WASTE GROUP WAREG – SUMMARY ACTIVITES

Mandate and origins

Established under the 26th General Assembly, Decision 04. Mandate to create a dedicated Task Force on Municipal Waste within WAREG.

Composition of the task force

Participants: *Bulgaria (EWRC), Hungary (MEKH), Italy (ARERA), Latvia (PUC), Lithuania (VERT), North Macedonia (ERC), Portugal (ERSAR), Romania (ANRSC), Greece (RAAEY).*

Purpose of the Task Force on Waste

Aims to be recognized as a relevant stakeholder by the European Commission and start long term relation to effectively support and participate in the legislative process.

Establishing a mutually beneficial relationship with the EU Commission, through which regulators can help developing more effective waste legislation, and the Commission might give guidance to better apply rules. This collaboration will help member countries, particularly those facing challenges in meeting existing targets.

Activities and work organisation's timeline

The Task Force (TF) restarted its work in May 2024. The TF organized its activities through internal group meetings (8), bilateral ad-hoc meetings (9), and three main workshops. The latter featured the participation of the EU Commission (DG ENV, DG REGIO, DG ECFIN, RECOVER, and the JRC).

- **1st Workshop:** On 8 May 2024, the TF Waste convened its first workshop to hear the European Commission's update on waste legislation, conduct a quick roundtable on each country's regulatory landscape and challenges, and explore ways to shape future legislation. Participants discussed the impact of upcoming changes in the Waste Framework Directive, exchanged insights on national aspirations, and defined future interactions with the Commission. This session laid the groundwork for ongoing collaboration and advocacy at EU level.
- **2nd Workshop:** On 26th June 2024, the TF Waste held its first workshop on governance, featuring presentations from Italy, Portugal, Hungary, Romania, Latvia, and Lithuania. Discussions centred on the structure of the sector (governance arrangements, responsibilities, key figures), the role of the regulator and other stakeholders (tariff setting, economic incentives), and the sector's future challenges (meeting EU targets, market structure, regulatory intervention). Participants also exchanged ideas on proposals to strengthen regulators' authority at both national and EU levels.
- **3rd Workshop:** On 11 December 2024, the TF Waste convened its third workshop, spotlighting country case studies on costs, prices, and tariffs in municipal waste services. Participants discussed various tariff structures, presented national methodologies for tariff setting, and shared data on average municipal waste tariffs, recycling rates, and other key indicators across TF member countries.

Main Outcome:

A key outcome has been the development of a collaborative relationship with the European Commission, fostered by sharing analyses, summaries, and presentations after each meeting.