

Batteries and Waste Batteries (Report): Deposit Return System

17 Dec 2025

STATUS:

● FUTURE INITIATIVE

Batteries and Waste Batteries (Deposit Return System): Commission to Present Report by 2027; Environment Council Ministers Discuss Statement by Austria

Environment ministers of the Council call for the urgent prioritisation of the file due to safety concerns, where the Commission is only expected to present the Report evaluating the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing deposit return systems for batteries at the end of 2027 .

LATEST

- The Commission is expected to present the Report by 31 December 2027.
- The Environment Council met on 16 December 2025.
- The Council made available Austria's [information note](#) ahead of the debate.

ANALYSIS

According to Article 62 of [Regulation \(EC\) 2023/1542](#), the Commission is expected to present a Report evaluating the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing deposit return systems for batteries, and portable batteries of general use.

On 16 December, the Council's Environment ministers exchanged views with the Commission on the expected Report.

In its [information note](#), Austria, supported by Germany and Lithuania, showed concerns regarding the dangers posed by lithium batteries, outlining the feasibility and potential benefits of introducing an EU wide battery deposit system. Additionally, Member States called on the Commission to conduct the feasibility assessment of European deposit systems for batteries well before the deadline of 31 December 2027.

Opening the discussion, **Austria** highlighted an alarming increase in fires caused by wrongly disposed of lithium batteries, driven by the growing number of everyday products containing such batteries, including e-cigarettes. It called on the Commission to consider EU action before the end of 2027.

Germany fully supported Austria and suggested examining clearer labelling of products containing lithium batteries.

Lithuania noted that improper disposal persists despite awareness campaigns and supported a coordinated EU response, in part through a feasibility assessment of an EU wide deposit system.

Belgium welcomed the consideration of EU level regulatory action and called for an overview of financial compensation for damage caused by battery related fires.

Croatia supported an EU deposit return system as a way to improve battery collection rates.

Estonia echoed previous speakers, calling for accelerating the development of safety measures and examining an EU wide deposit system. Additionally, it stressed that it should be designed as an EU wide system from the outset rather than each Member State developing its own scheme first with harmonisation as an after thought.

France suggested strengthening safety requirements in the next revision of the electric waste directive, warning that mandatory battery removal could pose safety risks for users.

To conclude, **Jessika Roswall (Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy)** recalled the serious fire risks caused by the improper disposal of lithium batteries and stressed that safe collection is essential. She highlighted that the [Batteries Regulation](#) already sets higher collection targets, increasing the collection rate for waste portable batteries to 63% by 2027 and 73% by 2030, and for light means of transport batteries from 51% in 2028 to 61% by 2030. She also underlined that the Regulation requires batteries to be removable from products, as proper product design is key to preventing disposal-related risks.

She confirmed that the Commission launched an assessment of the feasibility and potential benefits of introducing EU rules on battery deposit schemes and that her services have been asked to prioritise this work and deliver operational conclusions. Further measures to support fire prevention and insurability are being examined in the context of ongoing work, including the preparation of the upcoming [Circular Economy Act](#).

In the meantime, she noted that EU rules already allow Member States to introduce financial contributions for fire prevention measures at waste facilities and encouraged national and local consumer awareness campaigns as a fast and effective response.

NEXT STEPS

The Commission is expected to present the Report by 31 December 2027.

On that basis, it will assess the appropriateness of establishing relevant measures or, where appropriate, present a legislative proposal.

Once published, the Report would be sent to the European Parliament and the Council which may decide to formally respond to it in the following months.

The European Parliament would respond through the adoption of an Own-initiative Resolution, while the Council would adopt Conclusions in response to the Report.

BACKGROUND

Article 62 of [Regulation \(EC\) 2023/1542](#) requires the Commission to present a [Report by 31 December 2027](#). The expected Report would evaluate the feasibility

and potential benefits of establishing deposit return systems for batteries, and portable batteries of general use.

Regulation (EC) 2023/1542 regulates batteries throughout their life cycle to promote a circular economy, through targets for producers to collect waste, mandatory minimum levels of recycled content and recycling efficiency targets.

Full title

Expected Commission Report evaluating the feasibility and potential benefits of establishment of deposit return systems for batteries, in particular for portable batteries of general use

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The expected Report would evaluate the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing deposit return systems for batteries, and portable batteries of general use, pursuant to [Regulation \(EC\) 2023/1542](#) on batteries and waste batteries.

Procedure

Consultation

Legal Basis

Article 62 of Regulation (EC) 2023/1542