Procedure file

Basic information

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	1999/0010(COD)	Procedure completed

Waste statistics

Amended by 2007/0271(COD)

Subject
3.70.12 Waste management, domestic waste, packaging, light industrial waste
8.60 European statistical legislation

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		02/09/1999
		EDD BLOKLAND Johannes	
	Former committee responsible		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		02/09/1999
		EDD BLOKLAND Johannes	
	Former committee for opinion		
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2462	14/11/2002
	General Affairs	2421	15/04/2002

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Eurostat	

Key events

27/01/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0031	Summary
23/07/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
09/03/2001	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0137	Summary

11/07/2001	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
11/07/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0267/2001	
04/09/2001	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0414/2001	Summary
10/12/2001	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0737	Summary
15/04/2002	Council position published	05762/1/2002	Summary
25/04/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
18/06/2002	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
18/06/2002	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0231/2002	
04/07/2002	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0360/2002	Summary
14/11/2002	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
25/11/2002	Final act signed		
25/11/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/12/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0010(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amended by 2007/0271(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 285
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/15140

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1999)0031 OJ C 087 29.03.1999, p. 0022	27/01/1999	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0848/1999 OJ C 329 17.11.1999, p. 0017	22/09/1999	ESC	
Modified legislative proposal		COM(2001)0137 OJ C 180 26.06.2001, p. 0202 E	09/03/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0267/2001	11/07/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0414/2001 OJ C 072 21.03.2002, p. 0032-0050 E	04/09/2001	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(2001)0737	10/12/2001	EC	Summary
Council position		05762/1/2002 OJ C 145 18.06.2002, p. 0085 E	15/04/2002	CSL	Summary

Commission communication on Council's position		SEC(2002)0419	22/04/2002	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0231/2002	18/06/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0360/2002 OJ C 271 12.11.2003, p. 0378-0442 E	04/07/2002	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading		COM(2002)0589	25/10/2002	EC	Summary
Implementing legislative act		32005R0782 OJ L 131 25.05.2005, p. 0026-0037	24/05/2005	EU	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2005)0223	31/05/2005	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2005)0240	06/06/2005	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2008)0355	13/06/2008	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2008)0501	01/08/2008	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2011)0131	17/03/2011	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2014)0079	14/02/2014	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2016)0701	03/11/2016	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2020)0054	14/02/2020	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2022)0719	15/12/2022	EC	

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

Regulation 2002/2150
OJ L 332 09.12.2002, p. 0001-0036   Summary

Waste statistics

PURPOSE: the establishment of a Community statistical infrastructure on waste generation, recovery, waste collection and incineration, composting and final disposal in the Member States. CONTENT: The main objective of the proposed Regulation on Waste Management Statistics is to establish a harmonised information system on waste generation, recovery, collection, treatment and disposal in the EU. This system will provide data for the monitoring of the EU policy on waste management. In particular, it will be possible to detect in detail the generated waste types together with the economic actors responsible for the generation and the destination of these wastes. Disparities between countries regarding different relative waste amounts will permit the formulation of concrete national waste policy aims to ensure basic environmental conditions in all Member States and to fulfil the EU objectives. The draft Regulation stipulates that Member States have to deliver regularly waste data according to certain formats and quality conditions. Eurostat will have to submit a tri-annual report to the Council on the implementation of the Regulation.?

Waste statistics

Between June 1999 and September 2000, a Council Working Party discussed this text on five separate occasions. In the last of these meetings (held on 29 September 2000), the participants of the Working Party reached a broad consensus on the amendments made to the Commission proposal, as reflected in its "Draft proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to statistics on waste. The amendments proposed by the Council Working Party focus mainly on the reduction of data requirements and the provision of greater flexibility in data reporting for Member States, which either improve the original proposal or at least deemed acceptable by the Commission. This present document constitutes the Commission's revised proposal, which would replace the original proposal. The revised proposal maintains the logic of the original proposal. Moreover, the revised proposal is almost identical to the Working Party's consensus draft.

The only significant difference between the two is the periodicity of data collection for waste treatment. Moreover, the revised proposal accepts the modification to the structure of the the annexes suggested by the Working Party's consensus draft. Accordingly, the revise proposal contains three annexes: generation of waste; recovery and disposal of water and transposition table between the European Waste Catalogue (EWC) adn the 'EXC-stat V2' (which defines the waste categories to be used in the Community statistics on waste). ?

