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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Votes “Yes” for European legislation on bio-waste

On the 2nd June the Environment Committee of the European Parliament (EP) voted in favour for specific legislation on bio-waste. This vote was based on the report on the Commission Green Paper on the management of bio-waste in the European Union (2009/2153 (INI)). Meanwhile this clear signal was confirmed by the plenum of the European Parliament. In contrary to the published „Communication on bio-waste“ by the European Commission, the Parliament stated that the rules on the management of bio-waste are fragmented and the current legislative instruments are not sufficient to achieve the stated objectives of the effective management of bio-waste. Consequently the Parliament requires a proposal for a specific legislation on bio-waste by the end of 2010.

Requirements of the Parliament

Based on several fundamental issues, like the necessity to define quality standards for the treatment of bio-waste and the quality of compost on EU-level, the European Parliament urges the Commission to review the existing legislation applicable to bio-waste with a view, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle, to drawing up a proposal for a specific directive by the end of 2010, including inter alia:

- establishment of a mandatory separate collection system for the Member States, except where this is not the appropriate option from the environmental and economic point of view,
- recycling of bio-waste,
- a quality-based classification of the different types of compost from bio-waste.

Referring to this, the European Commission should implement a system regulating the quality parameters for compost, ensuring traceability, the quality and safe use of compost with the target to build consumer confidence in this waste-derived product.

The European Parliament recommended that treated bio-waste should be used to conserve organic matter and complete nutrient cycles, especially the phosphate cycle, by recycling it into the soil and calls therefore on the Commission to recognise that policies should be tested for their contributions to mitigating the unacceptably rapid depletion of the world's phosphate resources.

Further the Parliament stresses that bio-waste which is free of pollutants needs to be regarded as a valuable natural resource that can be used to



produce quality compost and notes that the use of quality compost in farming can contribute to preserving land productivity, increasing water retention and carbon storage capacity and reducing the use of synthetic fertilisers. By this the Member States should promote the use of quality compost on agricultural land.

Political force increased

With these requirements the European Parliament underlines the conclusions of the European Council on Environment, stated on the 25th June 2009, where the Commission was requested to come up with a legislative proposal on bio-waste in 2010, including a quality assurance system and quality criteria for organic resources. In accordance to the agreement on the political basis it should be difficult for the Commission to retain the stand-by solution.

ECN welcomes EPs vote

The vote of the European Parliament stresses as well the request of the European Compost Network (ECN) to go forward for a sustainable biological waste management in Europe. A separate directive on bio-waste will

- harvest the full benefits potential of sound bio-waste management for soil, climate and resource protection purposes;
- help Member States fulfil the organic waste diversion targets of the Landfill Directive;
- provide legal certainty by ensuring long-term confidence for public and private investors; and
- ensure cross-compliance consistencies between different European acts and strategies.

Further information:

Press release of the European Parliament:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

Report of the European Parliament on the Commission Green Paper on the management of bio-waste in the EU:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

Commission Green Paper on the management of bio-waste in the European Union:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

Impact Assessment on the option of management of bio-waste in the European Union:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

Communication on bio-waste of the European Commission:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

EU CONFERENCE

Don't waste your bio-waste

In the context of the Belgian EU presidency the Belgian Environmental Agency (OVAM) has organised a bio-waste-conference under the title "Don't waste your bio-waste" which will be held in Brussels on 21 September 2010.

Within the EU the management of bio-waste has been subject for discussion for a long time. Bio-waste isn't just a waste, it has a lot of value if managed sustainably. The purpose of the conference is to highlight the positive consequences of a harmonised and integrated approach of this valuable waste. Additionally participants will get the possibility to reflect on the latest com-

munication on bio-waste from the European Commission. In addition a site visit of an anaerobic digestion and composting plant is organised for the 22nd September 2010.

The conference starts at 9am and will take place at the Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors building, Rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels-Belgium. Attendance at the conference is free of charge. Registration is possible until 14th September 2010. Please note the conference will be limited to 180 people.

Details of the conference are available on the website: <http://www.ovam.be>





EUROPEAN COMMISSION

LIFE+ 2010 call for proposals

The European Commission launched the fourth [LIFE+ call](#) for project proposals on 4th May 2010, with up to €243 million available for co-financing of projects under three headings: nature and biodiversity; environment policy and governance; and information and communication.

LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity supports projects that contribute to the implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives, and that contribute to the EU's goal of halting the loss of biodiversity. The maximum co-financing rate can be 75 percent, but is normally 50 percent.

[LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity 2010 application package](#)

LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance supports technological projects that offer significant environmental benefits, for example process or efficiency improvements. This part of LIFE+ also helps projects that improve the implementation of EU environmental legislation, that build the environmental policy knowledge base, and that develop environmental information sources through monitoring for the environmental objectives: air, soil, urban environment, noise, environment and health, waste and natural resources, forests. The maximum co-financing rate is 50 percent.

The principal objective for "Waste and natural resources" is to develop and implement policies designed to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste, and to improve the environmental performances of products, sustainable production and consumption patterns, waste prevention, recovery and recycling; to contribute to the effective implementation of the Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste.

For the 2010 call for proposals the European Commission favours projects in the field of "waste and natural resources"

[LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance 2010 application package](#)

LIFE+ Information and Communication co-finances up to 50 percent projects that spread information about environmental issues, such as climate change and conservation. This strand of LIFE+ can also support forest fire prevention awareness and training campaigns.

[LIFE+ Information & Communication 2010 application package](#)

National priorities

The LIFE+ Regulation allows EU countries to specify national priorities in relation to each LIFE+ call for proposals. For the 2010 call, eight countries (Estonia, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden) have exercised this right. Projects from those countries are more likely to be selected for funding if they are in line with the relevant national priorities, as well as with the LIFE+ criteria. Read more about the respective national priorities in each of the eight countries.

Deadline for applications

Project proposals should be sent to the relevant national authority no later than 1st September 2010. Thereafter, national authorities will send project proposals on to the European Commission by 4th October 2010, and the Commission will check the outline projects against the LIFE+ eligibility criteria and will assess proposals on the basis of the LIFE+ selection and award criteria. Final announcement of the projects chosen for funding is expected in July/August 2011, with projects starting at the earliest on 1 September 2011.

More Information on the LIFE+ call for proposals 2010:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>





Revision of ABPR

Regulation goes into its final steps

In the last months European biowaste experts co-ordinated by ECN amended to the annexes of the revised ABPR (EC) No.1069/2009. The extensive paper with comments which was sent by ECN to the Member States and DG SANCO and bilateral talks with the Commission resulted in several positive amendments specifically with respect to further relaxations for Member States to establish national rules for the treatment of catering waste as well as former foodstuffs in compost and biogas plants.

Overall, about 2/3rd of the ECN comments were already incorporated into the latest draft paper of the consultation document (version 7066/2010_6). A special meeting with the Member States and the Scientific Committee of the European Food and Safety Authority EFSA was agreed for September 2010 dealing with the necessary revision of the standard and alternative transformation parameters (time -

temperature - profiles/particle size) for the treatment in compost and biogas plants.

In summary, catering waste continues to be an issue for national rules and it is foreseen that also processed former foodstuff may be part of the input materials. However, besides a general simplification of the so-called validation procedure for alternative transformation parameters, the most urgent subjects to be discussed at the September meeting are: a) the adoption of a generic recognition scheme for validated processes which are publicly available on EU level and b) a critical review and a justification of the standard transformation parameter. The latter because no scientific evidence for the need of 70°C/1 hour/12 mm for COMPOSTING have been demonstrated so far.

The latest documents, revisions and amendments can be found on the [ECN website](#) in the News section.



ECN Conference Anaerobic Digestion of Waste

2nd - 3rd December 2010, Dublin, Ireland

"Is the Future Anaerobic Digestion?"

Situation, Challenges & Opportunities for Organic Waste
Recycling in Europe

International Conference & Trade Fair
organised by

European Compost Network and Cré, Ireland
in co-operation with European Biogas Association

The latest programme, conference details and registration
can be found shortly on the conference Website
www.compostnetwork.info



Belgian EU Presidency launches programme

Belgium has presented an ambitious programme for its 6-month EU presidency in the second half of 2010. Belgium took over the rotating presidency from Spain on 1 July.

