



**F. I. R.**

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

**FIR Newsletter**

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**Recycling creates jobs**

A study of the European Environment Agency has confirmed the crucial role of recycling in creating jobs. Due to the increasing importance of recycling, the number of employees in the recycling industry raised from 422 per million inhabitants in the EU in 2000 to 677 in 2007. The researchers have established that recycling provides for significantly more jobs, and more jobs on higher level income, than disposal options such as landfilling and incineration. The report also concludes that if all waste were recycled, it could meet a substantial part of the European demands of consumption demand, but not all. A major prerequisite for recycling is an increase in the demand for recycled materials.

**Hazardous or not?**

The European Commission is currently elaborating the revision of the European List of Waste. Two major items are foreseen: alignment with the regulation for classification, labeling and packaging (CLP) of substances and introduction of new entries into the List of waste.

CLP regulation prescribes the methods to classify hazardous properties of substances. These methods must also be applied to waste. This alignment with CLP regulation is thus the new basis to classify waste as hazardous or non-hazardous. Several aspects of the CLP approach can not be translated to waste that easily. Hazardous properties such as ecotoxicity and corrosivity seem still difficult to determine.

Current proposals of the Commission for classification of waste have raised concern amongst industry. If these proposals are adopted, many waste streams currently considered as non-hazardous, may turn into hazardous waste. Construction & Demolition Waste is amongst these wastes, and so could recycled aggregates be.

Preparations for the revision will continue next year. A decision on the classification is expected around summer. FIR has sent letters to the European Commission and several Member States to warn for the enormous impacts for recycling when C&DW will be classified hazardous.

**Standards for waste treatment**

The processing of certain wastes is subjected to the requirements of the BREF Waste Treatment (Best Available Techniques). For those wastes not subjected to the BREF, the European Commission may establish minimum standards. Such minimum standards can be used to prescribe requirements in permit. In a recent study the European Commission investigated amongst others the need for minimum standards for the

treatment of Construction & Demolition Waste. Emission of dust was identified as an important aspect of such treatment for which standards may be developed. The investigation that has been performed is a first step in the development of minimum standards. FIR expects to be involved in the further process.

### **Still no end of the discussion**

The European Commission has not yet set further steps for end-of-waste criteria concerning recycled aggregates. The last FIR Newsletter reported on an ongoing study of the Joint Research Centre. The results of the study are not yet shared with stakeholders. FIR and EPRA are concerned about the progress of end-of-waste criteria. Depending upon possible new information, EPRA will plan its further steps to acquire good conditions for the end-of-waste status of recycled aggregates.

The Netherlands is progressing well on this issue. BRBS Recycling has almost completed a proposal that is being drafted in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment. If all goes well, these standards will become practice in 2012.

### **Minerals Forum**

On 30 November European the 12<sup>th</sup> Minerals Foundation Forum was organised. Key speakers from the European Commission were present and also Reinhard Butikofer, member of the European Parliament and rapporteur on raw materials. The central item of the Forum was "resource efficiency". Speakers all confirmed the need for recycling as a crucial pillar for resource efficiency. The way to get there raised discussions. A touchy item is taxation of raw materials. Whereas the Commission is pushing for it, mr. Butikofer pleaded against it. In his view many other measures could be taken, such as green procurement. He agreed with FIR's view that first of all action must be taken to start recycling in those Member States where currently little is done.

### **Baltic Inert Materials Management**

FIR co-organised the Baltic Inert Material Management Symposium on 21 and 22 November in Stockholm. In several of the Member States around the Baltic area a need is coming up for good management of inert construction materials. The workshop gathered stakeholders from various Member States and from various industries and governments. FIR provided for several presentations, showing cases of Member States where C&DW management has well been established. The presentations seemed to well stimulate stakeholders from around the Baltic area. One concrete follow-up activity of the workshop is a discussion in Sweden to establish an association for the recycling of C&DW.

### **Turkey runner up**

The economy in Turkey is still doing well, as opposed to economies in Europe. Also the waste management industry is making good progress. New policies urge municipalities to initiate better collection and treatment of waste. Private companies sense new opportunities. At a fair in Istanbul on 1-2 November many entrepreneurs showed their solutions for proper waste management. FIR was present at the fair and talked to parties involved in the management of C&DW. As it seems, also for FIR there are opportunities to expand to this area in the East. Some concrete contacts were made that will be followed up for future cooperation.

### **New members**

Ragn Sells from Sweden has joined FIR. Ragn Sells is a major waste treatment company based in Sweden. It has activities around the Baltic area. Ragn Sells recognises the opportunities of C&DW recycling which is now to develop in Sweden.

FIR also welcomes its first member in the area of Incinerator Bottom Ash. The German association IGAM represents German companies dealing with Incinerator Bottom Ash.