



I. EU Waste Legislation

Waste Strategy

The waste and resources strategies are two of the seven 'thematic' strategies required under the 6th Environment Action Programme (2002-2012). EU environment legislation has helped improve the way waste is disposed and how to recycle specific waste streams, i.e. municipal waste, packaging, electric and electronic equipment. In addition, high standards exist for landfills and incinerators. However, waste generation in the EU is increasing at elevated rates.

Thus, the Commission proposes revising the 1975 Waste Framework Directive to set recycling standards and to include an obligation for Member States to develop national waste prevention programmes. The key concept is "life-cycle approach", which does not only look at pollution caused by waste. It must also consider of how waste policies can efficiently reduce the negative environmental impacts associated with the use of resources through preventing, recycling and recovering waste.

The main elements of the proposed revision of the Waste Framework Directive are:

- ◆ Focusing waste policy on improving the way resources are used;
- ◆ Mandatory national waste prevention programmes, which take account of the variety of national, regional and local conditions (to be finalised three years after the entry into force of the directive);
- ◆ Improving the recycling market by setting environmental standards that specify under which conditions certain recycled wastes are no longer considered waste;
- ◆ Simplifying waste legislation by clarifying definitions, and integrating the directives on hazardous waste (91/689/EEC) and on waste oils (75/439/EEC).

Resource Strategy

The strategy is focusing on improving knowledge, developing monitoring tools and fostering strategic approaches in specific economic sectors. As the global economy grows, so does the use of natural resources such as land, forests, wildlife, soil, air, water, fossil fuels and raw materials. However, many current use patterns and technologies produce environmental impacts that jeopardise the future availability of resources.

The "Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources" develops a policy framework to reduce the environmental impacts of resource use in a growing economy, through: 1) More value (increasing resource productivity) – 2) Less impact (increasing eco-efficiency) – 3) Better alternatives. This is to be achieved over the whole life cycle of resource use. Since waste represents the last phase in the life cycle of a resource, the resources strategy will generate important information for the thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste.

Taking a time horizon of 25 years, the strategy proposes:

- ◆ A Data Centre run by the European Commission to bring together all available knowledge on natural resources and inform decision-makers;
- ◆ An International Panel to be set up in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide independent scientific advice on global aspects of resource use;
- ◆ The development of national measures and programmes by Member States under the guidance of a High Level Forum with representatives from the Commission, Member States and other stakeholders;
- ◆ By 2008 the development of indicators to monitor and regularly review progress.

II. ELV

ELV Directive Objectives are :

- ◆ To minimize impact of end of life vehicles on the environment
- ◆ To promote the functioning of the internal market and to avoid distortions of competition in the field of ELV
- ◆ To create a coherent framework approach that will favour recycling and recovery at national level, taking into account the principle of subsidiarity and the polluter pays principle; the ELV Directive is a Producer Responsibility Directive

MS should ensure that systems for the collection, treatment and recovery, are set up; the definition of waste is the one of Directive 75/442/EC → which will NOT BE CHANGED during the revision. Ex art. 7 (Re-Use and recovery) → Re-use and recovery must be encouraged:

- ◆ 85% reuse and recovery, by weight and the year of production, by January 1, 2006
- ◆ 80% reuse and recycling, by weight and the year of production, by January 1, 2006
- ◆ 95% reuse and recovery, by weight and the year of production, by January 1, 2015
- ◆ 85% reuse and recycling, by weight and the year of production, by January 1, 2015

The Directive imposed having a report from the Member States on the implementation of the Directive. The report, issued on 4th November 2005, verified that the Directive had been fully transposed in the MS, but an effective implementation is to be seen still as a long term goal. In addition, the Commission verified that definitions vary from MS to MS, that waste treatment methods are differently classified through the MS (→ rendering almost impossible to compare data)

III. REACH

EuPC/ETHIC have taken the initiative to participate to the RIP 3.2 Phase 2 project financed by the European Commission. DG JRC will take the lead but a number of tasks will be carried out by ECB and 50% of the work will be contracted out via a Call of tender procedure.

The Project will last 12 months (should start on 1st April 2006); the additional two

(as foreseen by the Commission) will probably serve as reserve months to adjust the work to Commission inputs; however the final draft should be ready after 10 months; 500.000€ is the budget allocated by the EC.

EuPC/ETHIC have been inserted in the list of leading organizations in the field of 1) Preparations and 2) Recycling and will provide input and have the lead on preparations/recycling.

The main objectives are:

- ◆ To further develop the concept of exposure scenarios, their use for quantitative exposure assessment and their incorporation into Safety Data Sheets according to the preliminary framework developed in the RIP 3.2-1 project. The starting point for this activity shall be the development of a number of practical examples involving five sectors / branches / supply chains where the contractor acts as facilitator;
- ◆ To develop the guidance document for preparing the CSA and documenting it in the CSR. In line with the outcome of the RIP 3.2-1 scoping study, it is expected that the end product will be a two-level TGD; a 'concise TGD' for less complicated cases and applicable by persons/companies with limited risk assessment experience and a 'reference TGD' providing scientific background for cases where such is needed and requiring expert knowledge.

Leading Organisations :

1. Project	CEFIC
2. WP1 (Exemplification of the ES and the CSA/CSR)	Ökopol
3. WP2 (Refining the ES concept)	DHI
4. WP3 (TGD testing and development)	RIVM
5. Occupational Issues	TNO
6. Consumer Issues	BFR
7. Environmental Issues	UBA

IV. News from the EU Presidency

Thanks to the European Union, the agreement on "a *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management*" was reached on Monday 6th February 2006 in Dubai, under the auspices of the United Nations. It is the first time that a global approach has been successfully agreed in promoting the "safe" management of all types of chemicals, which will be that mankind will be able to benefit from the use and production of chemicals while risks to human health and the environment are minimised.

In Dubai, more than 140 countries agreed to the "*Strategic Ap-*

proach to International Chemicals Management" (SAICM). It aims to ensure that chemicals management all over the world is done in a manner that will lead to a minimisation of adverse effects on human health and the environment. The main discussions were related to the developing countries in order to help them manage chemicals safely. The USA tried, without success, to prevent SAICM becoming a global agreement. SAICM scope will go beyond agricultural and industrial chemicals and it will cover household products and biocides. The EU also stressed a global lack of scientific certainty regarding the management of chemicals.

The next step will be: *implementation*. SAICM established a monitoring system that will verify the progresses made by 2009.

V. Conferences & Meetings

- ◆ **ETHIC** Dinner and Plenary Meeting, Brussels, 3-4 April 2006
- ◆ **EuPC** Blow Moulding Conference, Brussels, 23-24 March 2006
- ◆ **EuPC** IV^o Packaging Forum, Helsinki, 8th June 2006
- ◆ **EuPC** Conference on International Trade, Brussels, 6th December 2006
- ◆ **EuPC** III^o Conference on REACH, Brussels, 7th December 2006

VI. Coming up in the next newsletter :

- ◆ *REACH*
- ◆ *IPPC* (The Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive)
- ◆ *EU Community Patent*
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