Waste statistics

The committee adopted the report by Hans BLOKLAND (EDD, NL) approving the proposal under the codecision procedure (1st reading), subject to a number of amendments designed to tighten it up. In particular, it felt that the Member States should be obliged to provide all the waste statistics (i.e. relating to the generation of waste, its recovery and disposal) on an annual basis instead of the three-yearly basis proposed by the Commission. The committee also demanded figures for waste imports and exports to prevent waste from being dumped outside the EU. Amongst its other amendments, it rejected the two-year transition period offered by the Commission to the Member States, sought to prevent Member States from withholding data on certain items of waste, put animal waste into a separate category for data on recycling and sought to ensure that statisticians and waste experts were involved on an equal footing in compiling the data.?

Waste statistics

The European Parliament approved the report by Mr Hans BLOKLAND (EDD, Nl) concerning the Commission's draft regulation obliging the Member States to provide waste statistics but adopted a series of amendments designed to make it stricter. (Please refer to the previous text as it specifies the amendments made to the text). ?

Waste statistics

Of the 28 amendments proposed by Parliament the European Commission is able to accept thirteen in full. The rest are accepted partially with some changes to the wording of the text in order to add clarity and consistency. Those accepted include, inter alia: - Amendments aimed at offering an increase in the comparability of data. - Amendments extending coverage of the statistics to the generation of waste in agriculutre and fisheries. The Commission proposes adding a transitional period for Member States. - In recognition of the need to cover recovery operations, the Commission accepts an amendment through which annual data collection should be extended to cover recovery operations. Those accepted parially include, inter alia: - Amendments relating to the imports and export of waste. Whilst the Commission rejects outright the suggestion that statistics should be compulsory from the outset, it proposes that the deadline for finalising the pilot studies should be shortened. - The Commission rejects the idea of putting two Committees on an equal footing. To compensate however it will make the role of the Technical Adaptation Committee clearer through a change to the recital. - Given the considerable costs associated with data collection, the Commission rejects Parliamentary calls for a yearly rather than three yearly reporting system from the Member States. To take Parliamentary views into account however the Commission has agreed to a system of two yearly reports.?

Waste statistics

Of the twenty-eight amendments made by the European Parliament at first reading, seven were incorporated into the common position. A further nine amendments were taken into account by the Commission when it amended its proposal, and seven of these were accepted in the common position. The Council commented as follows in the European Parliament's main concerns: -a logical classification system - one which is based on management practice but which is unambiguous (without overlaps, for example), scientifically justified and based on unequivocal common definitions - is essential for the production of statistics. Such preconditions do not yet exist in the area of waste arising from agriculture and fishing or the import and export of waste. The common position recommends that pilot studies should be conducted that assess the relevance and feasibility of obtaining data and evaluate the costs and benefits of collecting the data and the burden on enterprises, in order to decide whether such areas are to be incorporated into the scope of the Regulation. The Council has also made some amendments to give a firmer guarantee that statistics on the import and export of waste will be collected as soon as possible. -in order to strike a proper balance between relevant statistics which help achieve the objectives sought and the work for and cost to undertakings, a two-year period has been chosen in the common position. - the comparability of data is not affected by Member States' freedom to choose their statistical methods, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle. It enables methods to be adapted to Member States' different economic structures and technical conditions, thereby ensuring better overall quality at the lowest cost. - the Council cannot accept the total abolition of the transitional period, but has restricted the scope of the period to those activities in respect of which major changes have to be made. - the Council cannot accept a uniform method of collection, which is unnecessary, unworkable and would lead to higher costs in return for poorer quality. The collection of data and results must be based on minimum quality standards, but the method used to comply with those standards must be chosen by Member States. As the text in question is a legislative text relating to statistics, the Commission must be assisted by the Statistical Programme Committee. Lastly, the Council has partially accepted the Parliament's amendment on the separation of animal wastes from vegetal wastes.?

