



EU NEWSLETTER

Welcome ISWA Members!

This is the second issue in a series of monthly newsletters focused on presenting current happenings in the European Union, particularly with regard to solid waste management

IPPC - Industrial Pollution Prevention Control in the European Parliament

The revision process of the IPPC (Industrial Pollution Prevention Control) directive continues and the directive has been renamed IED (Industrial Emissions Directive).

The European Parliament voted in favour of the Commission proposal in its plenary session on March 10. MEPs back the Commission proposal to update and strengthen existing rules, but inserted new provisions for introducing EU-wide emission limits, greater flexibility in granting permits, excluding small plants, and better informing the public.

See press-release here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+IM-RESS+20090309IPR51319+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

All documents available here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5578652&language=en&mailer=true>

IPPC - Industrial Pollution Prevention Control in the European Env Council

Four key issues in the Commission proposal were identified for discussions at the Environment Council meeting on March 2, 2009:

- The role of BREFs (European BAT (Best Available Technology) Reference Documents)
- Minimum requirements for waste incineration (one of the few operations singled out)
- Large combustion plants
- Scope (enlarging the scope to medium sized combustion plants)

The views expressed by ministers will guide the preparation of a political agreement within the Council that could be obtained at the next Environment Council in June.

Read more about the National Ministers views on:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/106430.pdf

Climate change

The Commission has set proposals towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen, December 2009. For EU and all industrial countries, the

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

emissions reduction target is proposed to be raised to 30 % by 2020. There is an emphasis towards low-carbon technologies, especially renewable energy sources in order to reach targets on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Innovation and information are key words for the future.

See the press release here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/141&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Read the Communication from the Commission here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/pdf/future_action/communication.pdf

IRENA is born

The International Renewable Energy Agency held its founding conference on January 26, 2009. IRENA with an annual budget of 25 million dollar has the aim to help developed and developing economies on the road to transition towards generalised use of renewable energies (solar, wind, biomass, bio fuels and geothermal) by providing advice in order to take forward regulatory frameworks, financing and best practice. It will promote transfers of technology, technical assistance and fund raising.

Read more at www.irena.org

EP on 2050-policy for waste

The European Parliament agreed on 4 February on a resolution "**2050: The future begins today – Recommendations for the EU's future integrated policy on climate change**" (2008/2105(INI)). The resolution is based on a report from Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP, Germany) to the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Climate Change.

Read the full text here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0042+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

JCR – final end-of-waste report

European Commission Joint Research Centre has presented the final end-of-waste report, methodology and case studies. The report covers composting with a concentration on municipal solid waste but also aggregates and metal scrap.

Read the full 304 page report here:

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

The fall in demand for recycled materials – Council information

After the 14 January workshop in the Commission and their subsequent report to Council, the Council has now presented its information from the Presidency.

The main findings cover: maintaining public trust, that the situation differs among Member States, continued demand for high quality recyclables and that the market is fragile. It also discusses the administrative burdens of EU legislation.

The possible actions are identified as recycling targets, public statements supporting public trust, focus on prevention and minimisation, analysis of barriers, and accelerate work on end-of-waste criteria, improvement of collection to improve quality, eco-

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

design, and financial incentives both nationally including VAT as well as public and private procurement.

The conclusion is: Well-functioning recycling markets and infrastructure should be safeguarded. "Whilst markets can absorb and adjust to a high degree of volatility, safeguarding the environment requires stability and continuity in policy enforcement. This gives certainty to markets, maintains confidence and limits the scope for unfair competition. For these reasons, it will be necessary to continue firmly and even increase the enforcement and implementation of relevant environmental legislation, avoiding any slippage of recycling targets, illegal waste shipments or the lowering of standards."

The paper has been criticized on being too timid on green public procurement without taking into account that the Commission were asked for swift actions. Public procurement takes at least six months from start to finish and usually longer. Private procurement, outside of European legislation, can be performed much faster. The information was discussed in Environment Council meeting on 2 March.

Read the Council information here:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st06/st06918.en09.pdf>

WEEE – information from the Commission

Commission has in a note to the Council addressed problems with "leakage" (illegal exports and substandard treatment) by proposing a new waste collection rate set at 65 % by weight of what was placed on the market. Producer responsibility requirements are strengthened to ensure that the waste collected undergoes appropriate treatment and recycling and is accounted for. In parallel with this, the Commission has introduced a measure whereby the Member States, where appropriate, should encourage producers to finance the full costs of the separate collection.

Read the note here:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st06/st06898.en09.pdf>

Soil protection mitigates climate change

The European Commission presented a report on the links between and climate change in the beginning of March: "Review of existing information on the interrelations between soil and climate change". It is a synthesis of best available information on the links between soil and climate change and the role that soils can play in mitigating climate change. The report underlines the need to sequester carbon in soils.

In 2006 the Commission presented a legislative proposal with support from the European Parliament to protect European soils. With opposition from five member states (D, F, UK, A, NL) the proposal was and continuously is, blocked in Council. The member states motivated their opposition differently. The Czech Presidency wishes to move the issue and is aiming at changes in order to satisfy the blocking minority in Council. Read Commission Press release here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/353&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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

Find the full report here " http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/publications_en.htm

Result of the Council Environmental meeting 2 March

The Environmental Council discussed the recast directives of integrated pollution and prevention control (IPPC), waste electrical and electronic waste (WEEE) and directive on use of certain dangerous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS). The Commission report on the fall of the recycling market was supported by a large number of delegations which expressed their concern at this situation and noted the need for short- and long-term measures to address it. The Council also adapted conclusions developing the EU position on a comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement, as a contribution to the Spring European Council.

Read the preliminary minutes from the meeting here with further links:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/106430.pdf

EEA report on Transboundary shipments of waste

A new EEA report 'Waste without borders in the EU' examines the increase in cross-border waste shipments and the drivers behind them. It also reveals that the number of reported illegal shipments of waste is increasing. But while the European Union can do better in tracking electronic waste as well as other hazardous and problematic "waste streams", almost all waste generated in the EU that needs to be disposed is in fact disposed within EU borders.

Download the report here: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-without-borders-in-the-eu-transboundary-shipments-of-waste>

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

* * *

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