

## Proposal for a Revision of the Waste Framework Directive

The European Commission published on 5 July 2023 a [proposal](#) for a revision of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD), delivering on the [EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles](#) published in March 2022, which aims to create a greener, more competitive and resistant textile sector. The proposal is part of a broader [package of measures](#) for a sustainable use of key resources and also falls under [The European Green Deal](#) and the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), which call for reinforced and accelerated EU and Member State action to ensure environmental sustainability of the food and textiles sectors, considered the first and fourth most resource intensive sectors respectively.

The Directive is based on Article 192 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU, environmental legal basis).

### Food waste

Regarding food waste, the first specific objective of this proposal is to assign clear responsibility to Member States for accelerating reduction of food waste along the food supply chain and in households, in their respective territories, and thus make a solid contribution towards achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals' \(SDG\) target](#) of halving per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level by 2030. The second objective is to ensure sufficient and consistent response by all Member States to reduce food waste, in line with that of front-runners.

In this regard, the proposal introduces targets to reduce food waste by 10% in processing and manufacturing, and by 30% in restaurants, food services and households, compared to 2020 levels, per capita. It leaves it to Member States to choose suitable measures to reach these targets, and will formally review their progress by the end of 2027. Article 9a of the proposal specifically mentions the following measures to be adopted by Member States:

- a) developing and supporting behavioural change interventions to reduce food waste, and information campaigns to raise awareness about food waste prevention;
- b) identifying and addressing inefficiencies in the functioning of the food supply chain and support cooperation amongst all actors, while ensuring a fair distribution of costs and benefits of prevention measures;
- c) encouraging food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products;
- d) supporting training and skills development as well as facilitating access to funding opportunities, in particular for small and medium sized enterprises and social economy actors.

Finally, the Commission should be empowered to adopt delegated acts to lay down a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of food waste levels (no date of adoption provided).

### Textile waste

Specific objectives for this proposal as regards textile waste is to improve textile waste management in line with the 'waste hierarchy' enshrined in the WFD, prioritising waste prevention, preparing for re-use and recycling of textiles over other recovery options and disposal and implementing the 'polluter pays principle'.

To achieve this, the proposal introduces mandatory and harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for textiles in all EU Member States, making producers responsible for the full lifecycle of textile products and to support the sustainable management of textile waste across the EU. The fees of this 'polluter pays principle' will be determined by 'eco-modulation', which evaluates the environmental performance of textiles.

## To be noted

The WFD is amended inserting in Article 3 new definitions of 'making available on the market' (Article 3(4c)); 'producer responsibility organisation' (Article 3(4d)); and 'online platform' (Article 4(4e)) which are in line with those put forward by the Commission as part of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) proposal.

Only the definition of "consumers" in Article 3(4f) of the WFD proposal slightly differs from the one provided in the PPWR proposal as it also includes a mention of 'craft' as follows: *4f. 'consumer' means natural persons who are acting for purposes which are outside their trade, business, craft or profession.*

## Next steps

In the European Commission, DG ENV and DG SANTE will be responsible for the negotiations of this proposal and for its implementation, as well as any implementing and delegated acts.

Regarding the financial aspect of the proposal, it is envisioned to be fully financed through the existing Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, and does not provide for co-financing by third parties. The total cost for the Commission is estimated at €2.03 million, while the total cost for Member States is to be calculated on a national level as they may have national legislations in place.

This proposal will now land in the European Parliament and the Council, where it will be handed to the relevant committees and working parties respectively. After the proposal enters into force, Member States will have 18 months to bring into force necessary provisions to comply with this Directive.

Exact dates of upcoming meetings in the institutions are yet to be officially published.