Waste statistics

The Commission has accepted 23 of the 28 amendments made by the European Parliament. Five amendments were not accepted and the same five were not incorporated into the common position along with nine others. The Commission can only partially agree with the common position which was unanimously adopted by the Council. In particular: - the Commission accepted Parliament's amendment relating to yearly data collection on all types of waste treatment, sharing the view that annual data is essential not only for incineration and disposal but also for recovery and recycling. The common position requires data collection every second year. The Commission maintains its position, as data on all types of waste treatment collected on an annual basis is crucial for monitoring waste management policies. In addition, it will facilitate the process of reviewing reporting obligations required by other legislation. - on the frequency of data collected for waste generation, Parliament

had asked for data every year rather than once every three years. The Commission agrees with the Parliament on the need for more frequent data collection, and the common position accepts the need for such data to be collected every second year. The common position has reformulated the transitional periods, in a way which does not fit with the Commission's proposal.?

Waste statistics

The committee adopted the report by Hans BLOKLAND (EDD, NL) amending the Council's common position under the second reading of the codecision procedure. It reinstated a number of amendments adopted by Parliament at first reading and tabled a number of other amendments aimed at achieving a compromise between Parliament's first reading position and the Council's common position. The committee restated Parliament's view that waste statistics should be compiled for agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing, which had been excluded from the proposal. This would render the proposed pilot studies (to assess the relevance and feasibility of obtaining data in those areas) unnecessary, and the relevant article in the proposal should therefore be deleted. The committee also felt that there was no need for an extra transitional period for individual Member States in the sectors which the proposal had originally covered, but that this should be an option for the above-mentioned new sectors. On the question of statistics on the import and export of waste, the committee proposed a compromise under which voluntary and time-consuming pilot studies would be replaced by pilot surveys in each Member State. The amendments stipulated that these surveys should be conducted within two years of the regulation's entry into force and should result in a methodology for obtaining data on the import and export of waste. The committee reiterated Parliament's call for separate categories to be created for animal waste and for dredging spoils, given the considerable volume involved. Lastly, it reinstated the first reading amendments calling for statistical data on recovery and recycling to be provided annually rather than every two years as proposed by the Council.?

Waste statistics

The European Parliament, following the recommendation of its rapporteur Hans BLOKLAND (EDD, Netherlands), amended the common position. (Please refer to the document dated 18/06/02.)?

Waste statistics

The Commission accepts the complete set of amendments as voted on in the European Parliament plenary of the 4 th of July 2002. In particular, these concern: - the transitional and derogation periods are restricted to new and for Member States possible difficult areas in the economic activity classification (Nace), to give them more time to establish their waste statistics; - those amendments which propose 'pilot studies' for establishing statistical methodologies for some difficult areas. The Commission will, after 2 years, inform the European Parliament and the Council on the progress of the pilot studies, with the possibility of a revision of the studies; - proposing the inclusion of the economic activities Agriculture and Fishing (Nace sections A and B); - proposing statistics on a more desaggregated level for Organic waste (split into Vegetal waste, Animal waste and Manure). This is relevant in relation to food safety; - proposing to single out the relative large 'Dredging sludge' stream from common sludges in the waste classification.?

Waste statistics

PURPOSE: to establish a framework for the production of Community statistics on the generation, recovery and disposal of waste.

COMMUNITY MEASURE: Regulation 2150/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste statistics.

CONTENT: Member States and the Commission must, within their respective fields of competence, produce Community statistics on the generation, recovery and disposal of waste, excluding radioactive waste which is already covered by other legislation. Statistics for the import and export of waste will be collected after certain pilot studies.

In compiling the statistics, Member States and the Commission will observe the mainly substance-oriented nomenclature as set out in Annex III.

In order to reduce the administrative burden on small enterprises, enterprises of less than 10 employees will be excluded from surveys, unless they contribute significantly to the generation of waste. There are provisions for transitional periods and implementation measures.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 29/12/2002.

Waste statistics

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Commission Regulation 782/2005/EC setting out the format for the transmission of results on waste statistics.

CONTENT: By virtue of Article 6 of Regulation 2150/2002/EC on waste statistics, the Commission is required to adopt the measures necessary for implementing that Regulation.

In accordance with Article 6(e) of the Regulation, the Commission should set out the appropriate format for the transmission of results by Member States.

The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Statistical Programme Committee established by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom. The appropriate format for the transmission of results on waste statistics to the Commission

(Eurostat) shall be as set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

Member States shall use this format for the data on the 2004 reference year and subsequent years.

