



## **Collectif 3R (Réduire, Réutiliser, Recycler)**

**Associations Agir à Villejuif, Les Amis de la Terre, Attac-Ivry-Charenton, CLCV-Ivry, Passerelles, avec le soutien de Zero waste France**

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**to the Delegation from  
Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC)  
to Paris**

Ivry-sur-Seine, 6th of May 2025

### **Subject: Honest Reflections on the Paris Waste Incinerator and a Cautionary Note for India**

Dear Members of the Delegation,

We, the undersigned civil society organizations in France, extend our warm welcome to you on your field visit to Paris. We deeply appreciate your commitment to addressing the pressing challenge of waste management in India, and we feel compelled to share with you our insights as independent observers, researchers, and advocates who have been monitoring the waste-to-energy (WTE) incineration facility at Ivry-sur-Seine, Paris's largest waste incinerator, and its impacts over the past decades.

We would like to bring to your notice, a series of new studies revealing alarming levels of dioxins, PFAS, and heavy metals in the environments surrounding waste incinerators in Paris, Spain and The Netherlands. The studies revealed widespread and dangerous levels of contamination in soil, water, vegetation, and even food such as farm eggs. Dioxin levels in moss, soil, and backyard chicken eggs exceeded EU limits at all three sites. **France's national health agency has already confirmed that backyard chicken eggs in the region are too polluted to consume, due to dioxins and PFAS.** In Paris, soil and moss samples taken near schools and public spaces in Ivry-sur-Seine and in the surrounding towns showed dioxin levels above EU safety thresholds, sometimes ten times higher than the maximum limit recommended by the European Union for food consumption. Massive heavy metal pollution was observed in moss samples taken from four schools too with levels exceeding 100 times the maximum recommended thresholds for food consumption for aluminium, cobalt, lead and tin.<sup>[1]</sup>

### **European Union's (EU) policy has shifted away from waste-to-energy**

Though the EU was once a leader in the toxic WTE technology, there's a clear direction away from incineration and towards more sustainable waste management practices now. Through a statement released by the **EU Directorate-General for Communication titled "Zero waste, zero excuses"**<sup>[2]</sup>, in March 2025, the EU has made it clear that Waste-To-Energy(WTE) incineration has no place in the sustainability agenda. Furthermore, major *European financial institutions are excluding WTEs from financial support*. The **recovery and resilience plans exclude WTEs**<sup>[3]</sup> under the 'do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle. Other funds excluding WTEs are the **European Regional Development Fund**,

**the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund, EU Taxonomy Regulation, Renewable Energy Directive (REDII), Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP).**

The message here is strong and clear : WTE incineration is not the future Europe envisions!

It is ironic that, despite the EU's clear policy to move away from WTEs, this visit is facilitated to showcase WTEs as a model of “clean” technology and a climate-friendly solution. **We also strongly condemn the EU's environmental hypocrisy, or what we call as green colonialism.**

### **Zero Waste: A Real Alternative**

We believe that India, with its rich traditions of reuse and community-based waste management, is uniquely positioned to leapfrog these outdated technologies and embrace a **zero waste** approach. We can also assist you further in the implementation of zero waste cities by sharing the best zero waste management practices in the EU. We are also happy to facilitate conversations with European policymakers leading the zero waste transition.

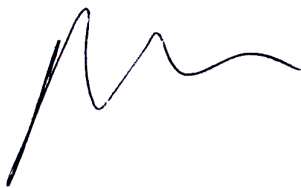
With respect and solidarity,

**Le Collectif 3R**

**Jean-Christophe Brassac et Amélie Boespflug**

**co-président et co-présidente du Collectif 3R**

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://collectif3r.org/lanalyse-des-mousses-autour-de-lincinerateur-divry-sur-seine-confirme-une-pollution-majeure-et-recente/>

<sup>[2]</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/news/zero-waste-zero-excuses-what-eu-doing-manage-waste-better-2025-03-31\\_en#:~:text=The%20Waste%20Framework%20Directive%20is,that%20is%20scheduled%20in%202026.](https://commission.europa.eu/news/zero-waste-zero-excuses-what-eu-doing-manage-waste-better-2025-03-31_en#:~:text=The%20Waste%20Framework%20Directive%20is,that%20is%20scheduled%20in%202026.)

<sup>[3]</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)