



ISWA
International Solid Waste Association



**ISWA EU
NEWSLETTER**

EU NEWSLETTER

Welcome ISWA Members!

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

If you have any contributions and/or comments please send them to Helena Bergman at hb@iswa.org

PARTICIPATE IN THE ISWA WORKSHOP “WASTE MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE: SECURING THE BENEFITS” Find out more at:
<http://www.iswa.org/html/portlet/ext/eventslists/redirect.jsp?id=306&listId=1&language=en&rnd=0.1818436590749971>

Timeline for the New Parliament, Commission, Council Presidency and Treaty

- 4-7 June: European Parliament elections.
- 18-19 June: EU summit; EU leaders expected to discuss election results and potential Commission mandate extension. Proposal that the name of the candidate designated to replace José Manuel Barroso as President of the European Commission should be known.
- 1 July 2009: Sweden assumes the rotating EU presidency, with contingency plans for both Lisbon and Nice scenarios for the new Commission.
- 14 July: First Parliament meeting of the newly elected assembly.
- 15 July: Proposal. Election of the president of the Commission. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has recommended waiting until Ireland votes on the Lisbon Treaty for a second time before endorsing a candidate to succeed José Manuel Barroso.
- Oct. 2009: Expected date of second Irish Lisbon referendum.
- 5-6 Nov. 2009: Delayed EU summit will analyse the Irish referendum result and finalise plans for the new Commission.

At the political level, now it remains to be seen how many commissioners will seek a second mandate and how many may instead run in June's European Parliament elections. On the institutional level, the Irish must vote again on the Lisbon Treaty and the Czech Republic must ratify it. With the result uncertain, it is unclear both when the new Commission will enter into force and exactly how many commissioners will feature in the next college. Rumours about a new Environmental Commissioner include Catherine Ashton from the UK, presently the Trade Commissioner. Read her profile here: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/ashton/profile_en.htm

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

Proposal for New Waste List

The Commission assigned last year a consultancy firm to make a review of the European List of Waste. After two surveys, a stakeholder workshop, two Member States' workshops and numerous expert workshops and discussions with individual experts, the final report is now presented. It attempts to fulfill all requirements, revision, clarification of hazardous properties and adoption to new legislation such as ELV, REACH, batteries, ship dismantling etc. It is important reading for everyone involved in classifying waste. The report will be the basis for the comitology procedure revising the current list.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/low_review_oekopol.pdf

Statistics on Municipal Waste in Europe 2007

Eurostat has presented annual statistics for the amount of municipal waste generated in the European Union and EEA-countries. The numbers are based on information from the Member States. Interestingly enough there are discrepancies between the figures reported nationally and the figures reported by Eurostat. It also need to be remembered that the term "municipal waste" is not equivalent to "household waste" or even to the amount of waste generated within a municipal area. In most cases the figures represent the amount of waste collected and when there is an efficient municipal waste control, the larger amounts of waste are being used. There is certainly a connection to the amount of waste generated and does give a picture of consumption. The evaluation is however better done between years for a singular country than between countries one singular year. Eurostat press release

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2009/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2009_MONTH_03/8-09032009-EN-BP.PDF

Actual figures from EuroStat:

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsien120>

European Environmental Agency Predictions on Municipal Waste

http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/briefing_2008_1/EN_Briefing_01-2008.pdf

Packaging Waste Statistics 2006

EUROPEN – The European organisation for Packaging and the Environment has presented a detailed analysis of European packaging and packaging waste statistics from 1998-2006. This is an interesting comparative reading to the Waste statistics.

Download the full report here:

<http://www.europen.be/index.php?action=onderdeel&onderdeel=6&titel=Publications&categorie=0&item=34&back=%3Faction%3Donderdeel%26onderdeel%3D6%26titel%3DPublications>

Modelling Environmental Changes in Europe

European Environmental Agency (EEA) has made an inventory on models used to model environmental changes in Europe. Under the thematic focus waste and material flows the model from the European Topic Centre on Resource and Waste Management is presented. It projects waste quantities and estimated greenhouse gas

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emissions associated with the management of waste at the national level. It analyses links between amounts of waste, economic activity and population on the basis of past developments of municipal waste streams, economic activity and the size of population. If the links are shown to have been reliable on the basis of past data, they may be used to generate projections or scenarios for the amounts of waste produced on the basis of assumptions on future economic activity and population size. Using past trends for the amount of municipal waste generated, estimates are made for the development of the management of waste and landfill, incineration and recycling rates.

