



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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## FEAD input to the EC Consultation on a possible Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials

FEAD members support the European Commission's initiative to set-up a potential Innovation Partnership on raw materials. We are of the position that this partnership could become an important instrument for the promotion of research and development in the area of non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials supply which is a crucial pre-requisite for economic development in the EU.

Concerning the Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials, we would like to express our support for the three major mechanisms identified in the background document to the consultation:

- Support for the development of innovative technologies
- Support for possible innovative regulatory action and/or cooperation with Member States
- Promotion of standardisation and public procurement instruments

FEAD members are already active in several research projects linked to innovative and more efficient recycling and waste management. FEAD innovation examples in this area include the financing of PhD programs in recycling of copper, indium, gallium and selenide from solar cells, microwave pyrolysis of WEEE that is currently landfilled, recycling of new generation Lithium-ion batteries without Cobalt and recycling of fly ash from waste incineration. Some FEAD members are also investigating whether it is appropriate or not to open closed landfills with a view to extract valuable resources or high calorific waste to be recovered in waste-to-energy plants and/or to remediate landfill sites. Pilot projects are currently on-going, whereby economic costs, technical feasibility and environmental benefits are being assessed.

These are only a few examples of projects that the waste management industry has initiated. The potential for further research and development of recycling technology is substantial. In this respect, FEAD believes that launching 10 EU pilot projects focusing on raw materials extraction and processing and recycling could help to develop new innovative technologies and solutions for the sustainable supply of primary and secondary raw materials.

The European Union's role in promoting innovation in the sustainable supply of raw materials is fundamental since coordinated efforts in research and development and financial support are essential in this field. We strongly support the different funding instruments available at EC level for the development of innovative technologies, such as the potential Innovation Partnership on raw materials, because public funding is needed to complement investments of the private sector. FEAD also supports the idea, expressed in the background paper to the EC consultation, to promote recycling markets through Green Public Procurement.<sup>1</sup> Concerning the substitution of materials, we would like to stress that it is indispensable that the recycling

<sup>1</sup> Background document for the Public Consultation on a possible Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials, Page 5

sector is involved in the development of such materials in order to take into consideration end-of-life treatment aspects.

FEAD members consider that the 10 pilot projects, to which we hope to contribute, could be an excellent scheme for fostering innovation and sustainable economic growth in the EU. However, we would like to see more concrete information on the conditions for funding and participation in the pilot projects. We hope that the European Commission will provide this information in due course.

*FEAD is the European Federation representing the European waste management industry. FEAD's members are national waste management associations covering 20 Member States and 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.*