



Landfill of Waste

[Council Directive 99/31/EC](#) of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste entered into force on 16.07.1999. The deadline for implementation of the legislation in the Member States was 16.07.2001.

The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste, by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.

The Directive is intended to prevent or reduce the adverse effects of the landfill of waste on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air and human health.

It defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land. Landfills are divided into three classes:

- landfills for hazardous waste;
- landfills for non-hazardous waste;
- landfills for inert waste.

The Directive does not apply to:

- the spreading on the soil of sludges (including sewage sludges and sludges resulting from dredging operations);
- the use in landfills of inert waste for redevelopment or restoration work;
- the deposit of unpolluted soil or of non-hazardous inert waste resulting from prospecting and extraction, treatment and storage of mineral resources as well as from the operation of quarries;
- the deposit of non-hazardous dredging sludges alongside small waterways from which they have been dredged and of non-hazardous sludges in surface water, including the bed and its subsoil.

A standard waste acceptance procedure is laid down so as to avoid any risks:

- waste must be treated before being landfilled;





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- hazardous waste within the meaning of the Directive must be assigned to a hazardous waste landfill;
 - landfills for non-hazardous waste must be used for municipal waste and for non-hazardous waste;
 - landfill sites for inert waste must be used only for inert waste;
 - criteria for the acceptance of waste at each landfill class must be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the general principles of Annex II.

The following wastes may not be accepted in a landfill:

- liquid waste;
- flammable waste;
- explosive or oxidising waste;
- hospital and other clinical waste which is infectious;
- used tyres, with certain exceptions;
- any other type of waste which does not meet the acceptance criteria laid down in Annex II.

The Directive sets up a system of operating permits for landfill sites. Applications for permits must contain the following information:

- the identity of the applicant and, in some cases, of the operator;
- a description of the types and total quantity of waste to be deposited;
- the capacity of the disposal site;
- a description of the site;
- the proposed methods for pollution prevention and abatement;
- the proposed operation, monitoring and control plan;
- the plan for closure and aftercare procedures;
- the applicant's financial security;
- an impact assessment study, where required under Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

Member States must ensure that existing landfill sites may not continue to operate unless they comply with the provisions of the Directive as soon as possible.

Member States must report to the Commission every three years on the implementation of the Directive.

On the basis of these reports, the Commission must publish a Community report on the implementation of the Directive.



Organisation of awareness-raising events concerning the implementation of Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste.

Waste Management Options and Climate Change

This document is the final report of a study undertaken for the European Commission Environment Directorate General by AEA Technology to assess the climate change impacts of options for municipal solid waste (MSW) management in the EU. The study covers the fifteen member states of the European Union and the time horizon 2000 to 2020.

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/climate_change.htm

A Study on the Economic Valuation of Environmental Externalities from Landfill Disposal and Incineration of Waste

Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) is increasingly being used as a tool to produce information for policy makers on the costs and benefits of environmental legislation. In the field of waste management, some elements of CBA are better researched than others. However, policy makers need information on the whole range of impacts in order to make balanced decisions. This study therefore focuses on areas where information is not readily available, in particular on the valuation of environmental externalities from landfill disposal and incineration of waste. The study extensively reviews existing literature on this subject. It gives an overview of the main externalities, pathways and impacts of emissions. The main economic valuation techniques are described, including a presentation of key standard values in table form. The underlying assumptions and uncertainties of these standard values are discussed in detail. Finally, some calculation examples are included to illustrate the possible use of these data.

Read more:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/pdf/econ_eva_landfill_report.pdf

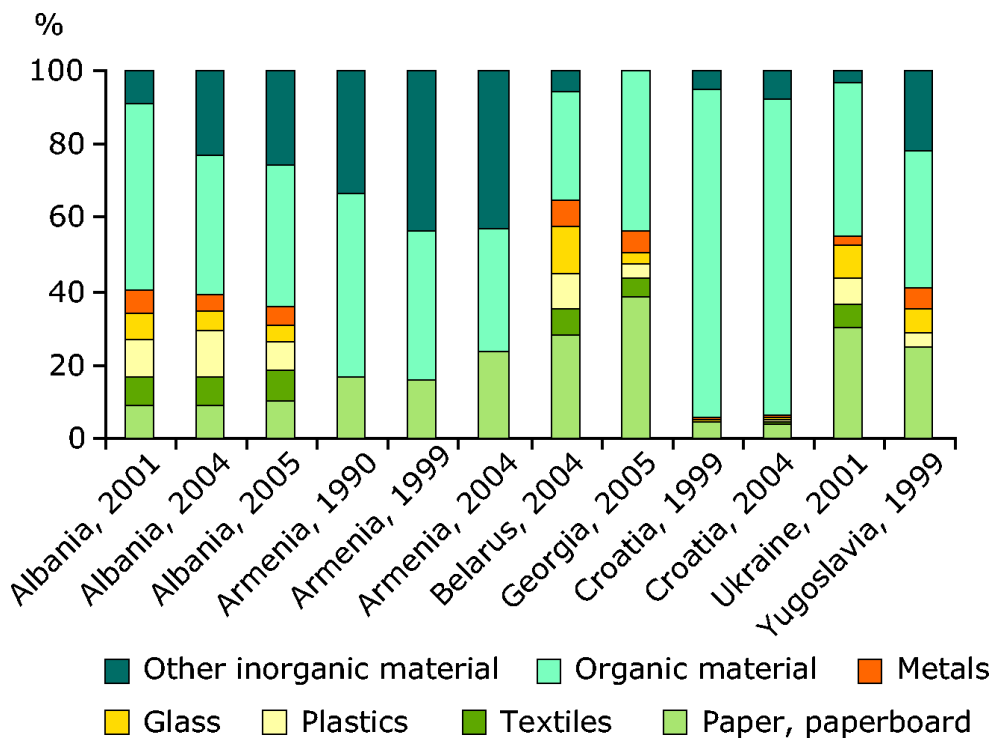


Fig. 1 - Municipal waste composition in selected EECCA and SEE countries. Some of the figures cover only larger cities.

Legislation

[Summary of EU Waste Legislation on Landfill](#)

- [Directive 99/31/EC](#) on landfill of waste

Ancillary legislation relating to landfill of waste:

- - [Commission Decision 2000/738/EC](#) concerning a questionnaire for Member States reports on the implementation of Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste.
- Proposal for a Decision on acceptance criteria, [COM\(2002\) 512](#).
- [COUNCIL DECISION](#) of 19 December 2002 establishing criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills pursuant to Article 16 of and Annex II to Directive 1999/31/EC (2003/33/EC).