Member States shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat) the data and metadata required by Regulation 2150/2002/EC in electronic form, in accordance with an interchange standard proposed by the Commission (Eurostat).

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 14/06/2005.

Waste statistics

The Commission has presented a report concerning the progress of the pilot studies referred to in Article 4, paragraph 3, and Article 5, paragraph1 of Regulation 2150/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste statistics.

The first results from the pilot studies on statistics on import and export of waste demonstrate that although foreign trade statistics have been identified as the best source they do not provide a full set of data that can be used to complement the data covered by the Waste Shipment Regulation. For a number of waste categories for which statistics are to be compiled a concrete solution has not been identified yet and therefore further studies would be necessary.

With regard to statistics on waste from agriculture, hunting, forestry and fisheries a large variety of waste streams have to be considered and the most crucial issue is to what extent bio-organic waste will be covered by waste statistics. Another essential aspect is the treatment of waste within the agricultural sector and the extent to which this is included in the waste statistics.

For both fields of pilot studies another call for proposals will be launched in 2005. The terms of reference will be adapted taking into account the experience acquired so far.

By the end of 2005, the Commission will inform the European Parliament and the Council about the possibilities of compiling statistics for the activities and characteristics covered by the pilot studies for import and export of waste as required by Article 5(4) of the Waste Statistics Regulation. At the same time, an update on activities and results related to waste from agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishery, on packaging waste and on preparatory treatment operations will be given.

Waste statistics

The Waste Statistics Regulation stipulates in Article 8(3) that the Commission shall, within two years after the entry into force of this Regulation, submit to the European Parliament and Council a report on the progress of the pilot studies referred to in Article 4(3) and Article 5(1). This report meets this requirement.

In addition to the mandatory pilot studies, Member States are invited to carry out pilot studies on ?Packaging waste? and on ?Preparatory operations?. The Commission will, if required, use the results and conclusions from these ?voluntary? pilot studies to adopt further necessary implementation measures.

On the basis of the conclusions of the pilot studies, the Commission must inform the European Parliament and the Council of the possibilities of compiling statistics for the activities and characteristics covered by the pilot studies for import and export of waste.

One of the main questions for the pilot studies on import and export of waste is the level of detail to appear in the statistics. This is related to a second question on how the reporting obligation of the Waste Shipment Regulation should be incorporated into the Waste Statistics Regulation. In other words, could the data on the import and export of (hazardous) waste reported under the Waste Shipment Regulation be used as an input for statistics? A third question raised was how to collect data on the import and export of non-hazardous waste. Although this so-called ?green? list waste is incorporated in the Waste Shipment Regulation, it does not fall under the reporting obligation.

The report discusses the methodology used by the Commission, and the terms of reference.

As statistics on waste from agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishery are not compiled on a regular basis in most Member States, special emphasis has been directed towards pilot studies on this subject.

The report provides an overview of the pilot studies.

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For both fields of pilot studies another call for proposals will be launched in 2005. The terms of reference will be adapted taking into account the experience acquired so far.

Waste statistics

This report is submitted pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics, which requires the Commission to submit a report on the statistics compiled pursuant to this Regulation and in particular on their quality and the burden on businesses. The report summarises the first results, provides an overview of data quality and includes recommendations for possible amendments to the Regulation. It covers the 25 EU Member States that were legally obliged to submit data in 2006.

It stresses the positive impact of the obligation to document methodologies and to assess data quality in the quality reports. Problems and deficiencies are more visible and show where improvement is needed. In addition, the Regulation gives a boost to coherence between waste statistics and other statistical domains by requiring strict adherence to the NACE classification of economic activities and the use of statistical units as applied in business statistics. It thus enhances the possibility of integrating waste statistics into Environmental-Economic Accounting.

Burden on businesses: Most Member States, however, do not measure the burden in physical terms and are therefore unable to report on this. Five Member States report a burden of between 30 minutes and five hours per respondent. Nevertheless, most Member States are aware of the workload for companies and follow different approaches with a view to reducing the burden and collecting data in an efficient way.

