



**ISWA**  
International Solid Waste Association



**ISWA EU  
NEWSLETTER**

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

### **Revised Animal By-Products Regulation**

European Parliament adopted in plenary session on 24 April the compromised text on the revised animal by-products regulation. Regulation 1774/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products not intended for human consumption (also known as the Animal by-products Regulation).

After an agreement between the Council and the Parliament, it is expected the text accepted by Parliament, would be the close to the text that will be adopted formally by Council in June.

Read the Parliaments text here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P6-TA-2009-0323#top>

### **EU Plots Further Changes To WEEE Legislation**

There are rumours the European Commission is planning to amend the list of substances and components, which must be removed from waste electronic equipment in order to qualify for separate disposal or recovery according to annex II under the 2002 WEEE directive. The Commission proposes that hydrocarbon refrigerators, liquid crystal displays (LCD) and electrolyte capacitors no longer need to be removed. New additions to the list include printed circuit boards, phosphor in displays, and substances exempted from a ban under a related directive on the restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS) in electric and electronic equipment

At the same time the recasting of the WEEE directive is continuing in progress during the Parliament and Council administrations. Preparations are continuing but no legislative actions are expected before the elections and summer vacations. The annex will be changed according to the EU's Comitology progress.

### **Assessment Of The Environmental Consequences Of Biofuels**

The Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment has prepared an assessment of the environmental consequences of biofuels, based on a large conference in 2008. More than 75 scientists from 21 countries, representing various disciplines participated. The findings have both positive and negative impacts on the use of biofuels for transport purposes, and the authors recommend a few measures of improvement.

The executive summary contains the following waste related conclusions:

“The wide range of greenhouse-gas savings for all types of biofuels can be largely attributed to differences in co-product allocation methods (for example, whether or

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not waste products are used for animal feeds) and the type of energy inputs used to make biofuels and transport crops to processing sites.”

“The environmental consequences of inputs (irrigation water, fertilizer) required to make degraded and marginal lands productive must also be considered. Using wastes and agricultural and forest residues for biofuels is also likely to produce greenhouse gas benefits, but care must be taken to assure that enough residuals are left behind to protect soil health and productivity which depend on carbon levels.”

“Methane gas (or biogas) and hydrogen show great promise as biofuels, and can be produced from a variety of feedstocks, including cellulose but also animal and human wastes.”

“Using methane gas produced from animal wastes as a fuel is among the most favourable alternatives for biofuels in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, with net reductions of up to 170% compared to fossil fuels.”

“In general, biofuels made from organic waste are environmentally more benign than those from energy crops.”

You find more information on:

<http://www.transportenvironment.org/News/2009/4/75-scientists-call-for-end-to-biofuels-targets/>

Download the executive summary here:

<http://cip.cornell.edu/biofuels/files/SCOPE00.pdf>

Download the full study here:

<http://cip.cornell.edu/biofuels/>

### **Albania Has Applied For EU-Membership**

Albania has formally applied to join the European Union, taking the first steps on a long path towards membership. Albania's bid follows that of fellow Balkan state Montenegro, which applied in December, and may be followed by Serbia later this year.

Several countries have applied for membership and on the fast track is Croatia. Also Iceland will be on a fast track path, if officially applying for membership, Read the Director General for Enlargement Michel Leigh on Albania's application for EU Membership:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press\\_corner/speeches/090428\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press_corner/speeches/090428_en.htm)

### **European Report On Municipal Waste**

The European Topic centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production has presented an overview of the level of and composition of recycling of municipal waste as well as construction and demolition waste in the EU member states. The data has been missing for a long time and this report attempts to solve this.

The report summarises the result in the following way:

- “ • All old and almost all new EU Member States have increased recycling of municipal waste in the last ten years.
- There are still significant differences between recycling levels of municipal waste, both within the old EU Member States and within the new EU Member States. In general the level is higher in old Member States. However, some of the new EU Member States have relatively high recycling levels.

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- Recycling of paper and cardboard, and bio-waste in the form of green kitchen waste and garden waste, constitute the largest part of recycling in countries with highest recycling of municipal waste. In general, however, glass, paper and cardboard, plastic, metals are the backbone of recycling in the EU, cf. figure 1.1. In a few of the old EU Member States recycling of bulky waste is also significant.”

Download the full report from this site:

[http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/publications/wp2009\\_2](http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/publications/wp2009_2)

### **Promotion Of Renewable Energy From Waste Approved**

Council and Parliament have reached the final agreement in the directive on the promotion of renewable energies. It includes the term biomass which includes besides other biodegradable fractions, also the biodegradable fraction from industrial and municipal waste. It is the basis for producing bioliquids and biofuels. The directive is a part of the climate and energy package, where biogas production with its high greenhouse gas emission savings potential, has significant environmental advantages. Member States may encourage the use of biofuels made from waste residues. The demands for biofuels and bioliquids produced from waste are lower than other residues as they are compared to biofuel produced with no net carbon emission from land use change.

