



15.10.2024

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition No 1037/2023 by Fabiano Filippin (Italian) on promoting the use of funeral caskets made out of paper pulp instead of wood**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner advocates the use of funeral caskets made out of paper pulp rather than wood. He points out that companies today can produce secure caskets at affordable prices while using fewer energy and natural resources and reducing pollution. The petitioner states that these caskets would, especially in the case of cremations, reduce wood waste because they are partly made out of specifically treated recycled materials. However, the relevant legislation is not uniform across the EU, and the petitioner calls on the European institutions to ensure that it is harmonised and coordinated.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 26 January 2024. Information requested from Commission under Rule 227(5) (New Rule 233(5)).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 15 October 2024

#### *The Commission's observations*

The consumption of resources for making and using various products has a significant impact on the environment. This is why the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), which entered into force on 18 July 2024, aims to make sustainable products the new norm in the EU, by making them last longer, use energy and resources more efficiently, easier to repair and recycle, contain fewer substances of concern and include more recycled content.

As products vary in their overall impacts and it is essential to act where the benefits of EU rules would be most significant, article 18 of the ESPR provides that priority shall be given to iron and steel, aluminium, textiles (especially garments and footwear), furniture (including

mattresses), tyres, detergents, paints, lubricants and chemicals, as well as energy related products, ICT (information and communications technology) products and other electronics. To ensure predictability and transparency on which products will be covered and when, the Commission will adopt and regularly update a list of products identified on the basis of a thorough analysis, consultations and criteria notably related to the EU's climate, environment and energy efficiency objectives. Article 18 provides for taking into account criteria related to the potential for improving the product aspects without entailing disproportionate costs; the volume of sales and trade of those products within the Union; and the distribution across the value chain of the climate and environmental impacts, energy use, resource use and waste generation concerning those products.

The cross-border transport of bodies within the European Union is subject to two multi-lateral agreements:

- the Berlin Agreement on the Transport of Human Remains of 1937;
- the Strasbourg Agreement on the Transfer of Corpses of 1973.

While no binding legal act exists, the [EFFS Regulation on the cross-border transport of bodies within the European Union](#), covers the intra-community transport of bodies and currently states in Art 2.1 that “*the coffin must be made of solid material [...] excluding the use of carton or chipboard*”.

#### *Conclusion*

Funeral caskets are not in the list of priority products laid down in the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation. The Commission does not envisage further actions as regards the specific case of funeral caskets at this stage.