The report can be downloaded for free here:

http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/technical_report_2008_11?utm_campaign=modelling-environmental-change-in-europe&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

Green Public Procurement – Statistical Information

The Commission has presented an interesting study that gives an overview of the level of Green Public Procurement (GPP) in 7 Member States in the years 2006 and 2007. It also includes a methodology developed for measuring quantitative levels of GPP (number and value of green contracts) as well as the CO₂ impact and financial impact of GPP. The methodology will be used for monitoring GPP performance in all Member States as from 2010.

Find the report on the results of the statistical information here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/statistical_information.pdf

This report on data collection information shows that for most product groups, GPP results in a reduction of CO₂ emissions; construction, gardening, paper and textiles attaining the highest reduction percentages. There has not been a full life cycle analysis (LCA) for every product group and more information may be needed, including other environmental indicators such as generation of waste.

Find the report on the methodologies for the statistical reports here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/statistical_data.pdf

This report assumes interestingly enough that when it comes to estimating the CO₂ emissions from gardening, the necessary enough fertiliser is coming from food waste. It also suggests further studies regarding generation of waste in general and especially through packaging. Also the environmental impacts of waste treatment are necessary to study further with regard to CO₂ emissions.

Second Strike for the Light Bulb

Following the decision to phase out the traditional light bulb, the Commission now regulates the inefficient incandescent light bulb from an energy efficiency perspective. Two regulations are presented to improve the energy efficiency of house lamps and office, street and industrial lighting products. The measures will gradually phase out all incandescent light bulbs and inefficient halogens by 2012. Read the Commission press release here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/411&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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Find a summary of the legal background on eco-design here:

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l32037.htm>

Frequently asked questions about household lamps and answers can be found here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/09/113&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission Gives Italy First Legal Warning on Landfilling Legislation

The Commission is sending Italy a first written warning under Article 228 of the Treaty for not complying with a ruling from the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in April 2008 on the inadequate transposition of the EU directive 1999/31/EC on the landfilling of waste into Italian law. Some of the directive's articles were not included into the corresponding national law, including those relating to waste acceptance criteria for waste going into landfills. The transitional arrangement for compliance of existing landfills was according to the Commission also incompatible with the directive.

The Commission is sending Italy a first written warning under Article 228 of the Treaty. Article 228 applies when a Member State has failed to comply fully with an ECJ judgement. It gives the Commission the power, after issuing two warnings, to take the Member State to the Court a second time and to ask for fines to be imposed.

Read the press release on Italy here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/419&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission Warns Spain on Industrial Waste

The Commission is sending Spain a written warning for permitting the stockpiling of industrial waste, in breach of EU environmental laws, namely directives on waste, on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), and on landfills.

Over the past 40 years some 120 million tonnes of the industrial waste phosphogypsum has been stockpiled in the marshland areas of the Tinto river in the Huelva estuary in southwestern Spain, as a residue from fertiliser manufacturing in the area. The operation has no permit and the deadline for issuing such permits has expired. The Commission warned Spain in May 2008 on this.

Spanish authorities claim that phosphogypsum is **an industrial by-product**, not a waste. Accordingly, the industrial permits that were ultimately issued allowed the fertilizer manufacturers to continue disposing the phosphogypsum waste into landfills close to populated areas without fulfilling the conditions under applicable EU environmental law.

The Commission takes the view that since the substance has been disposed of it must be considered as waste with a permit issued to ensure its proper management according to EU environmental laws. The Commission is therefore sending Spain a written warning.

Read the press release on Spain here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/420&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Quantifying the Benefits of Sustainable Waste Management for Construction Caste

ISWA General Secretariat
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In a study from Ghent University in Belgium, fractions that are the result of the demolition phase of a typical Dutch dwelling house have been investigated with respect to their recovery potential: stony material, wood, metals, glass, synthetic materials and a rest fraction.

