



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.06.2017
C(2017) 4269 final

Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
Piazza Madama, 1
IT – 00186 ROME

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on statistics compiled pursuant to the Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 on waste statistics and their quality {COM/2016/701}.

The Commission takes due note of the Senato della Repubblica's observations and is pleased to have this opportunity to provide a number of clarifications. As regards quality aspects of waste statistics and the progress made regarding the comparability over time and across countries, the differences between waste generation and waste treatment are particularly mentioned and some reasons explaining these phenomena are given. Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002¹ compiles statistics both on waste generation and final treatment of waste. Statistical data on waste generation cover both primary and secondary waste generated whereas waste treatment refers to final treatment and treated waste should be counted only once. Secondary waste is understood as waste that is generated in the course of waste treatment operations and that is sent to further treatment.

With the revision of the Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 in 2010, the Commission introduced waste categories that consist solely of secondary waste. The aim was to allow for the separation of secondary waste from primary waste. In 2016, which was the third year of data collection based on the revision of the Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002, the Commission has started to analyse the data and calculated the amount of secondary waste nationally generated for each Member State. This amount will be subtracted from the total amount of waste generated in order to identify primary waste. This exercise is based on the data available; it is not envisaged to collect additional data because the response burden for Member States is already high.

For Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 the period during which the data has to be submitted to the Commission is within 18 months of the end of the reference year. The Commission does not envisage shortening the period for submitting statistical data.

¹ OJ L 332, 9.12.2002, p. 1–36.

In addition, the Commission takes note and thanks the Senato della Repubblica for its recommendations on the legislative proposals under the Circular Economy package {COM(2015) 593, COM(2015) 594, COM(2015) 595 and COM(2015) 596}. These proposals are currently subject to negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission wishes to reassure the Senato della Repubblica that the majority of its recommendations, including on the calculation rules and reporting, are subject to discussions in the relevant Council working party.

The Commission acknowledges the need to clarify and harmonise certain definitions and continues working on respective guidance.

The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*