On the Road to a Circular Economy in Europe - The Contribution of EU Waste Policy

Julius Langendorff, European Commission, DG ENV

SEMINAR RELAGRES17
Mataró, 12 June 2017
Outline:

The Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan

EU waste legislation and its ongoing review

Promoting better implementation
A Circular Economy: reduce input, keep value, reduce 'leakage'
A multidimensional agenda

- Growth & job creation/up to +7% GDP
  - up to 600 billion in savings/8% of annual turnover for business in the EU
  - Over 500,000 jobs in waste management created in the EU by 2035
- Boosting competitiveness and ensuring security of supply
- Building economic and environmental resilience
- Encouraging innovation
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
The Circular Economy Package

2 December 2015 (and 26 January 2017)

Action Plan Communication

List of Initiatives

4 Legislative proposals on Waste
Examples of key actions

- **Ecodesign** to include reparability, durability, recyclability
- New legislation on **fertilisers** to promote organic & waste-based fertilisers
- Step up use of **Green Public Procurement**
- Action on prevention of **food waste**
- Communication on **waste-to-energy**
- Strategy on **plastics**, including **marine litter**
- Strategy on interface **chemicals, products and waste**
- EU Funds for **Innovation and Investment**
The contribution of EU waste legislation


Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU)

Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)

Possible future recycling standards

Sewage Sludge (86/278/EEC)

Batteries & Accumulators (2006/66/EC)

Packaging & Packaging Waste (94/62/EC)

Mining Waste (2006/21/EC)

End-of-Life Vehicles (2000/53/EC)

Electrical & Electronic Equipment (2012/19/EU)

Restrictions on the Use of Hazardous Substances in WEEE (2011/65/EU)

PCBs, PCTs, POPs (Directive 96/59/EC and Regulation (EC) No 850/2004)
The EU Waste Framework Directive: some key provisions

- Art. 1: **overall objectives**
  - reduce impacts on public health & the environment
  - improve resource efficiency

- Art. 4: **waste hierarchy** – implications:
  - Prioritize prevention, reuse and recycling
  - Take cautious approach to waste to energy capacity planning
  - Reduce landfilling (and other forms of disposal) as far as possible
The EU Waste Framework Directive: some key provisions

- Art. 11: re-use and recycling
  - **Separate collection** of at least paper, metal, plastic, glass by 2015 to promote high quality recycling
  - **Binding targets for household & similar waste** (50% recycling by 2020) and construction & demolition waste (70% recovery by 2020)

- Art 14: waste management costs to be borne by waste producers, waste holders or producers of products ("polluter pays")
The EU Landfill Directive: some key provisions

• Art. 5 – waste not acceptable in landfills:
  – Landfilling of municipal biodegradable waste to be reduced to 35% of 1995 levels
  – Specific bans (eg liquid waste, infectious hospital waste, tyres)

• Art. 6 - ban on the landfilling of untreated waste; biodegradable waste to be stabilised

• Permitting and monitoring requirements
Targets review: background

- Review clauses in existing Directives (WFD, PPWD, LD)

- Introduce objectives and targets for 2025 and 2030 in line with circular economy thinking

- Provide legal certainty to plan investments in waste management infrastructure

- EP & MS to agree on new legislation by end 2017
Proposed waste targets for 2030

- **Municipal waste**: 65% preparation for re-use/recycling + max 10% landfilling (+ ban on landfilling of separately collected waste)

- **Packaging waste**: 75% preparation for re-use/recycling in 2030 (+ differentiated waste stream-specific targets)

- **Harmonized definition of MSW and clearer calculation rules**

- Many other provisions to help improve implementation on the ground:
  - Better use of economic instruments
  - General requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes
  - Separate collection of bio-waste
Improving implementation of EU waste legislation
Municipal Waste Management (EU MS, 2015)

Source: Eurostat
Better implementation of EU environmental legislation: a pressing challenge

Several tools including:

− Enforcement

− Inspections and surveillance

− Dialogue and policy advice through 'compliance promotion' and the Environmental Policy Review (EIR) mechanism
Examples of policy recommendations

- Typical recommendations to MS include:
  - Ensure solid waste management plans, based on reliable data + mindful of 2020 & 2030 targets
  - Step up efforts to prevent waste generation
  - Extend separate collection
  - Improve bio-waste management
  - Use economic instruments
  - Make use of EU funds for *long-term* investments
Sharing good practices & experiences

- Separate collection in EU capitals – Ljubljana
- Use of economic instruments – the Walloon region
- Bio-waste management – Milano (+ other parts of Italy)
- Combining very high recycling rates & low fees – Treviso province
- Views and policy on MBTs – France
- Debates on incineration capacity – many MS
Thank you for your attention!

Additional information:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/target_review.htm