



Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2319(INI)	Procedure completed
Implementation of directive on packaging		
Subject 3.70.12 Waste management, domestic waste, packaging, light industrial waste		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	PSE CORBEY Dorette	12/03/2001

Key events			
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/10/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
09/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0323/2001	
13/11/2001	Debate in Parliament		
15/11/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0611/2001	Summary
15/11/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/06/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2319(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p2; Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/14261

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0323/2001	09/10/2001	EP

Implementation of directive on packaging

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Dorette CORBEY (PES, B) on the implementation of the 1994 packaging directive. It sought to influence the Commission's forthcoming review of the directive with a set of recommendations calling for "a policy mix" of tough measures aimed at encouraging prevention, re-use and recycling of packaging materials. The committee said that higher recycling targets were needed and that it was still waiting for the Commission's proposal for such targets to cover the period 2001-2006, which had been due by the end of 2000. It wanted targets for prevention and re-use to be introduced per material and said the environmental cost of packaging must be internalised in its price. It also called for a binding general target for the reduction of the amount of packaging waste going to landfill. The report said producers should have to prove that they had chosen the most environmentally-friendly packaging for their product, although it acknowledged that the need to reduce the amount of packaging produced had to be balanced with the need to ensure the hygiene and safety of foodstuffs, for which two-thirds of packaging was used. While welcoming the fact that, in general, the Member States had met the recycling targets set in the 1994 directive, the committee pointed out that most of them were over 2 years late in doing so. Lastly, it regretted the lack of any clear evaluation of the 1994 directive's impact on the environment or on the internal market and urged the Commission to involve all stakeholders in developing norms for packaging.?

Implementation of directive on packaging

The European Parliament adopted, by 219 votes to 127 with 7 abstentions, the report drawn up by Mrs Dorette CORBEY (PES, NL). (Please refer to the previous text). The Parliament is of the opinion that higher recycling targets are needed and targets for prevention and reduction should be introduced. It wants the environmental cost of packaging internalised in its price and demands a binding general target for the reduction of the amount of packaging waste going to landfill, with energy recovery through incineration as the least-worst option, preferable to landfill. The Parliament considers that the environmental burdens of packaging waste will decrease by using a policy mix of: - ensuring that a waste management approach is adopted, which takes account of all possible forms of recycling and recovery; - increasing targets for recycling; - introducing producers responsibility for the prevention of all unnecessary packaging and setting targets for prevention and reduction; - internalising environmental cost in the price of packaging waste going to landfill; - introducing easily-accessible means of collecting packaging for consumers; - encouraging the use of materials that are easy to separate from the waste stream. The Commission is called upon to carry out a study on the implementation of the CEN standard on prevention and to measure its impact in the different Member States. Moreover, the Parliament calls on the Commission to present a proposal to increase the recycling targets for the period 2001-2005.?