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**Fédération Internationale du Recyclage International
International Recycling Federation
Internationale Vereinigung Baustoff-Recycling**

FIR Newsletter

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In Europe

No REACH registration for Recycled Aggregates

Finally there is now confirmation from the European institutes that Recycled Aggregates need not to be registered for REACH. This is written down by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) in its "Guidance on Waste and Recovered Substances", which was published on 12 May at ECHA's website. According to the guidance paper, recycled aggregates and particles in it constitute articles in the sense of the REACH directive. Articles are exempted from the obligation of registration.

The guidance paper and its judgment concerning recycled aggregates constitute the last step in a long lasting process. During this process the position of recycled aggregates has continuously been unclear. In particular, at the end of 2008 many recycling companies were confused about the necessity of pre-registration of their products. As a consequence, a number of companies have indeed submitted pre-registration of recycled aggregates.

FIR and EPRA have continued to request clarity in this case. They have also continued opposing against the need for registration, based on the legal definitions in the REACH Directive. Due to these efforts, all recycling companies in Europe will save significant amounts of money that would otherwise have been spent on registration.

European Commission studies C&DW

Construction & Demolition Waste, C&DW, has become a major topic in EU waste management. The new Waste Framework Directive sets a goal of 70% recycling of C&DW in 2020. This means that Member States need to undertake action. The European Commission is performing a study on C&DW at this moment. The aim of the study is to investigate the current situation in Europe concerning C&DW and to identify approaches for good waste management. FIR has joined a workshop related to the study and will be involved in follow up studies.

Backfilling

The European Commission is currently elaborating on the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive. As explained in the previous FIR Newsletter, the issue of backfilling is presenting serious concern. Not only FIR member countries have shown concern. Also from other Member States such as Sweden and Estonia alarming signals were received. It calls for the effort of all recycling companies and associations on national and EU level to combat this threat.

EU Funding for recycling companies

Several pieces of legislation and policy aim at sustainable use of resources, such as the revised Waste Framework Directive, the Raw Materials Initiative and the Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan. Following this, the Commission is also allocating subsidies for resource management.

An interesting new funding programme is "Eco Innovation". This programme targets small- and medium sized companies. Focus of the programme is on development of environmental technologies. An important area concerns materials recycling. This programme offers recycling companies to apply for funding of their innovative projects. The closing date for submission of applications is 9 September 2010.

European Parliament calls for Biowaste Directive

Biowaste accounts for 30-45% of municipal solid waste in Europe. Management of biowaste varies widely in Europe, with some Member States relying on landfilling and others having high recycling rates. There is great need to improve the management of biowaste in Europe. If not managed well, it contributes significantly to the production of methane gas. Well managed biowaste can contribute to improvement of European soils.

So far, the European Commission has rejected the idea of a new Biowaste Directive. It argues that there are no policy gaps at EU level that prevent Member States from taking action.

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution that urges the Commission to introduce compulsory recycling of biowaste. Members of Parliament request the Commission to come forward with a draft Directive by the end of 2010.