Depending on their nature, different alternative end-of-life scenarios have been investigated to replace disposal, such as re-use, recycling or incineration with heat and electricity production. All resources necessary for these scenarios have been inventoried. At the same time, those that are not longer necessary for the disposal and those that would have been necessary to make the obtained products from virgin resources are quantified.

Based on these three items, the overall balance results into the calculation of net virgin resource savings for different end-of-life scenarios, quantified in Cumulative Exergy Consumption (MJ of exergy). For this specific case, the best end-of-life scenario can save virgin natural resources with a content of 258 GJ of exergy.

Looking at the entire life cycle of the house, i.e. construction phase, use phase and end-of-life phase, the quantitative analysis shows a saving of virgin natural resources of 15% with the implementation of the best end-of-life scenario instead of disposal as end-of-life.

The study is performed by J. Dewulfa, G. Van der Vorsta, N. Verselea, b, A. Janssensb and H. Van Langenhovea and was published in "Resources, Conservation and Recycling", 53: 231-236. Buy the complete study on-line:

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6VDX-4VFJS80-2&_user=10&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&_view=c&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=b43d7451f05dfbcf3ecd5d166cd3b2f8

LCA on Compost from Municipal Organic Waste for Fertilization of Tomato Crops

Several authors have assessed the positive repercussions of compost application in soil and the benefits of composting process, although most previous works focused only on a specific aspect of the whole life cycle of compost. The aim of this study from Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona and Institute of Research and Technology in the Agrifood sector (IRTA), was to determine the environmental impacts associated to the use of compost, from the collection of organic municipal solid waste to its application to tomato crops, and to compare these results with mineral fertilizer application, using the environmental tool of life cycle assessment.

Three fertilizing systems were defined, arising from the dosages of mineral and organic fertilizers applied. The environmental performance of the pilot fields and the industrial composting were based on experimental measured data. The use of compost in horticulture demonstrated to be a treatment with fewer impacts than mineral fertilizer, if the avoided loads were considered, although compost production was a critical stage which needs to be optimised. No differences were observed in terms of agricultural production and quality.

The study is performed by Julia Martínez-Blancoa, Pere Muñozb, Assumpció Antónb and Joan Rieradevall. Buy the complete study on-line:

http://198.81.200.2/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6VDX-4VW4V9Y-1&_user=10&_coverDate=03%2F19%2F2009&_rdoc=1&_fmt=high&_orig=browse

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Green-collar Jobs in Navarra, Spain

Waste management integrates people with disabilities through treatment, innovation and best practice operations at a plant financed by regional government, employment services and others. Read the article from December 2008 here:

<http://www.theparliament.com/policy-focus/environment/environment-article/newsarticle/working-with-waste/>

Dimas Calls for UN Actions Negotiations for New Global Climate Agreement

United Nations has started its first round of negotiations after the Poznan Conference for drawing up a new global climate agreement. European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas called for a new ambitious global agreement to combat climate change. The new global agreement, which would take effect in 2013, is due to be concluded at the Copenhagen U.N. climate conference in December. Read the press release from the Commission here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/488&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Business Leaders Urged to Support Sustainable Consumption

The European Commission, DG Consumer Affairs, urged European Business Summit to empower Europeans to consume more sustainably by offering them affordable and recyclable products.

During a session on Sustainable Consumption and Production and greening the supply chain, it was stressed that introducing sustainable manufacturing and consumption patterns takes a long time, but Europe cannot afford to adopt a 'wait-and-see' attitude. "Businesses need to design durable and recyclable products and communicate on the eco-benefits of their products to empower consumers to consume differently and to get rid of the current "throw-away" culture. Changing consumer behaviour is part of "modern consumer policy" and more sustainable general behaviour. It is important to make the sustainable choice an easy choice. Easy choices need clear and comparable product information and must be affordable, and sustainable choices should in no way be a "luxury option". Read full article in EurActiv here:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/sustainability/commission-wants-scrap-throw-away-culture/article-180704>

Read more about the Commissions work on Sustainable Consumption and Production policies

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp_en.htm

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

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ISWA General Secretariat
Mariahilfer Strasse 123, 3rd floor
1060 Vienna Austria
Tel +43 1 59 999 8038
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