

STAKEHOLDER CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECTORAL CASE STUDIES FOR THE COMMUNICATION ON BY/PRODUCTS AND WASTE

ORGANISATION: Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee
REPRESENTING: Waste Management functions of UK local authorities
<p>EXAMPLE(S) OF A BY/PRODUCT:</p> <p>Composted material/stabilised biowaste from treatment of mixed or source-separated wastes that may be used beneficially as a soil-making material.</p>
<p>EXAMPLE(S) OF A WASTE:</p> <p>Stabilised biowaste from mechanical &amp; biological treatment of municipal solid waste that is then landfilled.</p>
<p>EXAMPLES/ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON ORGANISATION (lack of clarity, differences in implementation between Member States, inappropriate classification – either practical cases, or a description of the impact on the operators concerned.)</p> <p>This relates to Chapter 3, Article 11 of the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste ((End of Waste).</p> <p>Wrong classification of composted materials capable of beneficial use as soil making material as waste restricts and militates against the appropriate use of compost, because it is then subject to waste management regulations and not to regulations governing the use of products on land, and is usually then landfilled. The impact is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a loss of useful material to the biosphere,</li> <li>b) a reduction in organic material in soils (relates to the Soil Thematic Strategy),</li> <li>c) a waste of financial and environmental resources used in discarding this material,</li> <li>d) more waste material that is still biologically active is landfilled</li> </ul> <p>In particular a market exists for soil-making material for landscaping and remediation of contaminated land, for which a lower specification would be appropriate than for agriculture and horticulture. The creation of a range of fit for purpose specifications for these applications is necessary for the re-classification of this by-product. Similarly to the use of graded applications of the by products of the oil cracking process, this would ensure that the majority of grades of material produced by MBT plants and compost systems find beneficial use. These plants are not able to conform with the highest standards (e.g. UK PAS 100), but all products would have to conform to minimum standards, including the Animal By-products Regulation.</p> <p>This proposal would prevent the loss of environmental benefit from graded materials that currently are deemed only to be suitable for landfilling or, at least, are subject to burdensome regulation as wastes.</p>