



F. I. R.

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

FIR Newsletter

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In this edition:

- **European Minerals Day**
- **End-of-waste: developments in the Member States**
- **Estonian interest in recycling**
- **Incinerator Bottom Ash in Italy**
- **Gypsum recycling not successful**

European Minerals Day

On 13 April the "European Minerals Day 2011" was celebrated within the European Parliament. This was the first time that the event took place at the premises of the European Parliament, stressing the increasing importance of the minerals industry. The central theme of the event was "European Minerals: sustainable extraction for a prosperous Europe".

During a meeting and a subsequent dinner debate the importance of the minerals industry was highlighted. But also the important challenges of the sector to contribute to sustainable development were emphasized by several Members of Parliament. They clearly called for resource efficiency, for instance to be achieved by recycling.



FIR was also present as the recycling sector is considered to be a part of the minerals industry. FIR was given the opportunity to react on the speeches delivered during the debate. Referring to the situation in some Member States where members of FIR are having hard times, a plea was made for better implementation of EU legislation and for a better support for recycling.

End-of-waste: developments in the Member States

As Europe is just only slowly progressing on end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates, Member States decide to follow their own path. In the UK a protocol has been elaborated that describes the circumstances under which recycled aggregates may be considered to not constitute a waste anymore. An important criterion is that the requirements of EN13242 must be met. The protocol will soon be presented to the European Commission.

In The Netherlands an important step has been set. The Ministry of Environment has accepted to discuss with BRBS Recycling the development of end-of-waste criteria. The Netherlands has a long history of using a stringent Quality Assurance scheme which not only refers to European standards, but also to (national) environmental testing schemes. Such schemes will constitute the core of end-of-waste criteria. Flanders is also preparing its own end-of-waste criteria. Flanders knows Quality Assurance schemes and environmental testing as well as The Netherlands. The two countries may well find a format for European criteria.

In the meantime the European Commission is performing its (second) extensive study on end-of-waste criteria. In the summer of 2011 the first results are expected. FIR will join a workshop at which these first findings will be presented.

Estonian interest in recycling

New European targets for Construction & Demolition Waste have also raised the interest of recycling companies in Estonia. Whereas waste management in Estonia still heavily relies on landfilling, the Estonian Waste Management Association is investigating new options for improvement. A delegation of several companies visited The Netherlands and Belgium to learn about current best practices. The delegation visited a series of recycling facilities.

Not only recycling technologies are of interest for the Estonian situation. The development of the right measures and tools to facilitate recycling were also discussed. The results of the visit will now be evaluated by the Estonian Waste Management Association in order to further prepare for recycling.

Incinerator Bottom Ash in Italy

The development of a new division on Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) in FIR is well in progress. On 22 June a meeting took place in Milan with representatives of companies dealing with IBA. Currently these companies are facing rather some problems. IBA does not yet meet with a proper market and the actual status of IBA is unclear. A main question (as in other Member States) is whether IBA constitutes hazardous waste or not.

The approach that was presented by FIR was well received by the Italian companies. FIR offers a European platform where these important issues can be discussed and brought forward to the European institutes.

The issue of IBA was also discussed with German companies. They share many of the concerns of their Italian colleagues. German companies also expressed their interest for representation on a European

level.

The new IBA division of FIR is expected to take off in the second half of this year. IBA will then also be introduced in the family of mineral materials which FIR and its partners accommodate.



IBA Meeting Italy

Gypsum recycling not successful

In The Netherlands major ambitions were formulated in 2008 concerning the recycling of gypsum. A covenant was signed by all stakeholders (industry and authorities) with the aim to increase the recycling of gypsum from 20% in 2008 to 40% in 2010. Despite several actions undertaken, there has been very little progress. The main destinations for gypsum are still landfills and salt mines in Germany. This option is considered to be a recovery operation.

The current solution for gypsum meets with increasing criticism. The European Parliament has also inquired with the European Commission if true recovery is at hand. Those in favour of recycling now hope for an answer from the Commission that will confirm that according to the Waste Hierarchy recycling should be preferred.