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**Fédération Internationale du Recyclage International
International Recycling Federation
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- Creating value by basing growth on knowledge
- Empowering people in inclusive societies
- Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy

As for the latter item, the EU should increase the use of non-renewable energy and resources.

The European Commission has opened a consultation, seeking for views on the topics mentioned. The goal is to draft a communication for the Spring European Council early 2010.

In Europe

New Strategy for Europe

The European Commission has started to work on a successor of the Lisbon Strategy. This has been the reform strategy for the last decade. The new Strategy, EU 2020, must focus on key policy areas where collaboration between EU and Member States can deliver the best results. In developing a new vision and direction for EU policy, the Commission recognizes that conserving energy, natural resources and raw materials will be the key drivers of the future competitiveness of the EU economy. The challenge that the Commission sees is to become a smarter, greener economy. The key items for EU 2020 are:

Wasted

Member States of the European Union throw away resources worth over 5 billion Euro each year, according to a study of Friends of the Earth Europe. Friends of the Earth calls upon Europe to stop landfilling and incinerating of waste. If all recyclable waste were really recycled this would save the emission of 148 million tones of CO₂. It is surprising that the European Commission and Member States have done so little to make sure that valuable secondary resources are not dumped in the ground or burned.

Recast of WEEE Directive

It is estimated that each European produces 17-20 kg. of waste from electric and electronic equipment per year. According to the WEEE Directive, 4 kg/capita per year should be collected and recycled. The European Commission has proposed a new target of 65%. Producers of electric and electronic equipment point out though, that much waste is still collected in other ways for re-use, or shipped outside the EU. Much waste is therefore not even in the system. The Commission is arguing that extended producer responsibility must be developed to acquire more of the waste. The first reading in the European Parliament of the Commission's proposal is now foreseen in May 2010.

European Commission studies 70% target

The new Waste Framework Directive provides for a 70% recycling/recovery target of Construction - & Demolition Waste. The way to meet this target is still open. At first it needs to be clear what is meant by 70% recycling/recovery and how the progress in Europe should be monitored.

The European Commission has launched a study that will look into these issues. The study will look into the situation in Member States and identify success factors for recycling. The study must also reveal a method to monitor the 70% target.

Minerals Forum focuses on sustainability

Every year the European Minerals Foundation organises the Minerals Forum. On 25 November the 2009 Forum had a strong focus on sustainability. Key speakers, amongst others from the European Commission, addressed such issues as Health & Safety, energy efficiency, raw materials supply and waste management. In the afternoon a specific break-out session was dedicated to recycling of Construction- & Demolition Waste. Experts from various backgrounds discussed the necessary steps that need to be taken in order for recycling to develop. Geert Cuperus, as rapporteur,

referred to the session as an important first step for all stakeholders to realise the important ambitions of the Commission.

Recycled Aggregates: waste or not?

The struggle for product-status of recycled aggregates still continues. Whereas Belgium has far reaching agreements that recycled aggregates are not waste anymore, Germany and the Netherlands are facing new [weerstand] from authorities. In the UK a protocol has been developed that facilitates the recognition of recycled aggregates as product. According to the new Waste Framework Directive criteria will be developed to determine the end-of-waste status. The European Commission has indicated that this work will only start end of 2010 or in 2011.

From the members

Israel new member of FIR

The Israeli Recycling Forum has joined FIR. This important step was taken after an interesting visit of the Forum to recycling plants in the Netherlands and discussions with FIR. FIR is very honoured to welcome its first member from this region. The Israeli Recycling Forum is a cooperation of recycling companies that wish to strengthen the efforts to establish a proper recycling industry.

Strabag member of FIR

The Austrian company Strabag has joined FIR. Strabag is a leading European construction group originating from Austria.