

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	2003/0283(COD) Procedure completed
Waste (repeal. Directive 75/442/EEC). Codification Repealed by 2005/0281(COD) Amended by 2008/0015(COD)	
Subject 3.70.12 Waste management, domestic waste, packaging, light industrial waste 3.70.13 Dangerous substances, toxic and radioactive wastes (storage, transport)	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		22/01/2004
		PPE-DE GARGANI Giuseppe	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2705	30/01/2006
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Legal Service		

Key events			
03/12/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
24/02/2004	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
24/02/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0117/2004	
09/03/2004	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0123/2004	Summary
30/01/2006	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
05/04/2006	Final act signed		
05/04/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/04/2006	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/0283(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Codification

Legislative instrument	Directive
	Repealed by 2005/0281(COD) Amended by 2008/0015(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/5/20432

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2003)0731	27/11/2003	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0117/2004	24/02/2004	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T5-0123/2004 OJ C 102 28.04.2004, p. 0025-0106 E	09/03/2004	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0210/2004 OJ C 112 30.04.2004, p. 0046-0046	31/03/2004	ESC	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0513/2004	31/03/2004	ESC	
Draft final act	03652/1/2005	05/04/2006	CSL	
Follow-up document	COM(2007)0059	21/02/2007	EC	Summary
Follow-up document	SEC(2009)1586	20/11/2009	EC	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2009)0633	20/11/2009	EC	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2013)0006	17/01/2013	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Directive 2006/12 OJ L 114 27.04.2006, p. 0009-0021 Summary
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Waste (repeal. Directive 75/442/EEC). Codification

PURPOSE : codification of the legislation on waste. CONTENT : the purpose of this proposal is to undertake a codification of Council Directive 75/442/EEC of 15 July 1975 on waste (Carried out pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - Codification of the Acquis communautaire, COM(2001) 645 final). The new Directive will supersede the various acts incorporated in it; this proposal fully preserves the content of the acts being codified and hence does no more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.?

Waste (repeal. Directive 75/442/EEC). Codification

The committee adopted the report by its chairman, Giuseppe GARGANI (EPP-ED, I), approving the proposal unamended under the 1st reading of the codecision procedure. ?

Waste (repeal. Directive 75/442/EEC). Codification

Waste (repeal. Directive 75/442/EEC). Codification

PURPOSE: codification of EU legislation on waste.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste.

CONTENT: the purpose of this Directive is to codify Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste, which has been significantly amended on several occasions. The new Directive supersedes the various acts incorporated in it and fully preserves the content of the acts being codified. Hence, it does no more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

To recall, EU waste legislation, in summary, is as follows:

- Waste is defined as any substance or object in Annex I of the Directive, which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.
- The following are excluded from the scope of the Directive: gaseous effluents emitted into the atmosphere; radioactive waste; waste resulting from prospecting, extraction, treatment and storage of mineral resources and the working of quarries; animal carcasses, non-dangerous substances used in farming; waste waters (with the exception of liquid form); decommissioned explosives.
- Member States are obliged to encourage measures that prevent or reduce waste production, the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation and the use of waste as a source of energy.
- Member States are obliged to take measures to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or the environment, without risk to water, air or soil, plants or animals, without causing a nuisance through noise or odours and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.
- Member States must take the necessary measures to prohibit the abandonment, dumping or uncontrolled disposal of waste.
- The Directive requires Member States to set up a network of co-operation with other Member States to establish an integrated and adequate network of disposal installations. The network must enable waste to be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies.
- Competent authorities, responsible for implementing this Directive, are established. They will be tasked with, inter alia, waste management plans.
- Provisions are spelt out regarding the issuing of permits for the disposal of waste.
- The cost of disposal is based on the 'polluter pays' principle. Thus, the cost of disposing of waste will be borne by the holder who has waste handled by a waste collector or by an undertaking as well as the previous holders or the producer of the product from which the waste came.
- Every three years the Member States are obliged to send information to the Commission on the implementation of this Directive. Within nine months of receiving this Report, the Commission will prepare its own Report.

TRANSPOSITION: Directive 75/442/EEC is repealed without prejudice to Member States' obligation concerning the time-limits for transposition into national law. The time-limits are set out in Annex III, part B.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 17 May 2006.

Waste (repeal. Directive 75/442/EEC). Codification

The definition of waste has been a key part of protecting the European environment from the impacts of waste generation and management over the past thirty years. The definition of waste is applied by the competent authorities specified by Directive 2006/12/EC (the Waste Framework Directive), on a case by case basis, when making waste shipment or permit decisions. In general it is clear what is or is not waste. However, a number of issues have arisen in relation to the interpretation of this definition.