Development in Member States: on the national level, the binding character of the Regulation has clearly strengthened the status of waste statistics within statistical systems. The obligations imposed by the Regulation have led to methodological developments and to changes in national data collection systems. Several countries announced their intention of improving data quality and compliance with the Regulation?s requirements. It would seem that the Regulation has advanced the general trend in Member States of avoiding redundant reporting through co-operation between the data collecting institutions and streamlining of reporting obligations. The dual use of data for administrative and for statistical purposes is becoming more commonplace, the bottom line being more consistency between data and a reduced burden on respondents.

Need for revision: although the outcome of the first reporting round confirmed the general approach, some conceptual shortcomings clearly need to be reviewed.

With regard to breakdown by waste types, in Annex I and Annex II (Section 2) the Regulation requires generated and treated waste amounts to be broken down by waste categories in a different way for each data set. This was to minimise the required level of detail and hence minimise the burden for Member States.

The experience of the first reporting round clearly shows that the drawbacks of this concept are numerous whereas any advantages are insignificant, with no observable relief for the Member States. Most Member States collect the information at a much more detailed level and reduce the breakdowns when preparing the data for transmission to Eurostat.

The main negative aspects are the following:

- it is not possible to draw up balances for individual waste categories. This greatly hampers data validation and interpretation;

- the level of detail for waste treatment data is too low. Important waste streams are subsumed in non-specific waste categories (?other wastes?);

- the presentation and communication of results is very complicated;

- the different formats make it difficult to handle and process the data.

The current approach should be abandoned in favour of a common breakdown for both waste generation and waste treatment. The more detailed breakdown of waste categories in Section 2 of Annex I should be used as basis for discussion.

With regard to regional breakdown of data on waste treatment infrastructure, the Regulation requires the Member States to provide data on the number and capacity of recovery and disposal facilities at NUTS 2 level. This detailed regional breakdown causes a significant workload for Eurostat and for Member States alike. The proportion of confidential data rises considerably with the regional level of detail, thus limiting the usefulness. The relevance of this detailed information has to be reviewed.

With regard to breakdown by waste treatment types, the paper notes that reporting on the treatment of waste aggregates all (10) recovery operations, except energy recovery, into a single reporting category. Furthermore, the required data on waste recovery capacity embraces such treatment operations as composting, recycling of metals and oil refining. In these cases the level of detail seems to be insufficient: information on certain recycling operations would be desirable for the purposes of monitoring waste policy. In particular, there is a growing need to provide data suitable for use as benchmarking against set targets. This highlights the need for consistent data across Member States, for which further refinement of definitions and classifications would probably be required.

Lastly, disposal operations (8 treatment types) are broken down into two reporting categories, one of which is virtually unused in Member States.

The Commission will propose amending the Regulation in due time for data collection for the reference year 2008:

- to have the same breakdown of waste categories for waste generation and waste treatment by aligning Sections 2 of Annex I and Annex II,

- to review the regional breakdowns in Annex II,

- to review the breakdown of waste treatment categories in Annex II, in particular waste recovery and waste disposal.

Waste statistics

Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics (Waste Statistics Regulation) establishes a framework for the production of Community statistics on the generation, recovery and disposal of waste. The Regulation was formulated after giving careful consideration to the complexities and difficulties of producing waste statistics. It was agreed that a number of pilot studies would be needed to clarify a number of fundamental issues concerning new areas of waste statistics. These areas are statistics on waste generated in ?Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fisheries? (Article 4(3)), and statistics on the ?Import and export of waste? (Article 5(1)) for which no data are collected under the Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 (Waste Shipment Regulation).

The Waste Statistics Regulation stipulates that the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the progress of the pilot studies. The Commission notes that the progress report from 2005 contained only preliminary results and announced another call for proposals as well as a final report with recommendations for further implementing measures based on the results of these studies.

Statistics on the import and export of waste: the results of the pilot studies on statistics on the import and export of waste confirmed the need

for these statistics for the purposes of monitoring Community waste policy, in particular, compliance with the principles of maximisation of recovery and safe disposal. A large majority of countries considered foreign trade statistics to be the most suitable data source for producing statistics on the export and import of waste. The general advantage of using available statistics based on common parameters and a harmonised nomenclature used by all Member States is compromised, however, by the fact that different thresholds, expressed in monetary value, are applied by Member States to reduce the administrative burden on businesses. This means that data are not fully comparable and may lead to the amounts of waste traded being underestimated. Foreign trade statistics cannot be used without further adaptation of the statistical nomenclature and final verification of the data by the Member States. The current provisions of the Waste Statistics Regulation do not describe the requirements for statistics on the import and export of waste in sufficient detail. The Commission will therefore propose specifications for these statistics by way of a formal proposal to amend Annex I of the above Regulation. This will:

