

THE LANDFILL DIRECTIVE: A PRACTICAL SOLUTION?

European Commission
Committee of the Regions



BRUSSELS

**Conference Centre Borschette
Room 0A • Rue Froissart 36**

30 NOVEMBER 2005

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Programme



Stavros Dimas,

**Commissioner
for the environment**



Peter Straub,

**President of the
Committee of the
Regions**

“One of my top priorities as Commissioner in charge of the environment is to improve the implementation of environmental legislation. The Landfill Directive is a particularly important piece of European legislation. If it is well implemented, it can significantly reduce the environmental impacts of waste management.

Through this conference, organised jointly by the Commission and the Committee of the Regions, we want to bring together the actors that are dealing with the Directive. Our intention is to encourage an exchange of experiences in order to improve its implementation. Regional and local authorities play a crucial role in the implementation of the Landfill Directive in practice. This is why I greatly appreciate the cooperation with the Committee of the Regions in this area.”

“Regional and local authorities are key players for the success of EU policies as they are responsible for implementing a large part of Community legislation. The report of the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of the Landfill Directive makes this very clear. Achieving sustainable waste policies is an important objective for local and regional authorities. It can only be achieved if these authorities are fully involved in the decision-making process concerning this issue. Moreover, the necessary human and financial resources must be made available so that they can find tailor-made solutions for their citizens. This conference is a good opportunity to further examine the role of regional and local government for improving the environment in Europe. I am delighted that this event is jointly organised by the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission. It underlines the good cooperation between the two institutions.”

THE LANDFILL DIRECTIVE

The Landfill Directive¹ establishes a set of detailed technical requirements for the design, operation, closure and after-care of landfills. The objective is to help prevent or attenuate the negative effects that landfill sites can have on the environment. These effects include polluted surface water, groundwater, soil and air. Landfills can also have a negative effect on the global environment by, for example, creating a greenhouse effect. The Directive also bans certain types of waste from landfill sites, for example used tyres, and requires Member States to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfills to 35% of 1995 levels. These measures will help to reduce the negative impacts of landfilling and promote the recovery of waste. The deadline for implementation of the Directive was 16 July 2001. All existing landfills must be adapted to the requirements of the directive at the latest by 16 July 2009.

IMPLEMENTATION AT REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL

In order to learn more about the on-the-ground implementation of the directive, including problems and financial repercussions, the European Commission has asked the Committee of the Regions (CoR) to make a report on “The implementation of the Landfill Directive at regional and local level”. This report will be adopted at the CoR plenary of 16/17 November 2005² and presented at this conference. It gives an overview of the situation regarding landfills in the Member States, highlights problems, detects success factors and gives examples of best practice. It is based on a survey commissioned by the CoR in which over 200 regional and local authorities from all the 25 Member States have participated.

¹Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste

²draft report available: <http://www.cor.eu.int/en/presentation/deve.htm>



PROGRAMME

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WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2005

9.30 a.m. Registration of participants

10.00 a.m. Opening of the Conference

- Welcome by **Mr Olivier Bertrand**, Chairman of the Commission for Sustainable Development of the Committee of the Regions

Session 1 – Landfill as part of EU waste policy

- **Mr Peter Carl**, Director General of the DG Environment of the European Commission – *The Landfill Directive – an integral part of the EU waste prevention and recycling policy*
- **Ms Caroline Jackson**, Member of the European Parliament, former rapporteur on the Landfill Directive – *The Landfill Directive - A Reflection from the European Parliament*
- **Mr Wim van Gelder**, Committee of the Regions Rapporteur on “The implementation of the Landfill Directive at regional and local level” – *Presentation of the Landfill Report of the Committee of the Regions*
- **General discussion and questions, moderation: Mr Timo Mäkelä**, Director Sustainable Development and Integration, DG ENV

11.30 a.m. Coffee Break

11.50 a.m. Session 2 – View of Stakeholders

- **Mr Bill Duncan**, Assurre (Association for the Sustainable Use and Recovery of Resources in Europe – *The Landfill Directive - a lever of integrating sustainable solutions*
- **Mr John Hontelez**, Secretary-General of the European Environmental Bureau – *An NGO snapshot on the implementation of the Landfill Directive – what lessons?*
- **Mr Heijo Scharff**, European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD) – *The regulatory framework - enabling sustainable landfills?*
- **General discussion and questions**

1.00 p.m. Buffet lunch hosted by the European Commission

2.30 p.m. Session 3 – Best practices and success stories in implementation

- **Mr Ben Jennings**, County Waste Management Officer, and **Ms Liz Poulter**, Project Manager, DEVON, UK – *The "Don't let DEVON go to Waste" Campaign*
- **Mr Václav Horák**, Vice-president of the Southern Moravia Region, Czech Republic – *Implementing the Landfill Directive in a region of a new Member State*
- **Mr Pinto Rodrigues**, Chief Executive Officer of VALNOR (Valorização e Tratamentos de Resíduos Sólidos do Norte Alentejano) – *Towards sustainable landfilling and waste policies in Northern Alentejo*
- **Mr Georges-Stavros Kremlis**, DG ENV, Head of Unit Cohesion Policy and Environmental Impact Assessment, *Landfills and the cohesion policy*
- **General discussion and questions**

4.00 p.m. Conclusions

- **Mr Stavros DIMAS**, Commissioner for the Environment
- **Sir Albert BORE**, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions

4.30 p.m. Reception hosted by the Committee of the Regions

Interpretation: 6/6 FR/DE/EN/IT/NL/CZ

Organisation

Committee of the Regions

Commission for Sustainable Development
<http://www.cor.eu.int/en/presentation/deve.htm>

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(Pictures on the 1st page : Cohesion fund project: Rehabilitation of a landfill in Portugal)