
MEP urges focus on EU waste law implementation
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Some elements of an EU compromise to revise the bloc's waste framework directive are "deeply unsatisfactory", the European parliament's rapporteur for the revision, UK centre-right MEP Caroline Jackson, has said.

The compromise deal was negotiated earlier this year and backed by MEPs before the summer break. It is expected to receive similar approval from governments on 20 October, when EU environment ministers are due to rubber-stamp it.

Speaking at the annual conference of the European waste management association (Fead) in Paris on Friday, Ms Jackson singled out new EU recycling targets for 2020 as "one of the worst and best parts of the new directive" (EED 17/06/08 <http://www.endseuropedaily.com/25651>).

Ms Jackson said she was happy that recycling targets had been added to the law, but that the final wording of these was "very indistinct". It was unsure whether a 50 per cent target by weight for paper, glass, metal and plastic waste by 2020 applied to each waste stream individually or to all four collectively. "This is just one of the problems the commission will have to sort out with member states [when they transpose the rules]", she said.

The commission's interpretation of the target is that it applies to all four waste streams collectively, environment department official Karoline Fras said. She told the meeting that detailed rules for achieving the targets could be expected from the commission around 2010.

The current focus is on developing detailed "end-of-waste" criteria for determining when specific waste streams that undergo recovery operations are no longer subject to EU waste rules. The commission is "already quite advanced" in developing a methodology for setting the criteria, and the first concrete proposals can be expected next year, said Ms Fras.

The commission is also developing indicators and guidelines on waste prevention to help member states draw up national waste prevention plans. It has also begun drafting a green paper on biowaste, due out before the end of this year. Ms Fras said this might lead to legislative proposals on biowaste in the first half of 2010. The commission has previously resisted calls from MEPs and many member states for an EU biowaste law (EED 14/03/08 <http://www.endseuropedaily.com/25054>).

Follow-up: Fead <http://www.fead.be/%5d>, tel: +32 2 734 95 92, plus conference programme
http://www.fead.be/uploads/documents/Conference/Paris%202008/FEAD_Annual_Conference_2008_Programme_EN.pdf
and presentations <http://www.fead.be/index.php?page=paris-2008>.
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