

■ Future Challenges for the European Waste Management Industry

PARIS | FEAD convened more than 180 participants from 20 countries to its annual conference in the prestigious Eiffel Tower, Paris, France. The conference was co-organised by FEAD's French member FNADE and was chaired by Pierre Rellet, President of both FEAD and FNADE. Rellet briefly introduced the current key legislative developments for the sector, followed by a general presentation on FEAD and its core activities given by the FEAD Secretary General, Nadine De Greef. Dimitri Giotakos, cabinet member of the Environment Commissioner, focused his intervention on the Commission's approach to sustainable consumption and production which, in terms of waste policy, mainly address aspects of waste prevention. Laurent Michel of the French Ministry of Environment gave an overview of the new approach to environmental policy in France, the so-called 'Grenelle de l'Environnement'. He explained that due to the complexity of the issue the committee dealing with waste was one of the less consensual. MEP Holger Kraemer, Rapporteur on the revision of the IPPC Directive, the new Industrial Emissions Directive, reported on his proposal to provide more flexibility via a harmonised European Safety Net of emission limit values to be adopted in a transparent and open process. □

■ Sharp Announces Consumer Electronics and TV Recycling Initiative

MAHWAH | Sharp Electronics Corporation announced that it is creating a nationwide electronics recycling programme to provide free, convenient consumer recycling of Sharp Electronics televisions and other consumer audio and video products. The programme will kick off in several states in November, and is slated to expand to all 50 states with many hundred more sites, over the next three years. Panasonic and Toshiba products will also be accepted at these locations. "In all aspects of our business, we continuously seek ways to reduce our impact on the environment," said Doug Koshima, chairman and CEO, Sharp Electronics Corporation. "Working through the MRM venture, Sharp, Panasonic Corporation of North America and Toshiba America Consumer Products, are working to create an electronics recycling programme that achieves the dual objectives of being easy and convenient for consumers, while offering the industry a path to efficient, environmentally sound recycling." Sharp's recycling programme will utilise the infrastructure being developed by the Electronics Manufacturers Recycling Management Company (MRM). A joint venture between Panasonic, Sharp Electronics and Toshiba, MRM was established in September of 2007 to efficiently manage collection and recycling programmes in the US for electronics manufacturers. □



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