The Belgian presidency's work programme for the coming 6 months fits into the 18-month programme that Belgium drew up with Spain and Hungary (whose presidency will start next year). Belgium's top priority is to implement the Lisbon Treaty which simplifies EU decision-making procedures and which came into force last December.

A Federal state with a population of over 10 million, Belgium is currently in the process of forming a new government after recent elections. This has given rise to some concerns about its EU presidency but caretaker Prime Minister Yves Leterme has given assurances that Belgium is capable of taking on the task. And there is a broad consensus in support of its programme – the result of two years of preparation.

The work programme can be downloaded here:
<http://www.eutrio.be>

ISWA Publication

White paper on Waste and Climate Change

The International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) has published a White Paper on Waste and Climate Change.

This paper puts forth the technologies and mechanisms which can transform the waste sector into a net global reducer of GHG emissions, and making the necessary commitments to assist this change. As a key message ISWA stated that „through aerobic and anaerobic biological treatment tech-

nologies, organic wastes can be recovered and transformed into soil conditioners and fertilisers. These processes reduce GHG emissions by sequestering biogenic carbon in soils, improving soil physical properties, and adding soil nutrients.“

The White Paper on Waste and Climate Change can be downloaded here:
<https://www.iswa.org>

EEA GHG EMISSION

More than half way to the 20% target by 2020

The European Union's greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory report, compiled by the European Environment Agency (EEA), shows that the EU-27's emissions stood 11.3 % below their 1990 level.

The main effects contributing to the GHG emission reduction are:

- high coal and carbon prices accompanied by a drop in natural gas prices in 2008,
- the increased use of biomass and other renewable sources in 2008

- the economic recession.

At the end of the summer 2010, the Agency will publish preliminary estimates for the 2009 total EU emissions. This will be followed in the autumn by more comprehensive reports analysing emission trends, policy effectiveness and progress towards meeting the Kyoto and other EU emission targets. The EEA report and key findings can be downloaded here:
<http://www.eea.europa.eu>



ECN

New Executive Director appointed to ECN

ECN is pleased to announce that Dr. Stefanie Siebert has joined the ECN as an Executive Director on the 1st July.

Stefanie has a background in soil science and has worked for the German Compost Quality Assurance Organisation BGK since 2006 as an officer for European Affairs.

Stefanie will take responsibility for communications and ECN's Compost Quality Assurance Scheme. She will be working part-time and will be sending out regular newsletters and communications from the ECN office.

Commenting on the appointment, Dr Jane Gilbert, Co-chair of the ECN, said: "We are very pleased to welcome Stefanie to the ECN and hope she will be able to take forward the exciting changes the Board has proposed."

Aloys Oechtering, confirmed: "The development of bio-waste policies within Europe is at a very important stage. Having Stefanie within the team will help strengthen ECN and ensure its voice is heard."

Stefanie Siebert will work alongside Josef Barth who will be concentrating on policy and European Affairs.

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Compo-Ball FP7 Project

Meeting on Composting Monitoring Sensors

Invited by the Austrian Compost Society KGVÖ and the BOKU University the project partners (including 6 European Composting Associations and ECN) of the FP7 Compo-Ball Project "Novel on-line composting monitoring system" met in Vienna at the 15th and 16th of July.

The meeting evaluated the results of questionnaires to compost plants all over Europe on the needs and on the necessary specifications for this tech-

nology. The feedback of the contacted compost plants confirmed a huge interest in this type of a comfortable measurement tool for temperature and humidity which allows an optimised control of the composting process and an effective sanitisation according to the Animal By-Products regulation. The next project step is the development first prototypes. More information on the Compo-Ball website:

www.compo-ball.eu



ECN Annual Meeting is scheduled for the 1st December 2010 in Dublin

This year's Annual Meeting of the European Compost Network ECN will be held the day before the AD Conference in Dublin at the 1st December, 16.00 h to 21.00 h, close to the Conference venue.

Important decisions on future ECN activities have to be made and a new Board will be elected. A large attendance is appreciated.

ECN Country Reports updated in the Web

A brief inventory and latest developments on the national situation in the biowaste recycling sector show the Country reports on the ECN website.

