

INTERNAL 2010



MUNICIPAL WASTE EUROPE

– promoting public responsibility for waste

INTERNAL UPDATE 26

Consultation on EIA

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive. (Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended)

All citizens, stakeholders and organisations involved in environmental impact assessments (of plans, programmes or projects) are invited to respond to the public consultation. The Commission is equally interested in getting the views of National Parliaments, Public Administrations (at national, regional and local level) as well as other institutions.

If you are interested, please answer the questionnaire in your own name, and spread the information about the consultation to all who are interested or information to provide. The questionnaire is available in all EU languages.

Municipal Waste Europe will not answer the questionnaire.

Please find all information here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/eia.htm>

Consultation on the Service directive

In the implementation process of the service directive, the Commission invites interested to share its opinion on a national basis regarding delivery of services. Please note that only certain types of measures relating to requirements imposed either on the establishment of service providers or on the cross border provision of their services form the object of this consultation.

For more explanations, please see the attached consultation documents.

Background document is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/docs/2010/services_directive/consultation_paper_en.pdf

All the information about the consultation is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2010/services_directive_en.htm

Read the press release here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/862&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Belgian presidency work program and website

The forthcoming Belgian Presidency of the European Council has presented its work programme.

In our areas of interest, the Presidency will concentrate on improving the application of legislation on waste as well as initiating a policy debate concerning the 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP). The Belgian Presidency will also focus on economic incentives "designed to bring about a change in behaviours that are damaging to the environment and to promote energy-efficient products and services."

The Informal Environment Ministers Council under the Belgian Presidency will examine "how the transition to an economy that makes efficient use of resources can be ensured in each phase of the lifecycle of materials, products and waste".

The Belgian Presidency will also "attempt to make progress on Council and Parliament negotiations" relating to hazardous substances from electrical and electronic equipment and their waste (RoHS and WEEE).

The complete Belgian Presidency Work programme can be found here:
http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Programme_EN.pdf

Infringement, Commission acts on waste cases

The European Commission has initiated infringement procedures against several member states this week. The member states have despite one or two referrals, continued to breach European legislation on the environment. Several cases are waste related.

The commissioner for the environment Janez Potoènik stated his great satisfaction with the procedures.

A case at the European Court of Justice (third stage procedure) will therefore be lodged against two member states on waste issues:

- Greece, for failings observed in managing waste from the Fyli-Skalistiri landfill in the Attiki region infringing Directives 2006/12/EC and 1999/31/EC, relating to waste and landfill of waste respectively;
- Belgium, for failure to implement in full Directive 2000/53/EC on end of life vehicles;

The press release can be found here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/830&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

More information on the implementation processes can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/law/index.htm>

A reasoned opinion (second stage of the procedure) is also sent to the following countries:

- Latvia: for incorrect transposition of Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment because in Latvian law, the definition of the Latvian producer refers to the national market, whereas the terms of the directive stipulate that the producer definition should refer to the EU market concerning the production of electrical and electronic equipment).
- Slovakia: for infringing Directive 1999/31/EC on waste discharge concerning the operation of the Landfill site in Považský Chlmec, near Žilina. Slovak authorities are still not communicated information confirming that specific documents required have been provided in order to allow it to continue operating the "existing landfill site" after 16 July 2009.

The Commission also presents its delight with several countries:

- France for complying with its obligations to rectify nitrate pollution of sources of drinking water in Brittany and that infringement procedure begun 10 years ago has now closed.
- Spain for now respecting rules on the protection of birds in many protected zones under the EU-wide Natura 2000 natural habitats network.

Waste and energy issues

This week I gave a presentation to the Swedish Energy network in Brussels on the common issues for the waste and energy sectors. The Swedish Energy network is administrated by Swedish Energy, a trade association with an office in Brussels, and dominated by the large energy companies Vattenfall and E.ON.

The meeting included a presentation from EURELECTRIC, the association of the electricity industry in Europe: electricity producers, suppliers, traders and distributors from the EU and other European affiliates, www.eurelectric.org. The head of their network unit, the German Gunnar Lorenz, presented the discussions on Distribution Systems Operators (DSO's) and the Renewable Energy Systems Action Plan. It is clear their perspective is purely financial, especially in their demand that development of renewable energy must be market base without any kind of support or subsidies, even though their operations were once developed by public financial support.

The meeting also included a presentation from the Energy councillor of the Swedish representation in Brussels, Martina Högberg, who presented the Swedish governments priorities with regard to energy.

Their agenda for the Belgian presidency is:

- Infrastructure package, to be presented in November
- Directive proposal on radioactive waste and spent fuel
- Sustainability criteria for biomass, there will be a specific conference on biomass 29 November arranged by the Belgian presidency
- Energy strategy, to be presented in November
- Action Plan for Energy efficiency, delivered earliest beginning of 2011
- Plan for 2050, delivered spring 2011

I gave a presentation on the need to think in systems when looking at the environmental targets in the European Union.

My presentation (Swedish) is attached to this email separately.

Belgian Presidency Biowaste seminar 21 September

The Belgian Presidency through OVAM/Flanders is in favour of drafting a EU directive on Biowaste.

Their position is presented further here:

<http://www.ovam.be/jahia/Jahia/pid/2103>

They organise on 21 September together with The Committee of Regions, a seminar on Biowaste.

The programme is available here:

http://www.ovam.be/jahia/Jahia/cache/bypass/pid/176?appid=39739_29&appparams=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ovam.be%2FovamPublicationsWeb_myjahiasite%2FPublicaties&resetAppSession=true#field_39739

Registrations can be made here (before 14 September):

<http://www.ovam.be/jahia/Jahia/pid/2346>

I will attend.

Internal Seminar on biowaste, 10 September

Invitation, programme and registration form has been sent out for our internal seminar on biowaste in Brussels Friday 10 September.

Please note the registration is to have reached Avfall Norge no later than 1 September.

The Policy Committee will be held Monday 13 September. Let me know if you are staying in Brussels over the weekend as some extra-curriculum activities will be arranged.

Biodegradable – viable options in lifecycle analysis

Worldwatch explores history, production methods and environmental and social impacts of everyday products. Several producers are looking into targeting green markets and to search for biodegradable options.

One particular product is discussed here:

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6462>

Next week

Meeting with accountant and internal treasurer

Deadline for comments on Communication Plan and Policy

Preparation of all documents for Policy Committee in September

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

Best regards,

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