The final decision is awaiting publication in the Official Journal.

All preparatory documents are available here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5589632>

### **Waste – a European Regional Report topic**

Issue 12 of the Regional Report (March) had three articles on waste as a theme. There are articles from Municipal Waste Europe under the heading “Waste not want not”, from ACR+ “Taking up the waste challenge” and from FEAD “A load of rubbish”.

This and other issues can be downloaded here:

<http://www.theparliament.com/regional-review/regional-review-archive/>

### **Next Presidency Said To Push For CO2 Tax For Non-ETS Sectors**

Swedish Environmental Minister wants to push for a tax on CO2 in sectors that do not participate in the EU’s emissions trading scheme (ETS). One of them is waste. Sweden has had good results with a carbon result on a national level and will try for European interest during their presidency. Finland, Denmark and the Slovak Republic have also a carbon tax. Commission has been working on a proposal that has not been finalised because of the financial crisis. To wait further is not an argument for the Swedes, stating climate control will a vital solution to get out of the crisis and that the tax will be implemented earliest 2013 when the crisis is expected to be over.

There is no public documentation available.

### **Commission Communication on Packaging**

Commission has released a Communication on beverage packaging, deposit systems and free movement of goods. The Commission comments the discussion on reuse

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packaging and deposit systems as well its opinion that restrictions for single-use containers either scientifically or financially are illegal or at least warned against. The waste hierarchy first step of waste prevention is still the framework legislation to the packaging directive's more specialised legislation.

Read the full communication here:

<http://eur-loex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:107:0001:0009:EN:PDF>

### **POP-substances becomes 21**

The list of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) has through an addition to the so called Stockholm convention, been increased by nine more. POP substances are so stable there is no known natural change to the structure. Some are transformed into other indestructible substances in nature.

The newly targeted chemicals include products that are widely used in pesticides and flame-retardants, and in a number of other commercial uses, such as a treatment for head lice. They are for example PFOS (perfluorooctansulfonat) as well penta- and octaBDE.

Information about POP here:

<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Pressrelease/COP4Geneva8May2009/tabid/542/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### **Food And Drink Sector Joining For Recyclability And Waste Prevention**

European Food Sustainable Consumption and Production roundtable has been established with the aim to deliver environmentally sustainable food and drinks for consumers. In their approach with round-table discussion, are also issues with waste reduction, recyclability and bio-degradability included. Scientifically reliable and understandable environmental information can help consumers consider the wider sustainability implications of their purchasing decisions and behaviour.

The sector includes farmers and their suppliers, food manufacturers, packaging producers, transport and logistics operators and retailer.

The initiative has originated from European Commission action plans on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Sustainable Industrial Policy (SIP) from July 2008.

<http://eur-loex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0397:FIN:EN:PDF>

Press release on food chain sustainability roundtable:

[http://www.ciaa.eu/documents/press\\_releases/PR\\_EFSCPRT\\_final\\_260209.pdf](http://www.ciaa.eu/documents/press_releases/PR_EFSCPRT_final_260209.pdf)

### **E-Waste A New Concern For Chemicals Management**

The second United Nations chemicals forum on safe and sustainable chemicals management have agreed on four emerging policy issues in the sector: one is e-waste, in their terminology short for electronic waste. The others are nanotech, chemicals in everyday products and lead in paint.

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The problem regarding electronic waste was described by the African region as “a lack of capacity for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes. This lack of capacity means that toxic chemicals such as heavy metals and brominated flame retardants were being released into the environment and posing a threat to human health in the region.” Other regions and governments reported similar problems. Large volumes of electronic waste, mainly computers and televisions under the designation of second-hand products, were entering the countries from all parts of the world.

As a result of the conference, the UN forum pledged actions in these areas.

Read the preparatory policy document here:

<http://www.saicm.org/documents/iccm/ICCM2/meeting%20documents/ICCM2%2010%20emerging%20issues%20E.pdf>

Read more about the conference here:

<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?content=meeting&mid=42&def=1&menuid=9>

### **Swedish Presidency and Crisis Management**

On 1 July the Swedish government takes over the presidency of the European Union. Various agenda items can be attributed to the upcoming change, such as working towards a CO<sub>2</sub>-tax, the climate package, stricter requirements for the Baltic Sea than other maritime areas, biological diversity, ecosystems services and an eco-efficient economy.

This week the Minister for European Union Cecilia Malmstrom gave a speech in the financial future in English. You can read the speech here:

<http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/11488/a/126635>

EPC mentioned, is the European Policy Centre. The policy paper mentioned can be found here: Innovation and creativity in Europe's public sectors: time for radical change

<http://www.epc.eu/en/er.asp?TYP=ER&LV=293&see=y&t=2&PG=ER/EN/detail&l=&AI=908>

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