The reports of Austria, Belgium/FL, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Mal-

lorca, Sweden, Switzerland and UK were lately updated by the ECN Country representatives. The rest of the ECN member countries will follow shortly finalised by an updated ECN Survey on the status of Biowaste Management in Europe. See country flags on the ECN website www.compostnetwork.info for the Country reports.

ORBIT 2010

7th International Conference successfully held in Heraklion/Greece

The ORBIT Conference 'ORGANIC RESOURCES IN THE CARBON ECONOMY' 29th June to 2nd July 2010 at the Technological Education Institute (TEI) of Crete in Heraklion was very well attended.

For the 7th time the scientific biowaste community used this platform as a forum for the exchange of information about biowaste organic resources. More than 250 participants from 23 countries participated and could attend the nearly 200 presentations. In addition a parallel practitioner's session was organised for Greece municipalities in order to support them in the need for meeting the diversion targets for biodegradable waste requested by the EU landfill directive

The Conference was jointly organised by the Hellenic Solid Waste Management Association HSWMA, the ORBIT Association and the European Compost Network, ECN The proceedings of the Conference can be ordered via the Conference website www.orbit2010.gr.

Next ORBIT Conference

ECN is pleased to announce that the first arrangements have been made successfully to held the ORBIT 2012 Conference from the 12th to 15th June 2012 in Rennes with the French Research Institute Cemagref as main organising partner.

ORBIT Special

Call for Papers for International Congress on Soil and Organic Matter

An International Congress about soils and organic matter from waste. "Between Waste Framework Directive and New Spanish Waste Law" will be organised by Instituto para la Sostenibilidad de los Recursos (ISR) and ECN in Valladolid, Spain, from the 16th to the 19th of November. The Call for paper is running but for ECN members the deadline for Call for Papers is extended until the end of July see www.isrcer.org





AUSTRIA

New National Guidelines to manage catering waste and former foodstuff

In a common effort all the Austrian authorities affected with the legal aspects of the management of kitchen and catering waste and former foodstuff of animal origin compiled new Guidelines on the storage, collection and biological treatment.

The information is intended to support the producers (restaurants, large kitchens), the collection and treatment com-

panies, municipalities and the local authorities in the management of this type of organic residues. It should guarantee the effective handling in practice according to legislation. The brochure - published by the Österreichischer Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaftsverband ÖWAV - is available at the office of the Austrian Compost Quality Society KGVÖ www.kompost.at.

ESTONIA

Biowaste Cluster started to work

Co-ordinated and supported by the Estonian Waste Management Association and Enterprise Estonia a Biowaste Cluster started to work in May.

It incorporates all Estonian composting companies and started with a study visit to Germany in order to learn about quality assurance, compost marketing, compost products and some composting technologies. The study visit from the 30th May to the 2nd

June 2010 was arranged by the European Compost Network ECN with an additional comprehensive introduction in compost quality and quality assurance by the German Compost Quality Assurance BGK in Cologne. The cluster will go on with its work for sustainable biowaste management in Estonia, just in time for the composting directive the Estonian Ministry of Environment is planning to develop.

ITALY

New set of parameter for the Italian Compost quality

The new fertiliser law was released May 2010 which is intended to be enacted in June 2010.

The new legislative decree No. 75/2010 shows some smaller modifications in the requirements of compost quality (Ammendante Compostato Misto and Ammendante Compostato Verde) whereas the general quality requirements are kept. The Italian

Composting Association (C.I.C.) has adopted the changes to their CIC product certificate which is carried in 2008 by 29 plants (25 % of the compost production) and in total 35 expected for 2010. The new law can be found together with the 2010 survey about the composting situation in Italy on the website of the Italian Composting Association (C.I.C.) www.compost.it



IRELAND

New Food Waste Regulations entered into force

1 July 2010 is the date the Food Waste Regulations entered into force in Ireland.

The Regulations require all major business producers to source separate food waste. A food waste collection service must be used so that the collected food waste is subsequently recycled by composting or by other approved recy-

cling process. Alternatively, businesses affected by this legislation can transport the food waste directly to a recycling plant or can treat it themselves by installing a composting unit on the premises where the waste is generated. Further details can be found on www.foodwaste.ie

SPAIN

Ministry of Environment encourages municipalities for separate collection

As a follow up of the policy discussion during the Spanish Presidency and the obvious benefits of biowaste for the Spanish soils the Ministry of Environment started to enforce the implementation of the Biowaste Article 22 of the Waste Framework Directive.

