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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B – Competitive Circular Economy & Clean Industrial Policy
ENV.B.3 – Circular Economy & Secondary Raw Materials

Expert Group on Waste: implementation of the Waste Shipment Regulation (morning session)

14 September 2026 (9:30-12:30) in Brussels (Centre Borschette) and online (Webex)

Minutes

1. Adoption of the meeting agenda

The Commission welcomed the participants to the meeting, presented the draft agenda and indicated the objective to inform participants about and discuss the state of play in the implementation of various aspects of the Waste Shipment Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 (WSR). The proposed agenda included the following items: (i) presentation of the state of play on the development of the Digital Waste Shipment System (DIWASS); (ii) information about the Commission's proposal for delegated acts on the green-listing of certain waste streams shipped within the EU; (iii) discussion on the implementation of the WSR regarding the export of waste from the EU, including the list non-OECD countries, monitoring of export to OECD countries, plastic waste and audit requirements; and (iv) information on the Waste Shipment Enforcement Group.

The agenda was adopted and discussions continued accordingly.

2. Electronic data interchange for waste shipments (DIWASS)

The Commission presented the state of play on the development of the Digital Waste Shipment System (DIWASS). The Commission thanked the Member States' experts and stakeholders for their engagement in the intensive work on implementing the system. The Commission recalled that the DIWASS module for prior consent (PIC) had been operational since May 2026. The Commission then presented statistics regarding the usage of DIWASS such as the number of submitted and consented notifications, registered operators and the large number of tickets received, solved or still open showing that

DIWASS is still undergoing developments. It also informed the participants about a new set of instruction videos on movement documents.

The Commission then reiterated the agreed approach regarding the assistance and support for the operators. The Commission underlined that the Member States competent authorities and helpdesks should be the primary contact points for the other authorities and economic operators when seeking support for using DIWASS. It was explained again that competent authorities can reach out to the Commission help desk in case the problem signalled by the operator is due to the technical aspects of DIWASS. The Commission also reminded that questions other than related to technical aspects of DIWASS, will be redirected back to the national competent authorities.

The Commission then presented the state of preparations of the module dedicated to the generation and submission of Annex VII documents for shipments of green listed waste. The Commission reminded that during the last meeting of the Expert Group on Waste Shipment on 27 March 2026, it was acknowledged that the mandatory use of DIWASS for Annex VII documents should be effectively postponed until 1 January 2027, and that transitional arrangements apply between 21 May 2026 and 31 December 2026: shipments of waste covered by Article 4(4) and (5) of WSR must be accompanied by complete Annex VII documentation, but they can be handled as before in paper form. The Commission informed that the Annex VII module in DIWASS is already available for testing in GUI and should be available for testing of API as of 1 October 2026. The Commission also informed that the Annex VII module in real DIWASS will be available for use during the transition period from 15 November until end 2026 and that the Commission will support economic operators to initiate their connection to DIWASS via API. It was however underlined that it is key to beforehand clarify among Member States a mutual understanding on who will use the module before 2027. After discussion, the Commission indicated that it will, together with the Member States, take stock in the coming weeks of the developments of the module on Annex VII, to see if everything is on track for making the use of DIWASS mandatory from 1st January.

The Commission then recalled the applicable rules regarding non-EU competent authorities and operators in DIWASS, pointed to the summary of these rules prepared by the Commission and available via its website. The Commission also highlighted the new feature available in DIWASS which allows change of the notification number of submitted notifications to the number attributed by the competent authority of dispatch. The Commission explained that the change can only be performed by EU competent authorities and only in the scenarios concerning imports to the EU and transits through the EU.

Finally, the Commission clarified the connection and use of DIWASS by carriers and informed that the first eFTI certified platforms are expected to be ready not earlier than mid-2027.

Responding to questions of Member States and stakeholders, the Commission explained that the available manual for submitting Annex VII documents can be considered as guidance provided in the spirit of the empowerment in Article 18(15) of WSR.

The Commission took note of a number of other concerns raised by participants and concluded the discussions by again thanking all Member States and stakeholders for their constructive input and encouraged all to continue to cooperate to make DIWASS a success.

