

# WHAT EUROPEAN POLICY FOR RECYCLING ?

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Brussels, 4 June 2010



# WHAT EUROPEAN POLICY FOR RECYCLING ?

## A LOT OF PROPOSALS ALREADY FORMULATED

- 1998 : COM « RECYCLING AND COMPETITIVITY »
- 2003 : COM « TOWARDS THEMATIC STRATEGY ON RECYCLING »  
(2005 : “THEMATIC STRATEGY WASTE RECYCLING”)
- 2007 : « THE LEAD MARKET INITIATIVE / Action Plan for Recycling »
- 2008 : COM : « THE RAW MATERIAL INITIATIVE »  
(2008-2010 WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE )
- 2009 : PRESIDENCY : PROPOSALS ABOUT RECYCLING
- 2010 : COM « FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
- 2010 : BELGIAN PRESIDENCY :?

## KEY ISSUE TO DEBATE



## PROPOSALS FROM COM98 « RECYCLING AND COMPETITIVITY »

- **More standardisation** ( use of secondary raw materials; substitution of hazardous substances; marking systems...)
- **More transparency of market** ( exchanges of recyclable, LCA, awareness campaigns;...)
- **More support to innovation** ( R&D, research results dissemination, promotion of good practices, training programmes,...)
- **Better regulation** (simplification, implementation, ..., greening of public procurement)



# Proposals from COM 2003 « TOWARDS THEMATIC STRATEGY ON WASTE RECYCLING »

## WHY NOT NEW RECYCLING TARGETS ?

- > Material-oriented targets (papers, plastics)
- Targets for the Community as a whole
- Indicative recycling targets (c&dw, msw)

## WHY NOT NEW INCENTIVE MEASURES ?

- Common criteria for landfill taxes
- More producer responsibility (packaging, batteries)
- Tradable certificates
- Promotion of pay-as-you-throw schemes
- Information exchange at European level on incentives to recycle
- Landfill bans or obligatory source separation?

THEMATIC STRATEGY -2005

EUROPEAN  
RECYCLING  
SOCIETY= ...

- BETTER  
REGULATION  
- LIFE-CYCLE  
THINKING



Proposals from  
« The Lead Market Initiative / Action Plan for  
Recycling » SEC(2007)1730

**→ Reinforce the Thematic Strategy on Recycling**

- ways of promoting recycling markets,
- material-based approaches
- international trade aspects

**→ Develop a European Observatory on Eco-innovation**



Proposals from  
« THE RAW MATERIAL INITIATIVE »  
- Meeting our critical needs for  
growth and jobs in Europe -  
- COM (2008) 699

- Access to raw materials on world markets at undistorted conditions
- Sustainable supply of raw materials from European sources
- Increase resource efficiency , promote **recycling** and facilitate the use of secondary raw material



## Waste Framework Directive 2008/98

- **RECYCLING** = (art.3, 17<sup>o</sup>) « any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations »
- **3rd Step of the WASTE HIERARCHY** : (art.4) : AFTER « prevention » and « preparing for reuse » BEFORE « energy recovery »
- **End-of Waste Criteria**
  - “ **RE-USE AND RECYCLING TARGETS** “ *By 2020,*
  - *the preparing for re-use and the recycling of waste materials such as at least paper, metal, plastic and glass from **households** and possibly...**similar** ..., shall be increased to a minimum of overall **50 % by weight**;*
  - *the preparing for re-use, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling ..., of non-hazardous **construction and demolition waste** ...shall be increased to a minimum of **70 % by weight.**”*



Proposals from  
« THE PRESIDENCY TO THE EU COUNCIL »  
2nd March 2009

- Maintain **existing targets** + Develop **new targets**
- Support public confidence in recycling
- Update waste plans
- Reduce administrative burdens
- Accelerate work on the end-of-waste criteria
- Improve the quality of sorting methods
- Integrate **recyclability criteria in the Eco-design directive**
- **Improve taxes** (on disposal; on primary raw materials)
- **Reduce corporate tax** for using recycled materials and **VAT** for some recycled products
- Encourage the purchase of recycled materials via public and private **procurement**
- Control more **strictly transboundary** shipments of waste
- Accelerate the LEAD MARKETS INITIATIVE ON RECYCLING ( re-focusing on R&D and best practices)



## EUROPE 2020 ( COM (2010)2020)

### **FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES**

- « **RESOURCE EFFICIENT EUROPE** »  
...more efficient recycling
- « **INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR THE GLOBALISATION ERA** »  
...more effective recycling

...I have called it a common sense revolution... **RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**...

It is a rethinking, recycling, reusing revolution...I mean not just energy which is course very important, but all material resources...

( Potocnik –April 2010)



## BELGIAN PRESIDENCY: ? ( informal council July 2010 on SMM)

- scope « **SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT** »

➔ **MORE INTEGRATION**

( between EU initiatives related to natural resources, products, production and consumption and waste )

➔ **MORE LONG-TERM STRATEGIC GOALS AND INDICATORS FOR SMM**

➔ **MORE FUNDAMENTAL SYSTEMS INNOVATION**

➔ **EUROPEAN MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SMM TRANSITION PLATFORM**



## BELGIAN PRESIDENCY →? (resolution on SCP/SMM)

- Need for strong EU sustainable materials management policy
  - **integrated policy approach** that seeks to reduce environmental impacts of materials use and conserve natural resources throughout the life-cycle of materials (independent of whether they are **raw materials, products, or waste**)
  - **efficiency** (produce more output with less input) and **sufficiency** (consume less/smarter/differently)



BELGIAN PRESIDENCY →?  
(International Conference 25-26 November  
+ resolution on...  
BETTER INSTRUMENTS FOR EU  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY)

- FOR A **SUCCESSOR TO THE 6th EAP**
- ...that addresses the questions of **Better Regulation, Better Assessment, Better Implementation and Better Governance** in EU environmental policy.
- ...that addresses the challenges of today (climate change, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity, ...)  
with a **new global business and consumption model**  
based on resource-efficient society.



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# KEY- ISSUES TO RECYCLING DEBATE

- EUROPEAN TARGETS ?  
(more coherent recycling targets )  
(common calculation methodology)
  
- EUROPEAN STANDARDS?  
( for eco-design  
( for green public –and private -procurement)  
( for selective collection - main flows /EU marking)  
( for sustainable recycling - cfr Dumping to Asia-Africa)
  
- ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS ?  
(Taxes on raw materials)  
(Taxes on landfill and incineration)  
(Differentiated VAT)  
(Producer responsibility 100% financial)  
(Green certificates for recycling)
  
- BEST PRACTICES?  
(Exchange of information and experience with involment of  
LRAs – cfr ACR+)



# Rendez-vous à Paris in September 2010!

## ACR+ International Conference

**“Towards a European Observatory for municipal waste recycling performances”**, co-organised with ORDIF, 16-17 September 2010, Paris, France

*“ACR+ calls European local and regional authorities to set up a true Observatory allowing performances benchmark and optimisation of municipal waste management”*

<http://www.acrplus.org/ParisConf-2010>