

SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC
XVII LEGISLATIVE PERIOD

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RESOLUTION OF THE 13TH STANDING COMMITTEE

(Land Use, Environment, Environmental Assets)

(Rapporteur VACCARI)

Approved at the meeting of 1 March 2017

ON THE

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

AND THE COUNCIL ON STATISTICS COMPILED PURSUANT TO

REGULATION (EC) No 2150/2002 ON WASTE STATISTICS AND THEIR QUALITY (COM (2016) 701 FINAL)

(COMMUNITY ACT No 271)

within the meaning of Article 144 (1) and (6) of the Rules of Procedure

Sent to the President's Office on 3 March 2017

The Committee,

having examined, pursuant to Article 144 (1) and (6) of the Rules of Procedure, the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on statistics compiled pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics and their quality (COM (2016) 701 FINAL),

whereas:

the data which Member States must report to the European Commission are those required by the above-mentioned Regulation 2150/2002 on statistics - compiled on the basis of Eurostat's guidelines which are dealt with in the report under examination - and those concerning the reporting obligations contained in all the directives on waste. The data relating to Regulation 2150/2002 and those relating to the waste directives are not, however, comparable as they are compiled using different methodologies. This system of double reporting increases the work of the competent bodies responsible for preparing and submitting the data and it would therefore be preferable to harmonise the two reporting obligations. Furthermore, the data collected in accordance with the waste directives and those relating to the Regulation on statistics present significant problems of reliability, coverage, accuracy and comparability. Consequently, as regards the former, it should be noted that full harmonisation at European level of implementation of the waste directive is still far from being achieved. The mere difference between the definitions of urban waste applied by the various countries results in significant discrepancies in data on waste production and treatment. Indeed, the assimilation of industrial and commercial waste to domestic waste has the immediate effect of increasing the data recorded for the production of urban waste. The lack of harmonisation between the definitions of 'recycling', 'recovery of materials' and 'backfilling' results in further differences in the data generated and makes it impossible to

compare the data of different countries. It should also be noted that the possibility of using four different methods for reporting the quantities of waste recycled - provided for under Commission Decision 2011/753/EU of 18 November 2011 - means that the data provided by the Member States from 2008 to the present time are not absolutely comparable;

acknowledging that:

the European Commission is trying to resolve some of the criticisms raised regarding the revision of the Waste Directive under the 'Circular Economy Package', but it will not be possible to achieve full harmonisation on all the aspects mentioned,

issues, for matters within its remit, a favourable opinion with the following comments:

the Commission report COM (2016) 701 final) highlights well the problems of the quality of the data in question. The problems linked to statistical reporting may also be extensive. The Commission recently published a document on the management of dangerous wastes in all EU Member States. The report showed a 66% difference in Italy between the level of dangerous wastes produced and those treated. The explanations for the discrepancy are set out in the report currently under examination by the Senate (701 final) and are based on the fact that Eurostat does not collect data on all the waste treatment operations carried out but only on final treatment operations. However, the same Eurostat method includes under 'waste produced' the waste produced by waste treatment plants, i.e. as a result of intermediate treatment ('secondary waste'), thus counting the quantity of waste produced twice. It should also be noted that the method does not take stocks into account;

as regards the deadline for the transmission of data, it should be noted that very often the times set by the Commission are not practicable for Italy, which needs time to collect, compile, check and send more data than those requested. However, it is not possible to shorten the time for collecting data since the operators must have time to collect and send the

data using the Modello Unico di Dichiarazione (MUD) [Single declaration form] by the end of the calendar year. Consequently we do not share the opinion expressed by the Commission (see page 4 of the document), which is taking steps to urge the Member States to change their procedures for producing statistics so that they send them by the deadline;

to ensure greater comparability of data, we would stress the need to clarify and harmonise - for all Community directives - certain definitions, such as those of 'by-product' 'end of waste' and 'waste' and not to confuse the idea of 'reuse' (which is what is done to a product) with that of 'preparation for reuse' (an operation carried out on waste);

we agree that there is a need to oblige industrial and commercial companies to keep a waste register and to make the data available to the relevant authorities on request;

once again there is opposition to the total replacement of the three-yearly reports on implementation of the European rules in national law (currently incumbent on Member States) with transmission of annual statistics accompanied by reports on the quality of the data collected because of the additional burden that this puts on the administrative authorities.