



Fédération Européenne des Activités de la Dépollution et de l'Environnement  
European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services  
Europäische Föderation der Entsorgungswirtschaft

## PRESS RELEASE

### Harmonised approach to carbon reporting for the European waste management industry

November 2009

In view of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change conference on 7-18 December 2009 in Copenhagen, the European waste management industry would like to highlight its efforts and potentials to contribute to climate protection.

The European waste management industry is strongly committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with managing the economy's waste carbon and is, as part of this process, reviewing a sectoral reporting tool: the **EpE protocol**<sup>1</sup>.

In managing wastes generated across the global economy, the world's waste management sector is estimated to account for 3% of greenhouse gas emissions, largely through methane emissions from landfill. However, over the last decades the waste management sector has been one of the most effective sectors in reducing greenhouse gas impacts and has reduced its emissions in Europe by 38% compared to 1990<sup>2</sup>. A recent study<sup>3</sup> shows that CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction for recycling, recovery and energy recovery reached, in the reference year 2004, a total amount of approximately 206 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents. The potential of additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction of the European waste management sector until 2020 can, according to the different scenarios as presented by the study, vary between 146 and 244 Mt and thereby contribute 19% - 31% of the European climate reduction targets.

To account for the waste management sector's carbon emissions and the associated benefits derived by other sectors from waste management activities, FEAD is striving to establish a common industry standard for reporting emissions. The EpE protocol will provide policy makers with a tool to optimise the economy's greenhouse gas emission profile.

<sup>1</sup> EpE (Entreprises pour l'Environnement) Protocol: Protocol for the quantification of greenhouse gases emissions from waste management activities

<sup>2</sup> See FEAD Statement: *Developing a harmonised approach to carbon reporting*

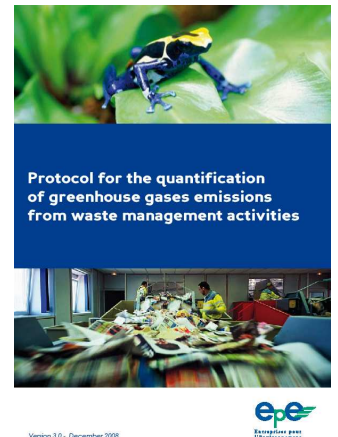
<sup>3</sup> *Resource savings and CO2 reduction potentials in waste management in Europe and the possible contributions to the CO2 reduction target in 2020*, Prognos, October 2008

#### Note to the editor:

**FEAD** is the European Federation representing the European waste management industry. FEAD's members are national waste management associations covering 19 Member States. They have an approximate 60% share in the household waste market and handle more than 75% of industrial and commercial waste in Europe. Their combined annual turnover is approximately € 54 billion. FEAD represents about 3000 companies with activities in all forms of waste management. These companies employ over 295000 people who operate around 1800 recycling and sorting centres, 1100 composting sites, 260 waste-to-energy plants and 1100 controlled landfills. They play an important role in the determination of the best environmental option for waste management problems.

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