In order to improve the legal certainty of waste legislation, and to make the definition of waste easier to understand and apply, this **Interpretative Communication** seeks to guide competent authorities in making case by case judgements on whether a given material is a waste or not, and to give economic operators information on how these decisions should be taken. The Communication will also help to smooth out differences in the interpretation of these provisions throughout the EU.

The Communication aims to explain the definition of waste set down in Article 1 of the Waste Framework Directive, as interpreted by the European Court of Justice, in order to ensure that the Directive is properly implemented.

The scope of this Communication is **the distinction between waste and non-waste in a production process context**. It is not relevant to other waste such as municipal waste or other similar waste streams, or to consumption residues. It does not deal with the issue of when a product may become a waste, or when a waste ceases to be a waste. It does not deal with waste that is excluded from the scope of the Waste Framework Directive.

The Commission gives guidelines on this matter, based on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice and addressing the issues of by-products in relevant industry sectors, on when by products should or should not be considered as waste in order to clarify the legal situation for economic operators and competent authorities. It feels that guidelines are better suited to delivering legal clarity than a definition of by-products in the Waste Framework Directive. Notably, a distinction between

waste and by-product that is based on whether the material is destined for recovery or disposal, or based on whether or not the material has a positive economic value, would not seem to offer the necessary guarantees for the protection of the environment.

With regard to the application of the Court of Justice's case-law, the Communication discusses the following points:

- **general notions around the definition of waste:** The ECJ has consistently stated that the definition of waste must be interpreted widely, in order to be consistent with the aim of Directive 2006/12/EC. It has stressed on several occasions that whether a material is a waste or not depends on the specific factual circumstances, and that therefore the decision must be taken by the competent authority on a case by case basis. It is important to note that even where a particular material satisfies the tests set out

by the ECJ in order to be considered as a non-waste, if it is in practice discarded, it must clearly be considered and treated as a waste;

- **whether the material concerned a production residue or a product:** In *Palin Granit case*, the ECJ stated that a production residue is something that is not the end product that the manufacturing process directly seeks to produce. In *Saetti*, the ECJ noted that where the production of the material concerned was the result of a technical choice? (to deliberately produce such a material) it could not be a production residue. Therefore, the first question to be asked when determining whether a material is waste or not is whether the manufacturer deliberately choose to produce the material in question. If the manufacturer could have produced the primary product without producing the material concerned but chose to do so, then this is evidence that the material concerned is not a production residue. Other evidence that the production of the material concerned was a technical choice could include a modification of the production process in order to give the material concerned specific technical characteristics;

- **conditions where a production residue would not be waste:** even where a material is considered to be a production residue, the Court has indicated that it is not necessarily a waste. The characteristics of the material in terms of its readiness for further use in the economy can mean that it should not be considered to be a waste. In recent jurisprudence, (*Palin Granit* and following cases) the ECJ has set out a three part test that a production residue must meet in order to be considered as a by-product. The court stated that where the further use of the material was not a mere possibility but a certainty, without any further processing prior to reuse and as part of a continuing process of production, then the material would not be a waste. This test is cumulative ? all three parts must be met. In addition to this test, the ECJ has noted that the use for which the by-product is destined must also be lawful - in other words that the by-product is not something that the manufacturer is obliged to discard or for which the intended use is forbidden under EU or national law;

- **other factors used by the court to distinguish between waste and by-product:** in the *Arco Chemie* case and in other similar jurisprudence, the ECJ lists a whole range of factors that may indicate that a material is a waste. None of these elements are necessarily conclusive, but some may be helpful in some circumstances:

- no other use than disposal can be envisaged, or the use has a high environmental impact or requires special protection measures;
- the treatment method for the material in question is a standard waste treatment method;
- the undertaking perceives the material as waste;
- the undertaking seeks to limit the quantity of material produced.

An annex to the Communication gives examples designed to illustrate some cases in which materials may be classified as wastes or not: slags and dusts from iron and steel production; by products from the food and drink industry ? animal feed; by-products from combustion ? flue gas desulphurisation gypsum; and off-cuts and other similar material.

As announced in the Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste, the effectiveness of the guidelines proposed in the Communication will be reviewed in 2010, in the context of the review of the strategy. At the same occasion, there will be a review whether further jurisprudence from the ECJ has made a revision of the guidelines necessary.