



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

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## PRESS RELEASE

### FEAD President addresses recycling policy instruments at Green Week

Peter Kurth, President of FEAD, the European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services, gave a presentation this morning on 'recycling policy instruments' at the 2011 Green Week, organised by the European Commission and dedicated this year to "Resource Efficiency."

The key statements of his presentation were:

(1) The EC should take appropriate measures to further develop the demand-side of secondary raw materials and to stimulate markets. Hence, ambitious harmonised standards at EU level need to be further developed.

(2) Competition is a key driver for developing innovative technologies. Hence, it is important to create fair competition and ensure access of private waste management companies to the recovery of separately collected waste from households.

These statements were based on a number of interesting facts and figures. The waste management industry offers huge potential which needs to be further developed and must go far beyond a strong support for harmonised treatment standards. Whereas today 20-30% of resources used are imported into the EU, 5.25 billion euros worth of recyclables (paper, glass, plastics, aluminium and steel) are disposed of yearly. If these materials were recycled, 148 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions equivalent could be avoided. Moreover, at least 500 000 new jobs would be created in Europe if Member States recycled 70% of their waste. Today, the European recycling industry already supplies 50% of paper, 43% of glass and 40% of non-ferrous metals to the manufacturing industry.

In order to ensure further harmonisation of waste management policy, the proper and prompt implementation of the Waste Framework Directive in all Member States is a key priority. Furthermore, the European Commission should take additional measures to stabilise demand for secondary raw materials such as ambitious targets in the field of green public procurement. The European Commission should also assess the potential benefits of introducing minimum levels of recycled materials in specific manufacturing industries.

Evidence<sup>1</sup> shows that Member states who have based their waste management on a policy mix including financial and fiscal instruments have achieved the best recycling results. For example in the case of municipal solid waste, a combination of a landfill ban of biodegradable and combustible waste, a taxation on incineration and landfill, efficient separate collection and ambitious recycling targets have led to the best results.

The vote cast by the audience following the presentation clearly expressed a strong support for the above arguments and proposals as presented by the FEAD President.

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#### Note to the editor:

**FEAD** is the European Federation representing the interests of private waste management and recycling companies in Europe. FEAD's members are national waste management associations from 20 EU Member States plus Norway. 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 € 75 billion. FEAD represents about 3000 companies with activities in all forms of waste management. These companies employ over 320000 people who operate around 2400 recycling and sorting centres, 1100 composting sites, 260 waste-to-energy plants and 900 controlled landfills. They play an important role in the determination of the best environmental option for waste management problems.

<sup>1</sup> *European Recycling Policies in relation to the actual recycling achieved*, ETC/SCP, March 2011

APOH, Slovakia  
ARS, Romania  
ASEGRE, Spain  
BDE, Germany  
CAOH, Czech Republic

DWMA, Netherlands  
ESA, UK  
EWMA, Estonia  
FEBEM-FEGE, Belgium  
FISE, Italy

FLEA, Luxembourg  
FNADE, France  
IWMA, Ireland  
KSZGYSZ, Hungary  
LASUA, Latvia

NORSK INDUSTRI, Norway  
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YYL, Finland