



FEAD BULLETIN N° 5 – 22 May 2020

Dear Reader,

Please note that FEAD is in the process of restructuring its communications tools, including this bulletin.

Enjoy!

Communication, Networking, and Future Events

- **FEAD Bulletin Survey**
 - We have launched a survey regarding the FEAD Bulletin that you have been receiving. We would appreciate your responses to improve our work. Please, provide your feedback [here](#).
- **Important news: Plastics recyclers cease production**
 - In a [press release of the 15th May](#), the European plastics recycling industry announced that it is closing production due to the current market developments caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The major problems are the lack of the demand due to the closure of converting plants and the record low prices of virgin plastics as well as the decreased activity globally.
- **Briefing on the Circular Plastic Alliance:**
 - In last week's bulletin, we shared with you as attached a short summary of the **Circular Plastics Alliance's Steering Committee meeting (05 May 2020)**. In the file there were links that required login credentials. We apologise for any inconvenience in accessing the files. You can find all the relevant files [attached](#) to this bulletin.

Ongoing Surveys and Consultations

- **Last updated Table of Consultations:**
 - Please find [attached](#) the last updated version (in pdf format) of the FEAD Table of Consultations for your information.
- **Guidance for separate collection of municipal waste:**
 - A [new study](#) to support the Commission in establishing guidelines for separate collection of waste was recently published. You can find it both [attached](#) and [here](#).
 - The report is completed by a [database](#) (see also [attached](#)) of good practices for separate collection.
 - The Commission is also in the process of preparing guidelines to assist and facilitate Member States in the separate collection of hazardous waste fractions produced by

households as required in article 20(4) of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC (WFD). These guidelines were initially supposed to be adopted in January 2020, and they will consider this study.

- Concerning other waste streams covered by current or upcoming separate collection obligations, the Commission's next steps are guided by the European Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan, where the Commission has committed to assess the feasibility of setting an EU reference model harmonising separate waste collection systems. In view of that, the Commission will now deepen its work on separate collection and related issues, using this report as one of the building blocks. This new phase will include an intensive consultation process with Member States and relevant stakeholders in the next months, as well as further technical work.
- **EC Waste Framework Directive EPR Recommendations for Guidance:**
 - Eunomia, the consultancy that was commissioned to [deliver a study](#) to support preparation of the European Commission's guidance on the implementation of the general minimum requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, as set out in Article 8a of the revised Waste Framework Directive, has published the [Recommendations for Guidance](#) and the [Full Report](#) (please, find both [attached](#) to this bulletin).
 - The adoption of the relevant guide has been postponed to the end of June.
 - As per FEAD's email dated 20.05.2020, if you have news on the date of the meeting between DG ENVI and Member States, that should be the last step before the adoption of the guide, please share it with us. Suggestions/examples from your countries are welcome to give alternative ideas to EPR schemes and safeguard B-to-B contracts.
- **POP's Regulation:**
 - A consortium comprising RPA Europe, Risk & Policy Analysts (RPA), INERIS, and Bio Innovation Service has been contracted by the European Commission (DG Environment) to prepare an external study to **support potential revisions to Regulation (EU) No 2019/1021 on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the POPs Regulation), including changes to Low POP Content Limit Values in Annex IV.**
 - You can find more information on the consultation exercise [here](#). The deadline for their completion is **15 June 2020**.
 - Please find attached the two questionnaires, for waste management associations and for waste management companies.
 - In the following days, we will send a doodle to prepare a common reply for FEAD. In the meantime, you can reply to the questionnaire and send it to the consultant on behalf of your association and/or company.
- **Call for Tender:**
 - Framework Contract on Scientific and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Chemicals Legislations on REACH, CLP, PIC and POPs
 - Description: The objective of the framework contract will be to support all aspects of the implementation, review and future development of the chemicals' legislations on REACH, CLP, PIC and POPs.
 - Deadline: 29.06.2020.
 - More information [here](#).

