



EU NEWSLETTER

ISWA thanks Municipal Waste Europe (Brussels, Belgium) for providing information and content contained in this newsletter

Czech Presidency for the Council

The Czech has taken over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Their presidency is to be concentrating on the three E's: Economy, Energy and External Relations. Furthermore, the Presidency will work on the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, which is of importance to the continuing discussions of local involvement and services of general issues. The Czech Parliament has not yet signed the Treaty and will not do so until Ireland has reached its final decision.

In the sector of the protection of human health and the environment, the Presidency will focus on:

- * progress in the discussions of the proposal for a directive on industrial emissions;
- * finalising the discussions on the review of the proposal for the regulation on ozone-depleting substances;
- * initiating discussions on a proposed review of the Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants, if submitted by the Commission; and
- * discussions on proposals for directives reviewing the management of waste electrical and electronic equipment.
- * issues concerning the management of biowaste, in connection with the European Commission's published Green Paper.
- * negotiations on long-term international legally-binding measures to reduce risks from releases of mercury to prevent further environmental contamination at a global level during the 25th session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in February 2009 in Nairobi, and represent the EU during these events.

Read the full work programme here: <http://www.eu2009.cz/programme-en>

JCR End of Waste Criteria report

The JCR – Joint Research Centre has published a on End of Waste Criteria. The report is a contribution to the development and implementation of the concept of end of waste. The concept was introduced by the Thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste, adopted by the European Commission on 21 December 2005, proposing that the revision of the Waste Framework Directive to clarify under which conditions, at EU level, waste could cease to be waste and could be regarded as a non-waste material to be freely traded as such on the open market.

ISWA General Secretariat
Mariahilfer strasse 123, 3rd floor
1060 Vienna AUSTRIA
Tel +43 1 59 999 8038
Email: hb@iswa.org
www.iswa.org

The revised Waste Framework Directive adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU on 20 October 2008, contains provisions to define end of waste criteria that provide a high level of environmental protection and an economic benefit. Specifications and requirements should be developed in accordance with certain conditions described in the directive to check if specific waste streams have reached an end of waste status after a recovery operation.

Read the full report here:

<http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/activities/waste/documents/Endofwastecriteriafinal.pdf>

Energy and Climate: Towards an integrated EU policy

After the adoption of the energy and climate change package by the Parliament and Council at the EU Summit in December 2008, the work for regarding energy and climate continues. The Second Strategic European Energy Review focusing on supply security and fossil fuels presented by the Commission in November, 2008, is to be endorsed at the EU Summit on 19-20 March this year. At the EU Summit March 2010 it is planned that the Energy Action Plan for 2010 onward will be endorsed.

In the Communication document for Second Strategic European Energy Review, waste is not mentioned specifically but it states that “The development of renewable energy such as wind, solar, hydro, biomass energy and marine resources has to be seen as the EU's greatest potential source of indigenous energy.”

Read more here: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2008/2008_11_ser2_en.htm

Procurement of clean vehicles

The Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road and the repealing of Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 1191/69 and 1107/70” will enter into force on 3 December 2009 (24 months after publication).

The Directive will introduce environmental aspects into public procurement/purchase of road vehicles. The new text covers all road vehicles (such as police cars, buses, waste collection vehicles, etc.) procured/purchased by public authorities and by operators providing public transport services. When procuring/purchasing vehicles, public authorities as well as operators will be obliged to take into account lifetime costs for energy consumption, CO2 and pollutant emissions as award criteria. These life time costs will have to be calculated according to a methodology proposed by the European Commission. The application of environmental criteria for the procurement/purchase of vehicles will first be optional, then mandatory from around summer 2010 (18 months after the publication in the Official Journal).

More information on the legislation of public transportation here:

<http://www.uitp.org/eupolicy/Policy-issues.cfm>

EUROPEN Packaging waste statistics 1997-2006

Based on annual reports submitted by the Member States to the Commission, the statistics show that between 1997 and 2006:

- The average annual increase in the amount of packaging placed on the market in the EU-15 was 2.4 per cent. This is compared with an average annual growth in GDP over the same period of 5.1 per cent.

ISWA General Secretariat
Mariahilfer strasse 123, 3rd floor
1060 Vienna AUSTRIA
Tel +43 1 59 999 8038
Email: hb@iswa.org
www.iswa.org

- The overall EU-15 recycling rate increased from 46 per cent to 58 per cent. By 2006, of the 12 Member States required to meet the minimum 55 per cent recycling target by 2008, only Finland and Spain had not yet done so.
- 69 per cent of all packaging placed on the market in the EU-27 in 2006 was recovered.
- The total tonnage of EU-15 packaging going to final disposal fell by 27 per cent from 28.5 million tonnes in 1997 to 20.7 million tonnes in 2006 – indicating that one of the principal aims of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive is being achieved.