- provide a breakdown of statistics on the import and export of waste into intra- and extra-EU, and into imports and exports. A breakdown into economic activities will not be required; the breakdown by waste categories will contain sufficient information. These provisions will result in four additional columns to the table on waste generation in Annex I to the Waste Statistics Regulation;
- simplify and harmonise the use of foreign trade statistics, for the purposes of which the Commission will provide Member States with an extraction of the relevant data from the foreign trade statistics database COMEXT;
- require Member States to confirm or to revise the data. Member States may also compile statistics on the import and export of waste by other means, in accordance with Article 3(1) of the Waste Statistics Regulation.

Statistics on waste generation by NACE sectors A and B: given the many common difficulties in providing reliable data for the agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing industries, the pilot studies have provided a very useful yardstick for exploring the situation and the possibilities regarding the production of high quality waste statistics. Of particular importance were the clarification of the scope for waste statistics and the exchange of experiences gained through these studies on developing methods to include small enterprises in the statistics and to produce the waste factors for certain waste streams.

The pilot studies on waste arising from the economic sectors of agriculture, hunting, forestry (NACE A) and fishing (NACE B) recommended no additional implementing measures. The current Community statistical legislation on waste statistics is sufficiently detailed to cover waste generated within the economic activities of NACE A and B.

Waste statistics

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics, the Commission presents its report on the implementation of the Regulation. It is required to do so every three years and the first report was published in 2008. This report summarises progress made since the first data delivery in 2006. It covers the 27 EU Member States and considers the results of the latest data delivery in June 2010. It also describes the transition from NACE Rev. 1.1 to NACE Rev. 2, and outlines the changes and expected improvements that will result from the revision of the Waste Statistics Regulation.

The report states that significant progress has been achieved with regard to the compilation of waste statistics since the first reporting in 2006. The punctuality and completeness of data delivery by Member States as well as the timeliness of data publication have steadily improved. Waste statistics have reached a fairly high degree of comparability across countries and considerable progress is being made towards full data coverage. Overall, the data are of appropriate quality for most countries. The harmonisation of data is furthered by a set of methodological guidance documents that are available from the website of the Environmental Data Centre on Waste. Errors and methodological deficits are identified by the quality control system.

With the data delivery for 2008, data on waste generation and treatment are now available for the period from 2004 to 2008. With the extension of the time series the data become increasingly useful, e.g. for building indicators and for use in the field of Environmental Accounts.

At the same time, it has to be mentioned that methodological changes in individual countries may still have a significant impact on the time series, at national level but also at the level of the EU-27 aggregate. Developments over time should thus still be interpreted with caution and after careful analysis of the underlying data. Also, the effect of new concepts introduced by the revised Waste Framework Directive, i.e. end-of-waste criteria, on waste statistics has to be observed.

Indicators on hazardous waste generation and on the generation of non-mineral waste have been developed and are being integrated into the set of Sustainable Development Indicators and the indicators for monitoring the Europe 2020 strategy. The development of an indicator for recycling is, however, still ongoing.

A considerable improvement with regard to the usability and interpretability of waste statistics is expected from the revision of the Regulation that will apply as of reference year 2010. The aims of the revision were to: (i) increase the usability of waste statistics; (ii) simplify the provisions of the Regulation; (iii) align the Regulation with other reporting obligations on waste.

The most important change is the harmonisation of the breakdown by waste categories in section 2 of Annexes I and II to the Regulation. The different breakdowns hampered data validation as well as the interpretation and communication of results. In future, waste generation and waste treatment will be reported according to the same 51 waste categories. Although this will lead to a nominal increase of the data to be reported the new provision is not expected to lead to an extra burden.

In addition, some waste categories have been reorganised or newly introduced in order to increase the usability of data, e.g. for the monitoring of waste policies. This includes: (i) separate waste categories for mineral waste from construction and demolition, for soils and for dredging spoil; (ii) separate waste categories for liquid and mineral wastes from waste treatment (secondary wastes); (iii) reorganisation of the categories animal and vegetal waste and metal wastes; (iv) aggregation of different chemical wastes in one category. Furthermore, the waste treatment categories were reorganised in order to bring the Regulation into line with the definitions and requirements of the revised Waste Framework Directive, and to integrate data on the number and capacity of landfills that are so far collected under Directive 1999/31/EC on landfills.

