste Directive in order to achieve a 90% reduction of dioxin emissions in the EU by the year 2005; - a Directive on aqueous discharge from hazardous waste. ?

## Waste management: Community strategy

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The Council had adopted a resolution on the Community strategy for waste management. The resolution provided for an overall strategy to be applied within the limits of the political instrument thereby established, which would be updated in future years, and also laid down principles and objectives at both Community and national level. The Commission was called upon to present to the Council, by the end of 2000 at the latest, a report detailing the progress made in those areas covered by the present resolution.

## Waste management: Community strategy

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The Committee considers welcomes the Commission intention of holding a wide debate on the review, and appreciates the Council's timely adoption (9 December 1996) of a resolution on the subject. The Committee calls for the resolution to provide a basis for clear commitment, from the various authorities particularly as regards: - adoption of clear objectives and time frames for a reduction in waste generation and for uniform re-use and recycling rates for materials; - definition of clear objectives and time frames for restrictions on, and where necessary, the elimination of toxic substances from products and the productive cycle; - early presentation of the new draft directive on landfills, to ensure high levels of environmental protection by providing for the internalization of the environmental costs involved in this type of disposal, which, if not paid, make it superficially cheaper to recover neither materials nor energy; - provisions to ensure uniform, EU-wide environmental requirements for waste treatment and recovery plant, to avoid distortions of competition between the Member States having a perverse effect on waste transactions and transport; - adoption of uniform standards for waste treatment in industrial plant and in specific treatment plant, to take account of the priority objective of prevention; - an increase in funding for research into prevention and recycling, and the creation of an integrated waste management system, making judicious use of available financial instruments; - promotion of the recycled products market through initiatives targeted on priority sectors; - support and dissemination of know-how and information on experience and successful schemes at local level; - promotion of public awareness and consumer education campaigns, actively harnessing the respective associations and organizations; - promotion, perhaps via a specific EEA assignment, of studies and research into the key aspects of the problem and specific situations, until the complex mechanism for Europe-wide statistics processing starts to produce reliable data; - a firmer undertaking from the Commission to develop better procedures for monitoring Member State compliance with Community regulations, and to establish, should the need arise, specific investigative and study programmes; - greater attention on the part of the Community institutions and the Member States to the waste management policy's potential for job creation, on the basis of the suggestions contained in the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, appropriately referred to in point 20.1 of the Council resolution. ?