**Follow up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on waste management**

1. **Resolution tabled pursuant to Rule 216(2) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure**
2. **Reference numbers:** 2019/2557 (RSP) / B8-0231/2019 / P8\_TA-PROV (2019)0338
3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:** 4 April 2019
4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Petitions (PETI)
5. **Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The resolution supports the ambition and objectives of the Circular Economy Action Plan, including the revised EU waste legislation. The resolution highlights the importance of greater support for waste prevention measures to reduce the impacts of waste generation on the environment and human health, including more environmentally friendly product design, and calls for better implementation of EU waste legislation by the Member States with support from the Commission.

1. **Response to the requests in the resolution and overview of the action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

The resolution urges the Commission to support the Member States with their implementation efforts (paragraph 3). The Commission has been working closely with the Member States that are lagging behind with proper implementation of EU law. This includes several compliance promotion initiatives, which resulted in country-specific policy recommendations targeting the main barriers to better implementation for municipal waste, packaging waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment, hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste. The latest ‘early warning report’ (COM(2018) 656 final) shortlisted 14 Member States at risk of missing the 2020 preparation for re-use/ recycling target for municipal waste and indicated specific actions that can be taken by these Member States in country specific staff working documents attached to this report. As set out in the report, the Commission is actively supporting national, regional and local actors via organising peer to peer exchanges on the relevant topics related to waste management, and via its Structural Reform Support Service where several Member States have already benefitted from technical support. Furthermore, as a follow-up to the early warning report, the Commission has organised 4 high-level Virtuous Circles missions to Malta, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and several more are still planned for 2019. The aim of these events is to present to the national stakeholders, including local authorities, the opportunities of transition towards circular economy and to display best practices from other countries as regards waste management.

The resolution asks the Commission to reward and spread best practices and to support innovative projects (paragraph 7). The exchange of best practice is a core objective of the TAIEX peer-to-peer programme managed by the Commission. There is a lot of potential for sharing best practice between national and local authorities, and the Commission actively promotes this tool in the waste sector. In addition, in its reports and studies on waste the Commission publishes regularly the best practice examples of effective implementation of waste laws. The Commission is currently working on several guidance documents on waste. As regards support to innovative projects, the Commission supports waste-related projects with its LIFE programme and Horizon 2020 as well as through EU Cohesion Funds, for which the Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy is implementing an action plan on the effective cities transition to the circular economy.

The resolution underlines that incineration remains second only to landfilling at the bottom of the waste hierarchy. In this regard, the Commission has proposed, under its legislative proposal for the Cohesion policy, to exclude landfills and incinerators from the support from ERDF and Cohesion fund.

The resolution calls on the Commission to use the potential of the early warning system. The resolution also suggests earmarking of the fines imposed by the Court on the Member States in breach with EU law to projects supporting the highest levels of the waste hierarchy (paragraph 17). The early warning reports are now part of EU waste legislation and the Commission will pursue the early warning system as an effective tool in pre-empting non-compliance with EU waste law. As regards the fines paid by the Member States, there is no possibility of earmarking of such payments to specific funding areas. However, the fines are paid into the EU general budget and thus indirectly contribute to the EU Cohesion Funds that are spent on projects supporting compliance with waste legislation.