

Czech Republic

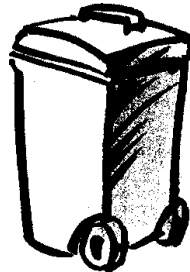
Problems with Waste Law

On 10 January 2001, the Constitutional Court struck down a request to invalidate a section of the current waste law regarding the assessment of collection fees. The Act allows municipalities to collect fees to pay for refuse collection either by imposing a “waste fee” on each resident of the municipality or by charging a fee based on the amount of waste an entity generates.

In May 2000, a group of senators filed a complaint with the Court, arguing that the waste law was unconstitutional because it allowed the imposition of fees regardless of whether a citizen or company produces waste. The Court decided that the municipal fees were constitutional.

A new act on waste which, unlike the current law, complies with European Union waste law, was submitted to Parliament in September 2000 and is still in committee. The European Integration Commit-

tee is also discussing it. The Environment Minister, Milos Kuzvart, expects this new Act to be approved by both houses of parliament and signed into law during 2001.



The Parliament is said to favour integrating the two approaches related to fees contained in the current law and placing the integrated formula into the waste bill currently in parliament. Under this proposal, a collection fee would be paid by most municipal entities. A second fee would be levied on the amount of waste produced. The Chairman of the parliamentary committee dealing with the bill, has said he favours integrating both fee models because everyone producing waste should pay at least a nominal fee for refuse collection. Imposing additional fees dependent on the amount of rubbish generated will reward those who recycle and minimise their waste stream.

