

INTERNAL 2010



MUNICIPAL WASTE EUROPE

– promoting public responsibility for waste

INTERNAL UPDATE 21

EIPA study on the importance of the municipalities in waste and procurement issues

The European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) has recently finished a case study of the Landfill waste directive and the directives on public procurement.

The final report has not yet been published but the study is enclosed with special thanks to Christof.

The study includes an ex-post assessment study in six countries France, the Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway. The national implementation processes have been studied, both generally and specifically regarding landfilling and public procurement.

The main findings of the report are divided into two areas.

Pre-legislative and Legislative Phases

1. The pre-legislative phase still does not receive sufficient attention at State and sub-state levels for both the landfill and PP directives
2. No ex-ante impact assessment was made during the preparation of the two directives, although important warnings were made
3. Nowadays new mechanisms are in place to facilitate the detection of particularly relevant impacts, which need to be supported by a better multilevel exchange of information
4. As yet the 2009EC impact assessment (IA) guidelines have not been sufficiently mirrored at State and sub-state levels to enable the effective detection at an early stage of regional/local institutional impacts
5. The low level of involvement of sub-national authorities in the EU decision-making process may also be explained by other factors
6. The transposition deadlines of the two directives were exceeded by the majority of the countries analysed, although an improvement is shown between the two
7. Several factors prevent States from achieving flexible transposition
8. Major improvements in consultation and coordination practices during the transposition and implementation phases
9. Institutional impacts are linked to the type of directive as well as national preparedness.
10. The PP Directive has a clear impact on local autonomy.
11. The dilemma: to copy or go beyond the directives?
12. Investments in training and guidance are positively considered by regional and local implementing actors

The conclusions in chapter 9 provides recommendations or improvement in the following areas:

- To improve awareness and preparedness of potential institutional impacts at national/regional/local levels

- To conduct a careful analysis of the legislative instruments for good transposition
- To develop adequate tools to comply with EU legislation and transposition deadlines.
- To maximise capacity-building efforts for proper implementation

The table on page 118 shows the importance of Municipal Waste Europe, as there is no other organisation in Brussels discussing specific waste management from a perspective of public authorities.

The report is attached to this newsletter separately.

The forthcoming Belgian Presidency, 1 July 2010 – 31 December 2010

The forthcoming Belgian presidency will present its work programme in the beginning of July. It will be formally approved by the Belgian government in mid June, discussed EU Commission on 2 July and submitted to the European Parliament on 7 July.

The work programme is based on the five priorities: Socio-economics, social welfare, justice/freedom/security, foreign policy and environment. The work regarding the environmental dossier will be based mainly on cutting carbon emissions through preparing for the UN COP16 summit in Cancun where the Belgian Presidency wants ambitious, tangible targets to be decided upon. The Belgian Presidency will also focus on the impact of road transport's external costs on users and prepare for the tenth conference of the parties on biodiversity and improve the EU's environmental legislation.

The details are not yet published.

However it is clear that all work will be approached from a European point of view, with ambitions to implement the Lisbon Treaty to the letter and respect its spirit, meaning that the importance of the rotating presidency had to be kept in proportion so that the European institutions can play a full role.

The rumours are that this would suit everybody with the current domestic political difficulties within Belgium.

Mapping of Public services

For many years there has been a lack of statistical information covering public services, the services that are essential for the economy and the welfare.

A large study now proves what has been known for a long time but never could be clarified: The public services are amongst the biggest employers in Europe, serving 500 million people through more than 500 000 providers of public services.

The study, carried out by CEEP, show that providers of public services employ 64 million people, directly contributing over 26% to the GDP in the EU.

The study includes statistics about the public services of waste management (called refuse services in statistical terms), however the public fact sheet does not mention it specifically.

Read the fact sheet with more background information on the CEEP study here:

<http://www.ceep.eu/images/stories/pdf/publications/Mapping%20fact%20sheet%20vfinal%202010%2005%2005.pdf>

Read the CEEP press release here:

<http://www.ceep.eu/images/stories/pdf/Press/2010/10press5en-Mapping%20of%20public%20services%202010%2003%2024.pdf>

ENVI to Iceland

The European Parliament sends on 25-28 May a delegation from the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety to Iceland in view of its application for membership of the European Union. The members of the delegation are Richard Seebe (EPP, Austria), José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, Portugal) and Gaston Franco (EPP, France).

Biogas, biomass, bioenergy in Brussels

The first annual European Bioenergy Conference & Exhibition will be held in Brussels from June 30th to July 1st. The ambition is to create a meeting point for the EU decisions makers, leading companies and research & development as well as giving an overview on the newest developments and innovations in the bioenergy market and EU legislations with a chance to have influence on EU institutions.

More information about the two joining events can be found here:

<http://www.renexpo-bioenergy.eu/>

Soil, Climate Change and Biodiversity

The Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission, in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre and the Directorate-General for Climate Action, hosts a high-level conference on the interrelations between soil, climate change and biodiversity that will take place in Brussels on 23 and 24 September 2010.

The event is relevant in relationship to biowaste treatment with ambitions to provide soil improvement substances and nutrients.

More information will soon be provided here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/biodiversity_conf.htm

Best regards,
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The Municipal Waste Europe office will be closed for summer vacation between 26 July and 30 August 2010.