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New waste rules will reinforce EU's position as the global front-runner in waste management and recycling

Today the Environment Committee of the European Parliament endorsed the provisional agreement on the four legislative proposals of the **waste package**. This vote comes after the Permanent Representatives gave their approval last Friday.

The agreement generally preserves the ambition level of the [Commission's December 2015 proposal](#) and reconciles long-term targets with realities on the ground. The new ambitious recycling and landfill reduction targets for municipal and packaging waste will help make the circular economy a reality. It strengthens the "waste hierarchy" by placing prevention, re-use and recycling clearly above landfilling and incineration.

The details of the new waste rules:

Recycling targets for municipal waste:

By 2025	By 2030	By 2035
55%	60%	65%

Stricter rules for calculating recycling rates will help to better monitor real progress towards the circular economy.

New recycling targets for different waste streams:

	By 2025	By 2030
All packaging	65%	70%
Plastic	50%	55%
Wood	25%	30%
Ferrous metals	70%	80%

Aluminium	50%	60%
Glass	70%	75%
Paper and cardboard	75%	85%

Separate collection

In addition to the separate collection obligation which already exists for paper and cardboard, glass, metals and plastic, new provisions for separate collection, including of bio-waste will boost the quality of secondary raw materials and their uptake. Hazardous household waste will have to be collected separately by 2022, bio-waste by 2023 and textiles by 2025.

Phasing out landfilling

Landfilling of waste makes no sense in a circular economy and can pollute water, soil and air. By 2035 the amount of municipal waste landfilled must be reduced to 10% or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated.

Policy instruments and incentives

The new legislation requires effective use of economic instruments and other measures in support of the waste hierarchy. Producers are given an important role in the transition towards a more circular economy through extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes – meaning that a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product’s life cycle. The new extended producer responsibility requirements will lead to better performance and governance of these schemes. Also mandatory extended producer responsibility schemes have to be established for all packaging by 2025.

Prevention

The new legislation will place a particular focus on waste prevention and introduce important objectives such as reducing by 50% food waste in the EU and halting marine litter with the aim to achieve the UN sustainable development goals in these areas.

Background and next steps

As part of its Circular Economy Action Plan the European Commission adopted on 2 December 2015 a package of [legislative proposals on waste](#).

Following endorsement by EU ambassadors, and the Environment Committee the legislation will be submitted to the Plenary of the European Parliament, and then to the Council for final adoption. It will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal.