



FEAD against metal theft and cash payments for metal waste and scrap in Europe May 2017

FEAD members representing private waste and resource management companies operating all across Europe under waste permits, have faced serious disturbances due to the different forms of metal theft.

Metal theft takes all forms and affects a variety of sectors, as thieves illegally embezzle parts of gas pipes, copper wire, electric cabling, lighting conductors, rails and other valuable metals from WEEE and scrap metals disposed in waste recycling centres, public spaces, construction sites, abandon or even operating industrial buildings. The theft is an increasingly frequent occurrence, it results in material losses for various sectors and the public as well as it causes threat to human life and safety. Thieves are neither registered waste management companies, nor do they have waste permits, and these natural or legal persons are often linked to organised crime.

Some of the EU Member States have already recognised the seriousness of the problem and took legislative or non-legislative measures to combat these illegal activities. Both France and the UK have already introduced a full ban on cash payments for sales of metal waste and scrap in their countries. Other countries, such as Germany, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands have taken some action as well. FEAD members welcome these developments of taking actions. With the full cash ban, only the companies that are registered under the law and possessing the waste permit, can collect and trade the waste material. A cash ban also ensures that the records are kept of any transactions between a buyer and a seller.

However, experience in these countries so far highlights that the ban on cash payments must be properly enforced and ideally apply in all Member States. This means that some scrap metal dealers are continuing to make cash payments, and have taken a significant amount of business away from the legitimate operators. So without proper enforcement, a ban on cash payments actually harms the legitimate waste recycling industry and does not deal effectively with metal theft.

Considering the wide-spread scope of this unlawful practice, **FEAD members call for the EU-wide ban on cash payments for metal waste and scrap, and even more importantly – for its proper enforcement across Europe.** There will be a need for all, the EU institutions, including Europol, national authorities and the private sector to work together to ensure the effective law enforcement all across Europe.

FEAD is the European federation representing the private waste and resource management industry across Europe. FEAD's members are national waste management associations covering 18 Member States, Norway and Serbia. 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 3,000 companies with activities in all forms of waste management. These companies employ over 320,000 people who operate around 2,400 recycling and sorting centres, 1,100 composting sites, 260 waste-to-energy plants and 900 controlled landfills.

They play a key role in the transition to a circular economy by producing resources which can be re-injected in the economy and by supplying energy. Our companies add value through innovative and cost-efficient collection, sorting, and recycling of secondary raw materials. In doing so, they play a key role in achieving the best economic and environmental outcomes.

APOH, Slovakia
ARMD, Romania
ASEGRE, Spain
BDE, Germany

ESA, UK
EWMA, Estonia
FISE, Italy
FLEA, Luxembourg

FNADE, France
Go4Circle, Belgium
HRABRI ČISTAČ, Serbia
IWMA, Ireland

LASUA, Latvia
NORSK INDUSTRI, Norway
PASEPPE, Greece
PIGO, Poland

SRI, Sweden
VA, Netherlands
VÖEB, Austria
YTP, Finland