



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

Future challenges for the European Waste Management Industry

(Industrial Emissions Directive – Waste Framework Directive – Public-Private competition – Sustainable Waste Management)

On 19 September 2008, FEAD – representing the European waste management industry – convened more than 180 participants from 20 countries, to its annual conference in the prestigious Eiffel Tower of 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. Pierre Rellet briefly introduced the current key legislative developments for the sector followed by a general presentation of FEAD and its core activities given by the FEAD Secretary General, **Nadine De Greef**.

Dimitri Giotakos, cabinet member of Environment Commissioner, focused his intervention on the Commission's approach to sustainable consumption and production which in terms of waste policy address mainly aspects of waste prevention.

Laurent Michel, of the French Ministry of Environment, gave an overview into the new approach to environmental policy in France: the so-called 'Grenelle de l'Environnement'. He explained that the committee dealing with waste was, due to the complexity of the issue, one of the less consensual.

MEP **Holger Krahmer**, 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, called the Brussels' process. **Marianne Wenning**, representing DG Environment, argued that the Commission's proposal does provide the requested flexibility. **Carlo Noto La Diega**, FEAD Vice-President, called on the integrated approach of the existing IPPC Directive and the Sevilla process to be, in any case, maintained. The discussion showed that the Commission and the Parliament still have a long way to go before reaching a mutual agreement on key aspects. The number of amendments tabled also demonstrates that a finalisation in a single reading might be challenging.

MEP **Caroline Jackson** gave an insight into the trialogue discussions when finalising the revision of the Waste Framework Directive. She evaluated certain aspects of the final outcome as most 'unsatisfactory'. The main challenge is the proper implementation into national law by the Member States. Caroline Jackson's new 'hobby-horse' is currently the creation of a European inspection force to ensure the appropriate enforcement of European environmental legislation. President Pierre Rellet confirmed FEAD's support to this initiative as it would ensure a consistent implementation across the Member States, thereby creating clear and harmonised provisions for all operators. The Commission representative from DG Environment, **Karolina Fras**, informed the audience on forthcoming actions related to the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive. These include the development of technical end-of-waste criteria for certain waste streams, guidelines on the definitions of recovery and recycling, a review of the List of Waste and the hazardous waste criteria, guidelines on waste prevention and a green paper on biowaste. **Egbert Tölle**, FEAD Vice-President, gave an overview of the main risks and chances for the waste management sector following the adoption of the Waste Framework Directive.

APOH, Slovakia
ARS, Romania
AVFALL NORGE, Norway
AVFALL SVERIGE, Sweden
BDE, Germany

CAOH, Czech Republic
ESA, UK
EWMA, Estonia
FEBEM-FEGE, Belgium
FISE, Italy

FLEA, Luxembourg
FNADE, France
IWMA, Ireland
JLY, Finland
KSZGYSZ, Hungary

LASUA, Latvia
PASEPPE, Greece
PIGO, Poland
VA, Netherlands
VÖEB, Austria

A dedicated session on fair competition between the public and private sector was introduced by **Florian Ermacora** from the Commission's DG Internal Market and Services, providing an overview on the current legislative framework. **Baudouin Ska**, from FEBEM-FEGE, Belgium, **Rudolf Platzer**, FEAD Vice President from VÖEB, Austria, and **Weine Wqvist**, from Avfall Sverige, Sweden presented relevant case examples. The session showed that a major progress has to be made in several Member States to ensure fair competition between the public and private sector and to guarantee market access to private companies. Discrepancies in national market structures put at risk the performances of the operators.

Case studies on sustainable waste management were provided by **Freek van Eijk**, SITA, **Gérard Fries**, VEOLIA and **Florens Slob**, Van Gansewinkel. Their aim was to show the initiatives undertaken as well as the potentials of the waste management industry in terms of emissions reductions. These initiatives include reducing the emissions of collection by transforming biogas into biofuel, optimizing the contribution of biowaste, the contribution of recycling in avoiding CO2 emissions, improving the ecological footprint of energy-from-waste and developing sustainable landfilling.

The President concluded by welcoming the adoption of a more comprehensive European legislative framework for the waste management sector. He however emphasised the need for a harmonised and effective implementation at national level, thereby ensuring that professionals operate in accordance with high and uniform environmental standards.

A detailed report will follow. The Conference presentations are available on the FEAD website: <http://www.fead.be/index.php?page=paris-2008>

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Note to the editor:

FEAD is the European Federation representing the European waste management industry. Its members are national waste management associations, with an approximate 70% share in the household waste market and handling more than 75% of industrial and commercial waste in Europe (with a collective annual turnover of approximately € 50 billion).

FEAD has 20 members from 19 EU Member States and Norway. FEAD represents companies with activities in all forms of waste management. These companies employ over 350 000 people who operate around 2 200 controlled landfills, 2 000 recycling and sorting centres, 1 700 composting sites and 400 waste-to-energy plants and play an important role in the determination of the best environmental option for waste management problems.