



Public Hearing of the ENVI Committee on the Waste Legislative Package 22 January 2015

+++ The spoken text will prevail in the event of differences +++

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank Giovanni La Via (*Chair of the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament*) for his kind invitation to speak at this hearing on the "Waste Legislative Package".

Let me begin by briefly introducing FEAD which is the European Federation representing the European private waste management industry. FEAD's members are national waste management associations covering 18 EU Member States, Norway and Serbia. They have an approximate 60% share in the household waste market and handle more than 75% of industrial and commercial waste in Europe. Their combined annual turnover is approximately € 75 billion.

FEAD opposes the withdrawal of the Waste Legislative Package announced by Vice-President Timmermans (*In his presentation of the 2015 Work Programme in the Parliament on 16 December 2014*). FEAD supports the existing proposal (*Presented by former Environment Commissioner Potocnik in June 2014*). We took good note that last week six out of seven political groups criticized the new Commission's intentions regarding the Waste Package. A majority of MEPs (*52% of MEPs present in the plenary last week*) strongly opposed the withdrawal and no resolution in support of the 2015 Work Programme could be adopted. This sends a strong signal to the Commission. We therefore urge the European Parliament to keep up the political pressure and continue its work on the basis of the existing proposal.

The private waste management sector would welcome the adoption of the Waste Package without unnecessary delays. Certainty about the politically desired level of environmental standards in Europe provides a medium term legal certainty that will unlock private investments. Up to date, some Member States are lacking the infrastructure and know-how to manage waste as a resource, in line with existing EU waste legislation.

We appeal to you to ensure that appropriate financial instruments will be incorporated. Between 2000 and 2013 Cohesion Policy assistance for projects in the waste sector amounted to EUR 10.5 bn. However, the funding was not always used in a way that supported the routing of waste streams to the upper parts of the waste hierarchy (*Reuse, Repair, Recycling*). We hope that the ex-ante conditionality criteria (*Adopted waste and waste prevention plans in line with Waste Framework Directive, contribution to achievement of the 2020 recycling targets*) established in the ERDF (*European Regional Development Fund*) and Cohesion Fund for 2014-2020 will be applied strictly in order to improve the allocation of EU funds.

In the past, disbursement rates of European public funding available in the waste sector have been poor. Especially member states that lag behind with the implementation of the Waste

Acquis have failed to benefit from EU support. Local governments often lack the technical and managerial expertise or the means for co-financing requirements, especially in the recycling sector. Public-Private-Partnerships are a useful vehicle for local governments to attract these inputs from the private sector. It is important that the Waste Package addresses these options.

We were pleased to hear Vice-President Timmerman's announcement that the Circular Economy will benefit from the new EUR 315 billion investment plan (*the "Juncker plan"; the fund is envisaged to be established in June 2015*). FEAD urges the ENVI Committee to make sure that conditions, similar to the ones in the structural funds mentioned, will be built in.

We urge the European Commission to draft a European waste management plan. Such a plan should take stock of existing infrastructure in the EU and calculate investment needs to realize the recycling and landfill targets. National waste management plans do not take into account the infrastructures that already exist across national borders. Coordination on the European level and free movement of waste across borders could ensure efficient public and private investments in waste management infrastructure.

The private recycling sector is dynamic and a lot of advances have been made in technologies that turn waste into a resource over the last decade. The know-how and highly complex technologies are currently put into use in only some member states. To unleash the huge investment and job-creating potential of the recycling sector in Europe it is important to incorporate economic tools into the Waste Package.

If the EU wants more ambition and economic focus on the Circular Economy package, FEAD members across the European Union stand ready to help the European Commission.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much for your attention! I will be glad to answer any question you may have.
