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**Fédération Internationale du Recyclage International
International Recycling Federation
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FIR Newsletter

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In Europe

European Waste Implementation Agency

It is a common fact that implementation of European waste legislation is far from perfect. In 2008 there were 141 waste-related infringement procedures, accounting for 19% of all environmental infringement procedures. The number of illegal waste landfills is estimated to be 7,000 in the EU, but this figure could well be higher. The package of waste legislation is complex and it needs continuous updating by Member States to keep fully adjusted. The European Commission is taking steps to strengthen implementation by assisting Member States. A helpdesk is established to provide information and awareness raising campaigns are organised. A study is currently underway to assess whether a dedicated agency could improve the

implementation of EU waste legislation. This would enlighten the task of the few people within the European Commission dealing with waste.

The study is expected to be available in October 2009. After that the Commission might issue a Green Paper on the matter.

New IPPC – new BREF

In 2007 the European Commission proposed a recast of seven Directives, including the IPPC Directive and the Waste Incineration Directive. The new Directive on Industrial Emissions had its first reading in Parliament in March 2009. On June 2009 the European Council found political agreement on this important piece of legislation.

One background of the recast was to reduce the administrative burden of the rather complex legislation that was in place. Just 50% of the industrial installations have been granted permits in compliance with the current IPPC Directive. The new Directive will strengthen the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT). The role of BAT in permitting procedures will become even more important.

Important to notice is, that the recovery of non-hazardous waste is now within the scope of the Directive. A second reading in Parliament is now foreseen.

A revision of the current BREF Waste Treatment was foreseen in 2010. This BREF document describes Best Available Techniques for waste management operations. The revision is now expected in 2011. The drafting of the BREF document will be done by the Joint Research Centre in Sevilla. Prior to that, a period of exchange of information with industry must provide for the basis of the new requirements.

Waste incineration as recovery

According to the new Waste Framework Directive, waste incineration may be regarded as a recovery operation (R1 versus D10) when the overall energy efficiency of the plant is more than 0.6. The European Commission is currently elaborating on a guidance document for Member States. This document deals with the interpretation of the formula, the definition of the scope and methods to monitor compliance with the R1 formula. A working group including stakeholders will discuss the document in October or November 2009.

New chairman of the Environmental Committee

The German socialist Jo Leinen is the new chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. Jo Leinen is an active environmentalist. He is former president of the European Environmental Bureau and minister of Environment in Saarland. Karl-Heinz Florenz, former chairman of the Committee, is again member.

LCA on plasterboard

Eurogypsum, the European association of plasterboard manufacturers, has carried out an LCA study on plasterboard. The study has recently been finalised and a briefing of the results will soon be prepared by Eurogypsum.

More waste incinerators, example Slovenia

Frost&Sullivan consultancy have counted 429 waste-to-energy (incinerators) in Europe. Expansion is still going on, although the current crises is slowing down the pace at which plants are built.

Eastern Europe is of great interest. For instance in Slovenia fifteen new waste-to-energy plants are planned for the coming years. The European Union supports the program with more than 200 million Euro. The new infrastructure in Slovenia must also include new capacity for recycling.

UK looking for sorting technology

WRAP, the Waste Recycling Action Program, in the UK is now looking into the issue of non-inert Construction- & Demolition Waste. This non-inert fraction contains several components that can well be recovered and recycled, such as wood, metals and plastics. Additional processes and technologies need however to be implemented in order to obtain higher yields. For that reason WRAP set out studies to explore possibilities. Recycling plants in other Member States such as Germany and the Netherlands are also visited to obtain insight into state-of-the art technology. FIR has provided for information to the studies.

From the members

New Flemish federation

FIR member VVS has merged with the Flemish association VMR (Association of Fixed and Mobile Recycling). The new Flemish organisation is called FPRG (Federation of Producers of Recycled aggregates). FPRG's aims are:

- representation of producers of recycled aggregates
- finding sufficient markets for recycled aggregates
- realising the highest value applications
- protect the environment by complying with environmental legislation

FIR Board member Willy Goossens is president of the new Flemish federation. New director of FPRG is Mr. Johan Put. The new FPRG will keep strengthening FIR as VVS has previously supported the work of FIR.

Interforum Zaragoza

On 20/21 May the 15th FIR Interforum took place in Zaragoza. Again a good mixture of technical, economic and political presentations were given by a selection of key speakers. The event took place in a setting where the Spanish recycling industry is facing serious economic troubles, after having seen good developments. The political will is growing and EU requirements support this. However, the markets still need to recover.

Good examples from Germany showed that recycling does pay off. The standards developed by CEN provide for a good technical framework. Mr. Gunther Wolff from the European Commission presented the new European framework which is to develop recycling of Construction- & Demolition Waste (C&DW). A new target of 70% recycling in 2020 must urge Member States to develop recycling. Mr. Wolf announced new studies that will look into the approaches needed to realize the 70% target and invited the industry to take part in the work that needs to be done.



Mr. Gunther Wolff of the European Commission