Waste statistics

The Commission presented its third report on statistics compiled pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics and their quality.

The first report was published in 2008 and the second in 2011.

This report considers the results of the latest data delivery in June 2012 for reference year 2010 and covers 27 EU Member States. It also describes the implementation of the revised annexes to the Waste Statistics Regulation, applicable for reference year 2010.

Since the first data delivery in 2006, Eurostat has set up an efficient two-step quality control system.

- The first step is a quick evaluation of data and quality reports. It sends an evaluation report within two months of the reporting deadline.
- The second step is a more in-depth validation with no strict deadline. This analyses the data at a more detailed level (e.g. by economic sector and by waste category) and compares patterns and developments across countries. Potential questions are checked against the countries quality reports and the feedback to the quick evaluation. This may result in a second set of questions being sent to the countries concerned.

The report notes that significant progress has been achieved with regard to the compilation of waste statistics since reporting started in 2006:

- the completeness of data delivery by Member States has steadily improved;
- waste statistics have reached a fairly high degree of comparability across countries for most waste categories and sectors and considerable progress is being made towards full data coverage;
- overall, the data are of appropriate quality for most countries. However, in order to help achieving EU environment, industrial and raw materials policy objectives,
- further improvement is needed;
- the harmonisation of data is furthered by a set of methodological guidance documents thatare available from the website of the Environmental Data Centre on Waste and by workshops addressing areas in which there are serious differences in data coverage (for example, workshops were held on mining waste in October 2011 and on construction and demolition waste in October 2012);
- errors and methodological deficits are identified by the quality control system.

As a new approach to improving data quality, Eurostat is setting up a programme that aims to support countries in which there are serious shortcomings by means of bilateral meetings to enable discussion of such issues, and options for improvement.

With the extension of the time series, the data is becoming increasingly useful, e.g. for building indicators and for use in the field of Environmental Accounts.

Also, the effect of new concepts introduced by the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), i.e. end-of-waste criteria, on waste statistics will have to be monitored.

The report highlights that:

- indicators on generation of waste excluding major mineral wastes (tsdpc210) and on generation of hazardous waste, by economic activity (tsdpc250) are established and are both part of the set of Sustainable Development Indicators;
- a new indicator on landfilling of waste excluding major mineral wastes has been developed and the plan is to include it in the set of Resource Efficiency Indicators;
- the development of indicators on other treatment categories, including recycling, is ongoing.

Waste statistics

The Commission presented the fourth report on statistics compiled pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics and their quality. The first report was published in 2008, the second in 2011 and the third in 2014.

Significant progress has been made in compiling waste statistics since reporting started in 2006.

Completeness: the completeness of data delivery by Member States has steadily improved. According to the report, the number of missing values and the number of countries reporting missing values fell considerably between the reference years 2010 and 2012 for the waste generation data set.

In 2010, 8 countries reported missing values but this dropped to 3 in the reference year 2012. The total number of missing values fell from 4.1% in the reference year 2010 to 1.5% in 2012. The tendency is the same for the waste treatment data, though less pronounced.

Data coverage and comparability: the report noted that waste statistics have reached a fairly high degree of comparability across countries for most waste categories and sectors and considerable progress is being made towards achieving full data coverage.

Four areas show the biggest differences in data coverage:

- the different coverage of extractive wastes (waste from mining and quarrying activities) has a very high impact. The biggest differences across countries are due to the coverage of overburden, i.e. natural materials that are removed from mining sites to get access to the ore without being processed, and with regard to extractive wastes that are managed at the mine site;
- the distinction between waste and by-products has a significant impact on the waste amounts in the economic activities: (i) agriculture, forestry and fishing; (ii) manufacturing. This is especially the case for the waste categories wood waste, animal and vegetal waste, and slags from metal production;
- the variance of waste generation in the construction sector indicates differences in data coverage;
- some countries are not yet able to report on the treatment category 'backfilling'.

