

A Circular Economy for Construction and Demolition waste: why setting a recycling target for 2025 and 2030 matters

Background paper

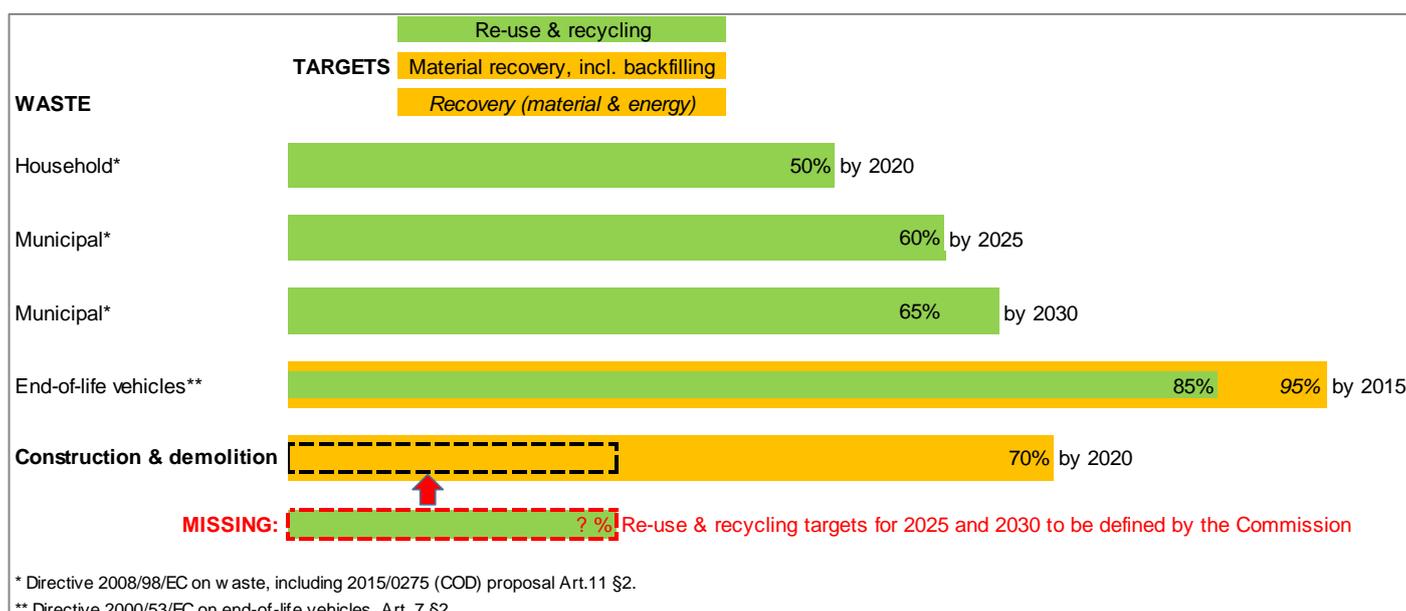
February 2017

On the vote of the European Parliament's Environment Committee

Following the vote on 24 January of the European Parliament ENVI Committee, we call on Member States to **endorse a revision clause to define re-use and recycling targets for Construction and Demolition Waste (C&DW) by 2025 and 2030.**

Today, a target for construction & demolition waste is missing in the big picture. The target set for C&DW in the current Waste Framework Directive (WFD) and in the European Commission proposal, is the only one to include backfilling.

The End-of-Life Vehicles Directive that includes an overall recovery target also includes a re-use and recycling target.



Backfilling is neither re-use nor recycling, as clearly stated in the 'recycling' definition of the current Waste Framework Directive. It does not belong to the circular economy since it is a permanent placement of waste on particular sites and is not intended to be returned to the economic material cycle.

Setting re-use and recycling targets for C&DW by 2025 and 2030 would therefore further stimulate the circular economy.

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In this respect, we welcome the vote in ENVI committee on:

- **Clear definition of backfilling.**
- **Revision clause to consider setting 2025 and 2030 recycling targets for construction and demolition waste.**

Our call to Member States

We call on Member States to support the inclusion of a revision clause in the Waste Framework Directive asking the European Commission to consider setting re-use and recycling targets for construction and demolition waste by 2025 and 2030, thus clearly distinguishing from backfilling.

A revision clause will enable the Commission to make a more in-depth assessment of the situation and to define realistic re-use & recycling targets based on a sound and harmonised methodology.

Suggested amendments:

- **Backfilling definition:**
Article 17b.: "backfilling" means any recovery operation **other than recycling** where suitable **non-hazardous inert waste or other non-hazardous waste** is used for reclamation purposes in excavated areas or for engineering purposes in landscaping or construction instead of other non-waste materials which would otherwise have been used for that purpose **and is used in quantities that do not exceed that which is strictly necessary for the reclamation or engineering purpose;**
- **Recycling target for construction and demolition waste**
Article 11 paragraph 4b (new): ***The Commission shall consider the possibility of setting preparing for re-use and recycling targets that apply to construction and demolition waste to be met by 2025 and 2030. To that end, by XXX, the Commission shall draw up a report, accompanied by a legislative proposal, if appropriate, which shall be sent to the European Parliament and the Council.***

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