Municipal Waste Working Group

TORs and Draft Working Plan 2026-2027, for discussion

Rome, 30 September 2026

Scope and introduction

This document aims to submit to Members' consideration a proposal for the Group's work plan for 2026-2027, based on the work carried out in 2025-2026, also following the organizational changes resulting from the inclusion of the Group in the structure of WAREG. In some points, the proposed Working Plan is subject to verification of any human and financial resources made available by the Association.

Where we come from, where we go

In 2025-2026, the Group's major achievement was the building of a stable relationship with the European Commission's DG Environment, resulting in participation in the formal consultation on the Circular Economy Act. In 2026-2027, the Group's goal is to consolidate and expand institutional relations, continue the advocacy campaign in favour of the role of regulators and intervene in the legislative debate concerning the upcoming Circular Economy Regulation.

Terms of References

According to WAREG's Rules for functioning of the Working Groups, a Municipal Waste Working Group (MW WG) is established. The MW WG is composed by representatives of WAREG's Members and Observers.

The **scope** of the MW WG is to promote the role of the national independent regulation in the building of an effective Circular Economy.

Its **objectives** are:

- Promoting an exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practice among existing Municipal Waste regulators, as well as among the current regulators and entities in charge of overseeing economics and organisation of municipal waste services throughout the EU;
- Advocate for the role of economic regulation in the building of a cost-effective Circular Economy;
- Establish and maintain institutional relationships with relevant stakeholders and EU decision-makers, so to contribute to the development of Community legislation and regulations in the domain of waste management and the environment.

The MW WG is expected to **deliver** position papers, draft amendments to the relevant legislative files, letters and positions on issues related to the abovementioned objective. As well, the MW WG is expected to participate into public consultations launched by the EU on relevant topics. The MW WG is also expected to draft reports, opinions and analysis on waste management and Circular Economy, also based on data and information provided ty the Members. Common positions and policy papers are disseminated according to WAREG's internal rules on institutional communication.

Duration, suspension, closure of the MW WF shall be the decided by the General Assembly.

Proposed Working Plan

Short-term, internal activities: promoting integration

1. Promote mutual knowledge with other Groups, verification of possible collaborations, presentation of the MW workflow.
2. Activate a section on the WAREG website, agree on feeding methods with the Secretariat. WAREG resources available for the implementation of the "website" project should be checked and assessed before starting the "website activity".
3. Members will be invited to commit to updating the Group and the section of the website on national legislative and regulatory news on waste. Starting from the constitutive meeting of the Group, Members will be asked to offer this update at each meeting).

Time horizon and deadlines: by October 2026

Short-term, external activities: resuming relations with the European Commission

4. Following the changes in the organisation of DG ENV (new DG and changes in the staff of the Circular Economy unit), there is a need to contact new people in charge, also from other DGs (in particular GROW, which seems to have taken on more weight in the inter-service group), to be involved in the work of the Group and invited to participate in the forthcoming joint workshops.
5. Pending clarification of roles and responsibilities within DG ENV, the Group is expected to open a communication channel with Commissioner Roswall's cabinet, also to "level up" and use the notoriety gained by the Group during the spring 2026 stakeholders consultation.

Time horizon and deadlines: by November 2026

Medium-term, external activities: broadening relations

6. Contact the rapporteur of the "Circular Economy" Regulation in the European Parliament as soon as the proposal for a regulation is published by the Commission, to start the institutional discussion. If the proposal for a regulation is delayed, possibly establish contact with relevant Members of the Environment Committee of

the European Parliament for a presentation of the Group and the positions expressed in the position papers prepared for consultation.

Time horizon and deadlines: by November – December 2026, depending on the publication of the proposed regulation.

Medium-term, external/internal activities: resuming the organisation of joint workshops

7. As soon as the proposal for a regulation on the circular economy is known, convene the Group for analysis and discussion and form a "drafting team" for the elaboration of positions and proposals for amendments.
8. Work closely with the Secretariat on position communication; if necessary, share analyses and positions with other relevant WAREG Groups.
9. If the draft CEA regulation offers the opportunity (i.e., whereas there are provisions on municipal waste management, as well as on issues under regulators' responsibility), submit amendments to the draft regulation to the Environment Committee of the European Parliament.
10. Organize Joint Workshops on the analysis of the regulation following the usual method (identify one or more points on which the Group can present opinions based on facts; identify potential participants; organize the meeting behind closed doors).
11. Organise at least two further thematic workshops on the topics already identified in the past work plan and which have remained in the pipeline (e.g. investments, recycling market, pursuit of efficiency in municipal waste management).

Time horizon and deadlines: activities on CEA by November, possibly scheduling the related workshop in December 2026; the additional thematic workshops can be scheduled for March-April and June-July 2027.

Short and medium term, internal/external activities: analysing the CEA

12. Once the association's budget has been prepared, examine the possibility of using an external expert (from the academy) to analyse one or more relevant points of the CEA and offer a quantitative basis for the construction of the Group's positions, in line with the consolidated fact-based orientation. Possible examples in connection with the CEA points discussed in the consultation: efficiency of EPRs, efficiency margin obtainable from a consistent economic regulation of municipal waste, economies of scale and scope in the distribution of treatment and recycling plants
13. Also based on the analysis referred to in the previous point, prepare proposals in the form already tested (position paper). In coordination and with the support of the Secretariat, disseminate the proposals to relevant institutional subjects in the form of letters and organization of meetings.

Time horizon and deadlines: assess the availability of resources by the end of 2026, corresponding to the approval of the budget; prepare the objectives and structure of the study by February 2027; obtain the first results by March-April 2027, to be presented at the

spring workshop; have the study available by June-July, to be presented at the summer workshop.

Task Forces

Special projects are distinguished from the normal activity of the Group by the need for continuous follow-up and might be allocated to ad-hoc task forces. Members can volunteer as project leaders. The support of the Secretariat is recommended.

14. Monitoring of EU legislation and regulation – Observatory for the synthesis and analysis of new EU legislation on municipal waste and circular economy, also in the decision-making phase (Commission proposals, treatment in Parliament, interinstitutional dialogue). Participation in Expert Groups led by the European Commission
15. Enlargement – dialogue with entities interested in participating in the work of the Group as observers. It includes agencies and ministries from countries that do not have an independent national regulator.
16. Common database – systematic collection, standardisation and publication on the website of key data on municipal waste management in Group member countries (production, separate collection, recycling, trade flows, number and capacity of plants). Establish a valid method for additional observer members.

Time horizon and deadlines: continuous activities, no deadlines. Each special project has a coordinator, who can be a member of either the Group or the Secretariat, who reports at any WG meetings on objectives and deadlines.

Administrative activities, further resources and the Secretariat's role

WAREG's Secretariat will take care of the calling of meetings, taking attendance, drafting and disseminating the minutes, keeping and updating a formal list of participants to the MW WG. Moreover, the Secretariat is called to closely collaborate with the MW WG when a resource assessment is required, as well as to contribute to the MW WG's activities identified as in need of Secretariat staff support.

Based on a shared assessment of the need of other resources than Members' contribution, the MW WG will ask the Secretariat to evaluate these needs in terms of workdays/budget, as well as to advice the WG on the consistency of the identified requirements with the general WAREG's policies and procedures.

The Secretariat is entitled to ask WG's chairperson regularly to report on activities progress and achievements, as well as to monitor progress of the Working Plan once it is approved.