3. Waste classification and green-listing of certain waste streams

The Commission introduced its ongoing work to green-list certain waste streams shipped within the EU, on the basis of empowerments in that respect in Articles 79 and 80 of the WSR. In this regard, the Commission launched in July 2025 a public consultation for stakeholders to provide their evidence-based feedback regarding the possibility to "green-list" certain non-hazardous waste streams within the EU and to adopt EU-level contamination thresholds to distinguish green-listed waste from waste (mixtures) subject to notification, as well as specific criteria for the identification of e-waste compared to other types of waste.

Based on the assessment of the information received, the Commission has prepared two draft delegated acts. The first act proposes to amend the WSR by including in Annex IIIA mixtures of textile waste and footwear and including in Annex IIIB new entries for fibre-reinforced polymer composite, aluminium and steel waste from construction and demolition of buildings (e.g. window and door frames), dry-collected mattresses, non-hazardous e-waste, permanent magnets and metal waste from end-of-life vehicles. The drafts were published on Have Your Say for public feedback until 15 September. The Commission aims to adopt the acts by end of 2026.

Overall, stakeholders expressed support for the Commission's proposals to green-list certain non-hazardous waste streams, provided that the wording of the entries is sufficiently precise to ensure consistent classification and enforcement. Several Member States cautioned against too broad green-listing and commented on the use of qualifiers, asking for clearer wording, including possibly contamination thresholds. The Commission acknowledged the need for clarification but noted that as regards setting thresholds, national views differed widely, making it difficult to define a single approach at this stage. Guidance was mentioned as a possible next step.

Some stakeholders called for including additional entries in the green-listed waste such as all non-hazardous sorted plastic waste. The Commission emphasised that the proposed green-listing exercise is iterative: some waste types were not included because evidence was insufficient, but further work to green-list additional wastes may continue on the basis of the empowerment in the WSR.

Several participants welcomed the inclusion in Annex IIIA of mixtures of textile waste, including items such as footwear, accessories and belts, but some of them requested to clarify the wording. Some Member States expressed concerns with respect to this proposal as allowing mixtures at EU level may complicate downstream recovery of such waste in cases where recovery has proven to be challenging, and also questioned the chosen timeline given the on-going work at EU and international level on the topic. Concerns were also

expressed whether such mixtures may in practice contain electrical or electronic components. The Commission replied that e-waste must not be covered by this entry.

One stakeholder called for the inclusion of copper in the entry related to aluminium and steel in construction and demolition waste (door and window frames), arguing the presence of copper cables. The Commission explained that well-sorted, non-hazardous copper cables are already covered by green-listed entries.

Several stakeholders expressed support for green-listing certain pre-treated e-waste fractions within the EU while also underlining the need to define the scope as clear as possible. The Commission explained that the proposed wording seeks to stay close to that of the Basel entries while adapting it to the EU acquis, notably regarding pre-treatment requirements laid down in relevant WEEE legislation.

One Member State inquired about the distinction between clean, well-separated fractions and mixed outputs from shredding operations. The Commission replied that clean fractions, for example a clearly identifiable copper fraction resulting from the shredding and sorting of cables, is currently already green-listed, but took note of the remark concerning mixed shredding outputs.

4. Implementation of the Waste Shipment Regulation regarding the export of waste from the EU

Exports to non-OECD countries

The Commission recalled that the export ban of hazardous, plastic and e-waste to non-OECD countries continues to apply and clarified that the prohibition to export any non-hazardous waste to non-OECD countries will start to be applicable as of 21 May 2027, apart from those non-OECD countries that notified the Commission of their willingness to import certain waste from the EU and demonstrated their ability to manage that waste in an environmentally sound manner. The Commission recalled that a delegated act establishing the list of such countries is to be adopted by 21 November 2026, and that it would soon publish a draft for such act for public feedback on Have Your Say, together with a Staff Working Document setting out the Commission's country assessments. No comments were raised by participants.

