

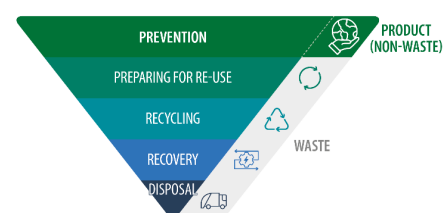
Revising rules on food and textile waste

Every year, 60 million tonnes of food waste and 12.6 million tonnes of textile waste are generated in the EU. During its September plenary session, Parliament is due to vote on the updated Waste Framework Directive.

Background

The [Waste Framework Directive](#) – last updated in 2018 – serves as the EU's legal basis for [waste management](#). It defines terms related to waste management, waste, recycling and recovery. Its five-step '[waste hierarchy](#)' (Figure 1) underpins EU waste management, ranking the options for waste management and disposal by priority. Preventing food waste ranks highest. The directive also requires EU countries to introduce separate textile collection schemes by 2025 at the latest.

Figure 1 – Waste hierarchy



Source: [European Commission](#), 2023.

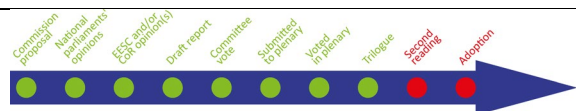
European Commission proposal

The [proposal](#) for a targeted revision of EU waste rules introduces binding **food waste** reduction targets to be met at the national level. By the end of 2030, EU countries would have to reduce food waste by 10 % in processing and manufacturing, and by 30 % (per capita), jointly at retail and consumption levels, compared to the amounts generated in 2020. Within two years of the entry into force of the proposed directive, EU countries would need to review and adapt their food waste prevention programmes to meet those targets. The amending directive proposes the introduction of mandatory and harmonised extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes for **textiles**. This would require producers who make textiles available in an EU country to cover the costs of their collection, sorting and recycling. The EPR schemes would cover textiles, textile-related and footwear products across all EU countries.

European Parliament position

The [provisional agreement](#) was endorsed by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on [18 March 2025](#) and then adopted by the Council at first reading on [13 June 2025](#). Negotiators agreed to introduce the binding **food waste** reduction targets set out in the Commission proposal. These targets would be calculated in relation to the average annual amount generated between 2021 and 2023. At Parliament's request, [donating](#) unsold food that is safe for consumption will be facilitated. On **textiles**, EU countries would have to establish EPR schemes within 30 months after the entry into force of the directive, except for micro-enterprises, for which this period would be extended by 12 months. The provisions would apply to all producers, including those using e-commerce tools and irrespective of whether they are established within or outside the EU. The new rules would cover clothing and accessories, footwear, blankets, bed and kitchen linen, curtains and hats. EU countries would have to address ultra-fast fashion and fast fashion practices when setting out the financial contributions to the EPR schemes. At the Parliament's request, operators involved in reuse would not be subject to the EPR.

Second-reading report: [2023/0234\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: ENVI, Rapporteur: Anna Zalewska (ECR, Poland). For further information, see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).



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