

Texte 30/2004

Pilot study on statistics on the import and export of waste in Germany

Pursuant to Article 5(1) of the Regulation (EC) No 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 November 2002 on waste statistics

Final report

by

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Co-financed by

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Executive summary

On 30 December 2002 Regulation (EC) N° 2150/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 November 2002 on waste statistics¹ entered into force. It was last amended by Regulation 574/2004 of 23 February 2004. This Regulation (further referred to as the waste statistics Regulation) sets the framework for the production of statistics by the EU Member States on generation, recovery and disposal of waste.

A number of issues of more technical nature could not be determined completely during the preparation of the Regulation and it is specified that Member States should do pilot projects on those issues. The Commission has drawn up a program for these pilot studies. Aim of this program is to develop methodologies to obtain regular data also in relation to these remaining issues. The results of the pilot studies should allow the Commission to make proposals for implementation measures. One of these pilot studies on statistics on import and export of waste was done by the Umweltbundesamt in Berlin, Germany.

¹ OJ L332, 9.12.2002, p1.

The aim of the study was to recommend a methodology on the basis of which Germany could fulfil its obligations under the waste Statistics Regulation regarding import and export of waste and to provide other Member States and the Commission with information to assess the potential to use this method or similar methods for the production of their statistics. The study used the following stepwise approach:

1. Specification of the information needs.
2. Identification of potential sources of data.
3. Assessment of the suitability of the data these sources could provide to fulfil the information needs.
4. Conclusions and recommendations for a methodology.

The information needs were specified as follows:

1. All waste in the scope of the Regulation should be covered, with the exclusion of wastes for which the information on import and export is provided under the waste shipment Regulation.
2. Member States should provide information with the following characteristics:
 - waste types according to the (aggregated) EWCSTAT
 - quantities imported and exported
3. This information should be transmitted to the Commission on a two-yearly basis, within 18 months of the end of the reference year.

The following potential sources of data were identified and described and their suitability for providing the required data was assessed:

1. Statistics on foreign trade
2. German waste statistics
3. Other administrative sources based on German waste legislation
4. Other sources based on EU waste legislation

It was concluded that the foreign trade statistics provided for the best data on import and export of the following waste streams:

- Metallic waste
- Plastic waste
- Paper and cardboard waste
- Glass waste
- Textile waste
- Combustion wastes (ashes and slags)

The statistics regarding the import and export of these wastes could be based upon data from a selection of codes from the Combined Nomenclature that are included in the description of the methodology in chapter 4 of the report.

For the other waste streams the data from the statistics on foreign trade can not be used directly. For a number of waste streams additional research might result in factors that would allow the use of the trade data. For other waste streams the data have to come from other sources.

The other potential sources of information which were assessed during the project do not provide for suitable additional information that could be used immediately, apart from the data reported under the obligations of the EU packaging Directive. Development of a methodology for these other waste streams does require changes to the current legal framework in Germany for the collection of data.