



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta

The Management of Biodegradable Waste and the Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe

Briefing session for stakeholders
21st May 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

12th May 2010

Growth in the EU is still accompanied by increasing amounts of waste, causing unnecessary losses of materials and energy, environmental damage and negative effects on health and quality of life. One of the goals of the EU is to reduce these negative impacts and to turn the Union into a resource efficient "Recycling Society".

Bio-waste includes all bio-degradable waste such as garden and park waste, food, kitchen waste from households, restaurants, caterers and retail premises. The main environmental threat from bio-waste is the production of methane in landfills. The Directive on Landfills (Directive 1999/31/EC) obliges Member States to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste that they landfill to 35% of 1995 levels by 2016.

On the 3rd of December 2008, the Commission issued the **Green Paper on the Management of bio-waste in the EU** (COM [2008] 811). The aim of this Green Paper was to delve into options for the further development of management of bio-waste. It also had the aim of preparing a debate on the possible need for future policy action, seeking views on how to improve bio-waste management in line with the waste hierarchy, possible gains, as well as the most efficient policy instruments to reach this objective.

The Green Paper discusses options for biowaste such as:

- Prevention at source
- Collection (separately or with mixed waste)
- Anaerobic digestion and composting
- Incineration
- Landfilling
- Different treatment methods

Due to the various criteria which vary from one Member State to another, mainly due to geographical location, climate, population lifestyle, density, landscape, odour issues and compost market, Malta faces difficulties especially if a common approach towards the management of bio-waste is adopted. The Commission's Green Paper on the management of bio-waste identifies the need to re-design waste collection schemes which would imply additional costs and administrative burdens for enterprises and public administrators. There



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is therefore the possibility that the Commission will issue a draft proposed directive on Bio-waste, or proposals to amend existing waste legislation related to bio-waste

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The **Directive on Ambient Air Quality and cleaner air for Europe (Directive 2008/50/EC)**, was introduced in order to consolidate four Directives which had previously been published by the EU on the issue of ambient air quality: The Air Quality Framework Directive, and three of the four subsequent daughter Directives regulating levels of sulphur dioxides, oxides of nitrogen PM10 and lead, carbon monoxide, benzene and ozone.

Malta is required to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive as laid down in Article 33 of the Directive.

MEUSAC in co-ordination with MEPA will be holding an open consultation session on these two topics. Representatives from MEPA will be addressing the session. The consultation session on the transposition of the Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe will also serve as a follow up of the consultation on Malta's Air Quality Plan which was held last year.

The session is being held as follows:

21st May 2010
Time: 9.30-11.30hrs
Venue: 254, Europe House, St. Paul's Street, Valletta
Prior registration with MEUSAC is required. Your interest to attend the meeting should reach MEUSAC offices by not later than noon of Wednesday 19th May 2010 at consult.meusac@gov.mt

Links to documents:

Green Paper On the management of bio-waste in the European Union
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0811:FIN:EN:PDF>

On Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (Directive 2008/50/EC)
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:152:0001:0044:EN:PDF>

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