



European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services
Fédération Européenne des Activités de la Dépollution et de l'Environnement
Europäische Föderation der Entsorgungswirtschaft



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FEAD welcomes vote in favour of EP's Plastics Strategy own-initiative report

Thursday, September 13, 2018 - Following the European Parliament's plenary session on September 13, FEAD, the European Federation representing the European waste management industry, welcomes the positive vote on the draft own-initiative report on a European strategy for plastics in a circular economy by rapporteur MEP Mark Demesmaeker.

A strong demand for recycled plastics will only result from concrete **binding actions** accompanied by economic measures to bridge the price gap detrimental to plastics from recyclates. FEAD members welcome the report calling for **mandatory rules on recycled content** which will stimulate the demand for secondary materials and therefore help drive the necessary investment in collection, sorting and recycling. From this perspective, FEAD supports the idea of a **reduced VAT for products with recycled content, which will allow recycled plastics to compete** with virgin polymers.

Indeed, **up to € 10 billion worth of investments** will be needed in our sector to innovate and expand the separate collection, sorting and recycling capacity, for all plastics, at EU level. Our industry is prepared to make the necessary investments if there are legislative measures ensuring a significant uptake of plastic recyclates; which is becoming even more necessary by the minute in view of the Chinese ban on imports of certain waste streams. Transforming the vision of a new plastics economy into reality will require joined efforts throughout the entire plastics value chain.

Mid-October, MEPs will vote on the European Parliament's draft report issued on 9th July, **which recommends making it mandatory to produce beverage containers with at least 25% of recycled plastics by 2025** (report of ENVI Committee Rapporteur, MEP Frédérique RIES, aims to amend the proposal for a Directive [...] on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment).

FEAD hopes that the positive vote of September 13 on the principle of recycled content will result in an equally favourable vote in October when the time comes for MEPs to decide if they want mandatory recycled content in plastic bottles to be part of their legacy. This is the European Parliament's last opportunity to act before the end of their mandate: if not now, the EU will lose at least 3 years!

For further information please find attached a more detailed report and/or please contact the FEAD Secretariat at info@fead.be.

Note to the editor:

FEAD is the European Federation representing the European waste management industry. FEAD's members are national waste management associations covering 19 Member States, Norway and Serbia. They have an approximate 60% share in the household waste market and handle more than 75% of industrial and commercial waste in Europe. Their combined annual turnover is approximately € 75 billion. FEAD represents about 3000 companies with activities in all forms of waste management. These companies employ over 320000 people who operate around 2400 recycling and sorting centres, 1100 composting sites, 260 waste-to-energy plants and 900 controlled landfills. They play an important role in the determination of the best environmental option for waste management problems.

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