The current draft will be transposed into the new Waste Law before the end of 2010.

As a first accompanying action a large number of regional representatives were invited to Catalonia to see success stories and to discuss potential problems and constraints of separate biowaste collection in practice.

SWEDEN

Revision of certification rules for digestate and compost

The Swedish Waste Management Association Avfall Sverige published in June a revised version of their certification rules for compost and digestates (SPCR 152 and SPCR120).

The system is well accepted and mean-

while 10 plants (mainly digestion plants) are certified.

More information and an English summary of the certification rules can be ordered via website:

www.avfallsverige.se.

CANADA

Composting Council celebrates 20th anniversary

The Composting Council of Canada celebrates his 20th anniversary in the National Capital, Ottawa, from September 22 - 24, 2010 with a large conference entitled "Celebrating our Roots

and Digging into our Future - Compost!".

More information are available on the conference website www.compost.org.



13 – 15 September 2010, Lisbon

RAMIRAN 2010

The RAMIRAN, as an activity of the Research Network on Recycling of Agricultural and Industrial Residues in Agriculture organises the 4th international conference under the title „Treatment and use of organic residues in agriculture: Challenges and opportunities towards sustainable management“

<http://www.ramiran2010.net>

13 – 17 September 2010, Munich

IFAT 2010

16th International Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Refuse and Recycling

<http://www.ifat.de>

21 September 2010, Brussels

Don't waste your bio-waste

Bio-waste-Conference during the Belgian EU Presidency organised by OVAM

<http://www.ovam.be>

23 - 24 September 2010, Brussels

Soil, Climate Change and Biodiversity - Where do we stand?

EU-Conference of DG Environment on scientific findings concerning issues such as carbon sequestration, the role of agricultural and forestry practices on climate change mitigation and biodiversity

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/biodiversity_conference.htm

24 September 2010, Zurich

Biodiversity and Compost

Workshop for compost consultants

<http://www.kompost.ch>

8 October 2010, Amsterdam

Modern Waste Management: Key to a Sustainable Use of Resources

FEAD Annual Conference

<http://www.fead.be>

11 October 2010, Amsterdam

Life in Growing Media

6th International Symposium on 'Peat in Horticulture', a joint symposium of Commission II of the International Peat Society (IPS) and the Dutch National Committee of IPS. This symposium is recognized by the International Society

for Horticultural Science (ISHS).

<http://www.veengenootschap.nl>

12 - 14 October 2010, Štrbské Pleso, High Tatra, Slovakia

Enviro-management 2010

Landfills In Europe: Experience with waste disposal through waste storage

<http://www.greenhorizon-online.com>

8 - 12 November 2010, Venice

VENICE SYMPOSIUM 2010

3rd International Symposium on Energy from Biomass and Waste

<http://www.venicesymposium.it>

15 - 20 November 2010, Hamburg

ISWA World Congress 2010

Urban Development and Sustainability

<http://www.iswa2010.org>

17 - 19 November 2010, Valladolid

Between Waste Framework Directive and New Spanish Waste Law

Special ORBIT international congress about soils and organic matter on waste. The conference will address a multiplicity of aspects, such as prevention, separate collection, the use of compost and digestate into the soil and energy recovery from methane and hydrogen.

<http://www.isrcer.org>

2 - 3 December 2010, Dublin

Future of Anaerobic Digestion of Organic Waste and Residues in Europe - Situation, Constraints, Changes

Conference jointly organised by the European Compost Network and the Composting & Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland CRE

<http://www.compostnetwork.info>

4 - 7 April 2011, Adelaide (Australia)

Organic Matter Management & Compost Use in Horticulture

The International Symposium on Organic Matter Management & Compost Use in Horticulture will present, discuss and explore options of using compst and other organic soil amendments for managing and improving horticultural soils and production systems.

<http://compost-for-horticulture.com>

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