

The European Parliament accepted in today's voting (13th February) with 629 to 55 votes the amendment of MoP Florenz about Biowaste. This will increase the pressure for the Commission to develop a biowaste legislation.

Amendment 112 Waste Framework Directive Revision
Chapter IV a (new), Articles 18 a to 18 c (new)

Chapter IVa

Biowaste

Article 18a

Collection and use of waste

- 1. Priority shall be given to material recovery of biowaste.*
- 2. With a view to implementing the objectives set out in Article 1, Member States shall, within three years of the entry into force of this Directive, develop a system for the separate collection of biowaste.*
- 3. Member States shall ensure that treated biowaste may, following compliance with the requirements set out in Articles 18b and 18c, be spread on land used for agricultural, forestry or horticultural/gardening purposes.*

Article 18b

Treatment of biowaste

- 1. Producers and holders shall, prior to biowaste being spread on land, subject it to treatment that will ensure that it is safe from the point of view of human, animal and plant health. This shall also apply to catering waste produced by restaurants and catering facilities where it is not required to be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002.*
- 2. The Commission shall, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 36(2), adopt implementing measures, specifying the minimum requirements for checking safety from the point of view of human, animal and plant health.*
- 3. In order to ensure that spreading of biowaste on land is carried out in an environmentally sound way, the Commission shall, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 36(2), adopt implementing measures, specifying the environmental and quality criteria to be met in order for biowaste to be spread on land used for agricultural, forestry or horticultural/gardening purposes, and to be deemed to have become a secondary product, material or substance.*
- 4. The implementing measures provided for in paragraph 3 shall include at least binding limit values for heavy metals, physical contaminants and content of viable seeds and parts of plants capable of sprouting as well as a list of suitable source materials.*
- 5. The criteria shall take into account any risks of environmentally harmful use or shipment of the secondary material or substance, and shall be set at a level that guarantees a high level of protection for human health and the environment.*

Article 18c

Controls

1. Member States shall ensure that, in order to monitor compliance with the requirements laid down in Article 18b, quality assurance systems are set up and operated.

2. Member States shall ensure that tests for harmful substances are carried out at regular intervals.

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Justification

Despite the call made in the Sixth Environmental Action Programme for a directive on biowaste to be adopted, a proposal has not been submitted to date. It is therefore proposed that a separate chapter on biowaste be included in the waste framework directive.

In order to reduce the proportion of biologically degradable municipal waste that is deposited in landfills and to implement the aims of the Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC in good time, priority should be given to material recovery of biowaste. The system for separate collection must ensure that biowaste is collected separately from other waste in order to prevent biowaste from being contaminated by other contaminated waste, materials or substances.

In order to prevent human or animal health from being harmed by the release or transmission of pathogens and to prevent harm to plants, plant products or soil resulting from the spread of harmful organisms, biowaste should undergo treatment prior to being spread on land to ensure that it is safe from the point of view of disease prevention and plant health.

Uniform, high environmental and quality standards throughout Europe will ensure that high quality compost is produced and guarantee a high level of protection for the environment and health. In addition, they will promote the creation of a European market for compost.

Quality assurance systems are necessary in order to guarantee that compost is of the required quality. Such systems guarantee a high level of protection for human beings and the environment. In addition, validated methods of analysis for determining compliance with relevant environmental and quality standards are necessary. Regular testing will ensure that standards are complied with.