Municipal Waste TF Meeting of 23 July 2026

Report

Participants: Taglialatela (coordination), Graziano (WAREG Secretariat), Authorities of: Greece - RAEEY (Aravossis, Anthouli, Loizos, Tsakona, Yenouzi), Latvia-VERT (Taparauskas), Lithuanian – PUC (Teibe), Portugal – ERSAR (Alves, Proenca, Videira), Hungary – MEKH (Antal, Horvath), Romania – ANRSC (excused absentee).

On 23 July 2026 from 11:00 to 12:30, the Group of European Regulators for Municipal Waste ("Waste TF") met online, to discuss the following:

1. Communications and discussions on the integration of municipal waste into the statutory scope of WAREG;
2. communications and discussions on the progress of the Circular Economy Act, and related institutional relations.
3. AOB.

1. Communications and discussions on the integration of municipal waste into WAREG

On 18 June, the General Assembly of WAREG decided to include municipal waste in the statutory scope of the Association. This will result in the establishment of a formal Working Group, similar to those already operating in WAREG, as well as in the application of the Association's rules and procedures. A formal decision to submit the establishment of the MW Group for consideration by the General Assembly should be taken at one of the forthcoming Board meetings, with a view to completing the process at the next General Assembly, scheduled to take place in Rome on 28–29 September.

TF Members are unanimously willing to confirm the working method adopted so far, based on the clarity of objectives, the active participation of colleagues and the prioritization of institutional relations;

TF agrees with the proposal of PUC and VERT, which suggest highlighting the new Working Group through a dedicated section of the Association's website;

The Board and Assembly will be called upon to allocate human and financial resources to the new MW area, as part of the discussion on a remodulation of the registration fees.

Decision MW20260723-01 *– the coordinator invites Members to discuss internally the desired structure and leadership of the Working Group to be established, and to contact their respective Representatives on the Board for appropriate decisions. The Secretariat will promptly inform the Working Group of the formal procedure for its establishment once it has received the relevant guidance from the Board.*

2. CEA progress and institutional relations

The Secretariat informs Members of recent contacts with the Director of Circular Economy of DG Environment, Mr. Ciobanu-Dordea, following the submission of the specific contribution on EPR and regulation of municipal waste. The Director showed appreciation for the contribution of the regulators and assured that it will be properly considered.

The Commission is now in the "closed doors" phase, where it is focused on drafting the CEA regulation and is not available for external meetings. The proposal for a regulation is expected by the end of August – early September.

Once the draft regulation is known/published, the TF will resume institutional contacts, also based on the suggestions of Mr. Ciobanu, who indicated officials involved in the process. The coordinator shares with the Group the names of the Commission officials mentioned by Director Ciobanu-Dordea as possible contacts for future relations. It is recalled that the work program of the TF already provides for the expansion of the dialogue; to this end, the coordinator has activated an initial contact with the member of the Cabinet Roswall in charge of the CEA.

The opportunity to present the work of the Regulators to the EP rapporteur, when he is appointed, is also discussed by Members. The coordinator proposes that, If the TF/Working Group is convened in correspondence with the General Assembly in September in Rome, an institutional actor is invited for a first discussion on the draft regulation. To this end, the main contact person in the Commission, Mr. Flachenecker, will be contacted/invited on his return from leave.

Decision MW2026-07-23-02*– In the aftermath of the draft regulation's publication, the TF will meet to analyse its contents and decide on the next steps. The coordinator will contact Mr. Flachenecker to verify his readiness to resume dialogue. The Secretariat will promptly inform the Group of the relevant changes.*

3. AOB

The coordinator draws the attention of the Members on the issue of **Romania's participation** in the work of the TF. Recently, ANRSC changed its status from "member" to "observer" of WAREG; in correspondence with this change, and pending the statutory revision, ANRSC has preferred a "low profile" attitude within the TF. The coordinator hopes that Romanian colleagues will continue to participate in the work on waste even once the Group is formally integrated into the Association, possibly adopting the "observer status" until further decisions are made. The Secretariat informs the Members that admitting external entities and observers to participate in the work of a Group falls within the prerogatives of that Group: so, nothing prevents the continuity of the participation of ANRSC even if without decision-making rights. However, the Secretariat warns of the risk to incentivise participation in WAREG initiatives without bearing the burden. ERSAR notes that the discussion on the budget of the waste area can give some more elements, since an observer could evaluate support for the waste area. This observation is also relevant for the waste area general developments. Indeed, the "observer status" and the possibility to join WAREG for "only waste-oriented" entities are tools to attract more potential members in the future.

Decision MW20260723 - 03 *It is agreed not to invite ANRSC to the next meeting, pending the Board-GA's decisions on statute changes and the budget of the waste area. The coordinator is given a mandate to contact the ANRSC Colleagues to update them on TF work progress, as well as to discuss possible and desired level of involvement of ANRSC.*

Next meeting

Pending details from the Secretariat on the possibility to plan an in-person meeting in Rome, the TF agrees to convene an online meeting by the first decade of September. The precise date will depend on the expected developments of the CEA process.