- **Life of EU institutions**
 - The European Parliament, the European Commission, and Council are still working mostly remotely. We will keep you posted on any updates and news.
 - The **EP ENVI Committee updated its schedule** yesterday (see [here](#)), and the **Rapporteur and shadows** have been assigned for the **Circular Economy Action Plan**, as follows:
 - Rapporteur : [Jan Huitema](#), NL, Renew
 - Shadow Rapporteurs:
 - Bonafe, S&D
 - Pietikainen, EPP
 - Limmer, ID
 - Auken, EFA/Greens
 - Kopcinska, ECR
 - Wallace - GUE/NGL
 - As it seems, the **first report** by the Rapporteur will be published on 14 June 2020 under the INI procedure.
 - You can read [here](#) the new issue of the [Parliament Magazine](#) (18 May 2020) featuring the interview with the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius, where he explains why the Biodiversity Strategy is not only closely linked to the Farm to Fork Strategy, but is also integral to the European Green Deal.
 - In line with the European Green Deal, both the Biodiversity Strategy and the Farm to Fork Strategy were [adopted](#) on Wednesday, 20 May 2020.
- **EIB Circular Economy Guide**
 - The European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU's public financing institution, has [launched a new guidance](#) (see [attached](#)) stating that a circular economy will play an important role in the economic recovery following the coronavirus crisis and supporting the transition.
 - However, with regards to **Waste-to-Energy**, the guide writes: “A further R strategy often mentioned in combination with the above 9Rs, sometimes even as part of a circular economy definition, is the recovery of (embodied) energy from waste and residues. The EIB acknowledges that from a waste management angle, energy recovery is an environmentally preferable option to landfill disposal in accordance with the waste hierarchy principle. However, the resource efficiency gains from waste-to-energy and waste-to-fuel strategies are limited compared to other 9Rs, particularly when considering the loss of value of potentially recyclable materials through combustion. Hence, the EIB does not consider activities primarily aimed at energy recovery from wastes and residues as substantially contributing to the circular economy.” (see page 15 of the guide).
- **This week's focus: EC Final Workshop for the Study on quality standards for WEEE treatment**
 - The EC and the consultant Umwelt Bundesamt conducted on 15.05.2020 the Final Workshop for the Study on quality standards for WEEE treatment (please find [attached](#) the slides).
 - The main objective of the study has been to assist the EC in view of a **possible preparation of an Implementing Act** laying down **requirements for the quality treatment of WEEE in the EU** complementing those in the WEEE Directive or any other policy option to be identified.

- The consultant presented the **general options** regarding possible **additional** EU WEEE treatment requirements:
 - Option 0 - Requiring no further EU wide minimum treatment requirements for WEEE (Business as usual)
 - Option 1 - Requiring, in substance, compliance with the entire CENELEC standards, with the exact form of the obligation still left to be determined.
 - Option 2 - Laying down specific/selected additional minimum treatment requirements for WEEE in the EU WEEE legislation/derived act(s)
- The proposed approach by the consultant was to **follow option 2** while most of the participants to the workshop expressed their preference **for option 1**.
 - The main contra presented for option 1 was the **costs** to comply to all CENELEC standards which cannot be afforded by SMEs or social enterprises dealing with reuse of WEEE.
 - The main contra presented for option 2 was the **time** to select minimum requirements from now onwards.
- The study will be completed at the **end of July, but the EC has not yet taken any decision.**

Press Review & Reports

- **EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE** - [Adapting to change: time for climate resilience and a new adaptation strategy](#)
 - This paper calls on the EU to mainstream adaptation and shift its focus from reacting to disasters to a more proactive approach that prioritises prevention, risk reduction and resilience building. It argues that the EU can make a difference by concentrating on the following in its upcoming adaptation strategy: improve the conversion of science-based knowledge into preventive action; close the protection gap through effective insurance schemes; adopt nature-based infrastructural solutions; and address the funding and investment gap.
- **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK** - [Carbon emissions pricing: some points of reference](#)
 - Several countries around the globe are either planning to implement or have introduced carbon-emission pricing measures with varying scope, coverage and boundaries. There are broadly two approaches: the emissions trading system (cap and trade) and carbon taxing. The number of jurisdictions having adopted or intending to adopt carbon pricing has increased but still remains limited, in particular as regards the level of emissions covered. One concern is to address 'carbon leakage'. Measures addressing carbon leakage are now at the top of the EU agenda.

Webinars

- **“How to finance the green recovery and a transition to a low-carbon European economy?** Webinar by the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra), IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute and the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), taking place online on 27 May from 15:00 - 16:00 CET.
 - Details about how to access the webinar will be provided once you register. Please register [here](#).

- You can watch [here](#) the international Solid Waste Association (ISWA) webinar on Health and Safety of Solid Waste Management Workers and Employers, that took place on 13 May 2020.

FEAD website - Reminder

1. **Go to your Member Area** (<https://fead.be/index.php> > “Members Only”)
2. **Enter your login and password** (Please ask your login and password to info@fead.be if you forgot it)
3. **Go to “Active Files” and here you have access to all files followed by FEAD Secretariat. We keep it updated!**

Frequency of FEAD Bulletin: The bulletin will be sent maximum once per week, but without a minimum if it not necessary. If there is a slow week with no new relevant information, then we deem that it is not necessary to send it.

For further information or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the FEAD Secretariat at info@fead.be

All the best,
The FEAD Secretariat

In case of comments or questions, feel free to contact the team by replying to this email.

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Contacts:

FEAD aisbl - European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services

Rue Philippe Le Bon 15
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium



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