Differences between waste generation and waste treatment: the report noted the difference between the amount generated and treated in the EU in 2012 is around 200 million tonnes. This equals approximately 8 % of all generated waste.

This difference has been stable over the last two reporting periods. It was higher in 2006 and 2008, at 400 million tonnes. The pattern stays

the same: more wastes are generated than treated. In 2012 the difference was highest for sludges and liquid wastes from waste treatment (approximately 70 %) and lowest (nearly 0 %) for soils.

Achievements and outlooks: the report noted that overall the data are of adequate quality for most countries. The number of countries is growing that have implemented or plan to implement electronic reporting systems, i.e. systems which automatically forward data required under waste legislation from waste treatment facilities to the statistical authorities.

However, to help achieve the EUs environment, industrial and raw materials policy objectives, further improvement is needed according to the Commission.

The Commission is continuing to work with the Member States on these improvements, for example through seminars and exchanges of best practice.

With the data delivery for 2012, data on waste generation and treatment are now available for 5 reference years, i.e. for the period from 2004 to 2012. With the longer time series, the data is becoming increasingly useful, for example for developing indicators or as input for climate-related analyses.

At the same time, methodological improvements in individual countries may still have a significant impact on the time series, at national level and at the level of the EU-28 aggregate. Developments over time should thus still be interpreted with caution and after careful analysis of the underlying data.

Waste statistics

The Commission presented a report on statistics compiled pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics and their quality.

The report concerns the quality of the data collection, which took place in 2018, on waste generated and treated in 2016. The data collection required by the Regulation consists of three parts: waste generation, waste treatment and waste treatment plants, the latter being disaggregated at NUTS II level.

The report concludes that significant progress has been made in the development of waste statistics since the last report in 2016. Overall, most countries have provided data of adequate quality.

Completeness

The completeness of the data provided by countries has steadily improved: the number of missing values and the number of countries reporting missing values have significantly decreased for waste generation data collections between the reference years 2010 and 2016.

The total number of missing values decreased from 1668 for reference year 2010 to 97 for reference year 2016. Most of the missing values concerned household waste.

The trend is the same for waste treatment data. There were no missing values for waste treatment in 2016, which is an improvement compared to the 263 missing values for reference year 2010.

Comparability and accuracy of data

The cross-country comparability of waste statistics has reached a relatively high level for most waste categories and sectors and considerable progress is being made to ensure full data coverage.

Compared to the 2014 reference year, improvements in coverage could be observed in eight countries for the 2016 reference year. Two important findings from the validation of the 2016 statistics are as follows:

- some countries are not yet able to report on the treatment category backfilling or use the backfilling category to report landfilling. This problem was detected during validation. The Commission (Eurostat) asked the concerned countries to improve this situation in order to report fully correct data sets;

- mineral waste is of relatively limited relevance, but accounts for a large share of total waste. For this reason, the Commission (Eurostat) developed an additional indicator Waste excluding major mineral waste.

The report also notes that there are several differences between statistics on waste treatment and statistics on waste generation. The amount of waste generated differs from the amount of waste treated in the EU by about 200 million tonnes since 2008. This corresponds to about 10% of all waste generated. The trend has been stable since 2008.

These differences do not result from the fact that the statistics for the two categories are of different quality. Rather, it reflects differences in the purpose and concepts used for the two categories. However, depending on the waste class, the difference is expected to be within certain limits. If these limits are exceeded, the respective Member State is asked for explanations.

Indicator development

Data produced are used to calculate indicators. To monitor the progress in Europes transition towards a circular economy, Eurostat provides easy access to the relevant data for policy makers and the public in the form of 10 indicators. The indicators waste generation, food waste, recycling rate, specific waste streams and contribution of recycled materials to raw materials demand are produced with data collected under the Regulation, or are retrieved directly from these data.

Outlook

The legislation on waste revised under the circular economy package contains more precise rules on the measurement of waste-treatment operations and more precise definitions. This will also improve the comparability of waste statistics across countries. The Commission continues to work with Member States through other measures, for example through seminars and exchanges of best practices. A statistical investigation of major mineral waste would require additional efforts.

After the 2016 data collection, data on waste generation and treatment are now available for 7 reference years, i.e. for the period from 2004 to

2016. With the lengthening of the time series, the data are becoming increasingly useful, for example for developing indicators or as input for climate-related analyses.