



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

PROMOTION OF BIOWASTE RECYCLING
Towards a target on renewable organic matter in the use of fertilisers
January 2010

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.

Considering the need to protect soils and to recycle limited nutrient resources, especially phosphorous, FEAD recommends the elaboration of a target encouraging the production of compost and its use on land and in growing media. The implementation of an appropriate target at European level would positively address the issue of soil organic matter decline and the scarcity of valuable resources. With a view to comply with the European Union's ambition to create a 'recycling society', FEAD advocates for a target on the use of organic matter, fertilisers and growing media from renewable sources.

FEAD proposes to develop a target comparable to the renewable target in the energy sector: the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (Directive 2009/28/EC, so called RES Directive) establishes an overall binding target of a 20% share of renewable energy sources in energy consumption to achieve by 2020.

A similar path could be explored for ensuring that a certain share of the use of fertilisers comes from a renewable source, such as biowaste. The target would ensure that mineral fertilisers would be partly substituted by organic fertilisers, thereby ensuring the recycling of valuable organic matter. This is mainly advantageous for two reasons: (1) soils need organic matter and (2) limited resources such as phosphorous are protected. As the target in the RES Directive delivers a market for renewable energies, this target would stimulate the use of organic fertilisers and therefore boost the market for compost.

RES Directive

20% share of renewable energy source in energy consumption

Biowaste Directive

x% share of renewable organic source in the use of fertilisers

In concrete terms, the target should:

- for growing media and soil improvers, take into consideration the need to keep the organic matter content of soil stable over time and guarantee the humus balance of soil.
- for fertilisers, include a minimum level of nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium from renewable source.

The delivering of 'green certificates for fertilisers', as it is the case for green certificates in the energy sector, could also be considered.

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

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

Moreover, FEAD is of the opinion that a target on the use of organic fertiliser should be an integral part of a legislative instrument (Directive) on the management of biowaste.
