



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

BRUSSELS DECLARATION on the occasion of the FEAD General Assembly *June 2011*

The private waste management sector recycles, recovers and disposes of the waste generated by millions of households and businesses in the European Union and has been doing so for many years, cleanly, safely and efficiently. Thanks to its know-how and its investments, it has innovated and made technical progress, thereby ensuring that Europe already has the highest recycling rates, the most efficient waste processing and the highest environmental standards anywhere in the world. The private waste management sector in Europe not only plays a considerable role in climate protection through prevention of methane and CO₂ emissions, it is also a major and increasingly important supplier of raw materials to European industry. But these achievements can only be secured, and further progress towards a resource-efficient and resource-friendly recycling society can only be made, if the right economic and regulatory framework conditions are in place.

FEAD, the European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services, represents national waste management federations from 20 EU member states and Norway. FEAD is the voice of around 3000 companies which are active in all branches of the waste management sector and employ more than 320000 people. The companies represented by FEAD process around 60% of household waste and more than 75% of industrial and commercial waste in Europe, with an annual turnover of some 75 billion euros. FEAD wants to continue to deploy this strength towards the goal of a recycling society, towards environmental and climate protection for the benefit of European citizens. Accordingly, in the years ahead FEAD will pursue four strategic objectives:

- **Free and fair competition for private businesses in the waste management sector**

Private businesses deal with the waste of 60% of households and 75% of businesses, either as subcontractors of public waste management authorities or on the basis of direct contracts with waste owners. This shows that there is a market and competition for waste management. This applies in particular for separately collected, recoverable waste which, according to the Waste Framework Directive, is not part of the package of tasks entrusted to the Member States. Recovery of secondary raw materials from waste is increasingly superseding disposal of waste. Environment-friendly treatment methods, accompanied by measures aiming at further reducing landfill of waste, have virtually eliminated the potential dangers of waste management to human health and the environment. Waste management has become a modern business sector to which the fundamental European freedoms should apply without exception, especially the freedom to provide services and the free movement of goods, and for which a market based on fair competition has to be guaranteed. Lastly, innovation and progress can only flourish where competition creates incentives for them to develop further. This is impeded by preferential treatment and subsidisation of publicly controlled market participants, preventing better and more cost-effective suppliers from prevailing. As a result, there is no incentive for innovations and investments. FEAD therefore expressly calls for a level playing field for private and public waste management undertakings and facilities in the market. This includes in particular fair public procurement legislation without loopholes and without privileges for cooperative ventures between public authorities, equal VAT treatment between public and private enterprises, and consistent application of competition rules.

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
PASEPPE, Greece
PIGO, Poland
SRI, Sweden
VÖEB, Austria
YYL, Finland

- **Consistent and comprehensive promotion of the recycling society**

The private waste management sector is the engine for the European economy's future capability and for maintaining prosperity across the entire EU. It not only holds the key to a stable supply of high quality secondary raw materials to industry thanks to recycling, it also adds value to society through its contribution to climate and environmental protection. The five-stage waste hierarchy set out in the Waste Framework Directive lays the foundations for a European recycling society, but one that can only be brought to fruition with the private waste management sector. FEAD therefore works at European level to ensure that recycling continues to be given priority and that the framework conditions are improved. In addition, it calls on the European Commission in particular to live up to its role as guardian of the treaties and to work for uniform implementation of the existing European legislation in the Member States.

- **Environmental technology and environmental standards at a high level**

The European recycling industry stands for environmental technologies at a high technical level, generating demand from around the world. Furthermore, the recycling industry sets high environmental standards. This has led to the waste management sector in a few Member States becoming not merely climate-neutral but actually climate-positive. The recycling industry constitutes a major portion of the green economy, since it is not only environment-friendly but also provides the basis for the development of further green technologies through the production of secondary raw materials. This means not least that half a million jobs could be created in this flourishing business sector by 2020 according to estimates by the European Commission.

- **Reorientation of structural funds towards public-private partnerships (PPP)**

In order to realise the goal of a resource-efficient Europe as announced recently by the European Commission, a restructuring of European structural funds is essential. FEAD therefore welcomes the Commission's approach whereby cohesion policy will in future be aligned more strongly on the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and waste projects will take account of the five-stage waste hierarchy pursuant Art. 4 of the Waste Framework Directive, in other words they will essentially give preference to recycling over other recovery of materials from waste and disposal of waste. However, this can only be achieved if projects are made accessible for private capital and know-how. FEAD therefore urges policy-makers at European level to improve the framework conditions for alternative financing instruments, in particular for public-private partnerships. In this way, cohesion policy can make a contribution to disseminating high quality environmental standards rapidly across the entire Union.