Assessing Waste Prevention schemes among small and medium size enterprises

Waste prevention is a principle means of achieving the goals of waste management and a key element for developing sustainable economies. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) contribute substantially to environmental degradation, often not even being aware of their environmental effects. Therefore, several initiatives have been launched in Austria aimed at supporting waste prevention measures on the level of SMEs.

To promote the most efficient projects, they have to be evaluated with respect to their contribution to the goals of waste management. It is the aim of this paper to develop a methodology for evaluating waste prevention measures in SMEs based on their goal orientation. At first, conceptual problems of defining and delineating waste prevention activities are briefly discussed. Then an approach to evaluate waste prevention activities with respect to their environmental performance is presented and benchmarks which allow for an efficient use of the available funds are developed. Finally the evaluation method is applied to a number of former projects and the calculated results are analysed with respect to shortcomings and limitations of the model. It is found that the developed methodology can provide a tool for a more objective and comprehensible evaluation of waste prevention measures.

Laner D; Rechberger H Vienna University of Technology, Institute for Water Quality, Resources and Waste Management, A-1040 Vienna, Karlsplatz 13/226, Austria.
Published as “Quantitative evaluation of waste prevention on the level of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)” in Waste Management. 29(2): 606-613 (Sorry, no link available)

Barack Obama about public responsibility

Did you all note the part in the inauguration address of the new U.S. president stressing the importance of the public sector and the responsibility?

“Nor is the question before us whether the market is a force for good or ill. Its power to generate wealth and expand freedom is unmatched.

But this crisis has reminded us that without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control. The nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous.

The success of our economy has always depended not just on the size of our gross domestic product, but on the reach of our prosperity; on the ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart -- not out of charity, but because it is the surest route to our common good.”

ISWA General Secretariat
Mariahilfer strasse 123, 3rd floor
1060 Vienna AUSTRIA
Tel +43 1 59 999 8038
Email: hb@iswa.org
www.iswa.org

With regard to the environment he said: “..each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet.” “We will restore science to its rightful place and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its costs.

We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories.”

Read the complete transcript of the address here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/20/us/politics/20text-obama.html?pagewanted=1&r=1>

End of Waste criteria for metal scrap

The Commission plan to proceed with the end of waste criteria for metal and metal scrap first through a TAC meeting (Technical Adaptation Committee) planned for 17 March in order to agree on the general methodology. After that the Commission will start by working on EOW criteria for metal scrap through DG ENV. The comitology vote is planned for December 2009 and after that the Parliament has a 3 month scrutiny period. After metal scrap criteria are established, end of waste criteria will rapidly be established for other waste streams. Until then Member States can decide, case by case, on criteria (notification is required).

European Environment Agency reports on ETD

EEA has in January published the report Application of the ETD - Emissions Trading Directive by EU Member States. The reported amount of solid or liquid biomass burnt and used has decreased considerably. The quantity of waste reported as used or deployed remains about the same as compared to last year. Detailed data has been supplied by 19 member states using waste as a fuel or input material. The report has tables showing the allocation of waste used as fuel to waste categories, the largest quantities of waste used by Member States and waste types, waste used or deployed

Read the report here:

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2008_13/en/Art21.pdf

European Parliament Industrial Committee urging strategic energy goals for 2050

The European Parliament Industry Committee presented a report by Anne Laperrouze (ALDE French Liberal MEP), adopted by the EU assembly's committee on industry, research and energy by large majority on 21 January 2009. It called on member states to agree to cut greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80%, improve energy efficiency by 35% and bring the share of renewable energies to 60% of the EU's total energy consumption by 2050. EU already has mandatory objectives to reduce CO2 emissions and increase the share of renewables in its energy mix by 2020. The Parliament said a similar commitment should be made on energy efficiency, stressing that energy savings are "the most effective and cost-efficient way of improving" security of supply.

The issue will be on the agenda for the 19-20 March European Council debate on the EU's future energy strategy.

Read more here:

ISWA General Secretariat
Mariahilfer strasse 123, 3rd floor
1060 Vienna AUSTRIA
Tel +43 1 59 999 8038
Email: hb@iswa.org
www.iswa.org

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/051-46613-019-01-04-909-20090119IPR46612-19-01-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm

Green Week 2009

23-26 June, Brussels will host the biggest annual conference event on European environmental policy. This year's theme is climate change and what needs to be done under the slogan Act and Adapt. Programme and practical information will appear here shortly:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>

If you have intentions to attend, please make early hotel reservations, as Brussels will be full.

ISWA General Secretariat
Mariahilfer strasse 123, 3rd floor
1060 Vienna AUSTRIA
Tel +43 1 59 999 8038
Email: hb@iswa.org
www.iswa.org