Exports to OECD countries

The Commission indicated that the new Waste Shipment Regulation has not substantially changed the procedural rules governing exports of waste from the EU to OECD countries, but that the Commission was mandated to monitor such exports, with a view to mitigating environmental problems and verifying whether the waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts restricting or prohibiting the export of certain waste to specific OECD countries, with particular attention to plastic waste and to countries importing significant volumes of such waste. The Commission noted that Türkiye is the main destination concerned and referred

to its recently published Staff Working Document focusing on plastic waste exports to Türkiye. The Commission presented the main conclusions in that document, notably that overall Türkiye has strengthened its legal, institutional and strategic framework for plastic waste management, as well as its enforcement efforts, but that a number of concerns were raised as well. The Commission explained that the main issues identified were limited information on plastic waste generation, collection and treatment; uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement; and fragmented governance combined with limited stakeholder involvement. The Commission indicated that it would continue working with the Turkish authorities, stakeholders and Member States to gather more information to further assess the situation on plastic waste generation, imports, management, enforcement and governance in Türkiye. It also stated that it will seek to establish a more structured cooperation framework with the Turkish authorities to support necessary improvements and monitor progress. The Commission invited public authorities from the EU Member States and stakeholders to provide their input for such cooperation with Türkiye.

Export of plastic waste

The Commission recalled that, as of 21 May 2026, all exports from the EU of plastic waste, including covered by entry B3011, are subject to the notification procedure, and that, as of 21 November 2026, all such exports to non-OECD countries will be prohibited. It was further noted that, only from 21 May 2029, non-OECD countries may submit requests to again receive exports of B3011 plastic waste from the EU.

Audit obligations

The Commission recalled that the new audit obligations under the Waste Shipment Regulation will start to apply from May 2027 and emphasised that these are intended as a substantive safeguard to ensure that waste exported from the EU is treated properly in the facility at destination, rather than as a purely administrative requirement. Exporters will therefore need to ensure that the treatment facility in the third country of destination has undergone an independent third-party audit. The Commission informed participants that the small ad hoc working group established by the Expert Group in March 2026 with the aim to work on clarifying the implementation of the audit obligations as far as possible, met in June and would meet again on 18 September 2026, to continue its work and with the intention of reporting back to the Expert Group by the end of October. It was also recalled that the Commission is expected to establish, by mid-2027, a register of audited facilities in third countries for information purposes, although work on this has not yet started. In the ensuing exchange, participants sought clarification on the scope of that register and raised concerns about the time available to prepare for compliance, in particular given outstanding implementation issues in DIWASS and the practical difficulties of arranging third-country audits before the deadline. Some participants suggested that a transitional arrangement might be necessary in light of the remaining uncertainty. In response, the Commission referred to the existing legal framework, noting that the obligations and conditions are already set out in the Regulation and have been known since the adoption of the Regulation in April 2024, while acknowledging the need

to continue technical discussions in the ad hoc working group to clarify some of the outstanding aspects.

Participants asked for an update on the incorporation of the new WSR into the EEA Agreement and highlighted uncertainty regarding the applicable regime for exports to EEA countries pending such incorporation. The Commission clarified that, as long as the EEA countries concerned have not incorporated the WSR into the EEA Agreement, they are to be considered as any other OECD countries, meaning that the rules applicable to exports to OECD countries, including on auditing, apply to them.

Responding to a question, the Commission explained that currently no international agreements pursuant to Article 46(11) with OECD countries, including Switzerland, are being considered.

Finally, when asked by one stakeholder, it was noted that, in the context of Article 11 of the Regulation, work is ongoing in IMPEL to develop guidance on the implementation of that Article.

5. Enforcement

The Commission recalled that the first meeting of the Waste Shipment Enforcement Group took place in Warsaw in May 2025 and was attended by enforcement agencies from almost all Member States. The Commission informed participants that the next WSEG meeting will take place on 23 October in Brussels and will aim both to follow up on discussions from the first meeting and to focus more concretely on enforcement aspects of the implementation of the WSR, in particular the new export rules and inspection planning. Participants had previously stressed the importance of involving all relevant national involved authorities in the group and of strengthening communication and coordination among enforcement actors.

6. AOB

No points were raised under AOB.