

**An NGO snapshot on the  
implementation of the Landfill  
Directive – what lessons?**



**John Hontelez, Secretary General  
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## Main points of the presentation

- What is the European Environmental Bureau/EEB
- EEB Snapshot Reports
- The Landfill Snapshot Report: method
- The Landfill Snapshot Report: outcomes
- EEB 's Recommendations to the Commission



# The European Environmental Bureau

- John Hontelez – EEB Secretary General
- the largest federation of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe
- More than 140 member organisations in 31 countries with more than 15 million members and supporters
- 25 organisations in the New Member States and 8 in the Candidate Countries
- Created in 1974 with the purpose to represent its members' interests vis-à-vis the EU institutions



## EEB snapshot reports

- Objectives:
- Building awareness and knowledge about state of transposition and implementation of EU environmental laws
- Contributing to better enforcement
- Also reveal `best cases´ as benchmarks, share experiences, develop EU strategic complaints, direct input into DG Env. better implementation focus...
- They are **opinion reports of EEB members.**



# EEB snapshot reports

- First reports:
- 2004 Water Framework Directive 1st,
- 2005 Water Framework Directive 2nd,
- Landfill Directive
- Air Quality Daughter Directive
- SEA Directive snapshots.



## Landfill Directive snapshot

- 14 responding ENGOs from a sample of 13 countries
- countries covered includes all regions of the EU 25 & Norway: North (NO, DK), West (UK, NL, BE), South (IT,ES,PT,FR), New Members (EE, PL,MT,SK)
- Initiated as feedback to the CoR final report as well as to provide input to the ongoing European Commission implementation work on the Landfill Directive.
- Questions partly based on CoR own survey.
- Time pressure - result is only first picture.



## Landfill Directive snapshot conclusions

- **Governance:** *level of public participation and in particular efforts made towards involvement of ENGOS in consultation of landfill projects* = **moderate with room for improvement:**
  - In 8 of 13 cases, Information on conformity and availability of this was considered good. But in EEB we need to validate these answers further, especially on availability of waste entry registers.
  - French and Portuguese examples of good practice using *Local Commissions for Information and Surveillance* do not seem to be widespread



## Landfill Directive snapshot conclusions

- **Economics:**
- *Setting tariffs to cover the full costs of the landfill as required by the Directive* was in most cases perceived to be **satisfactory** (needs further discussion, because: what is `full cost`)
- Interestingly the landfill taxes set appear mostly to come **from before** the Landfill Directive and only 3 /13 countries are using landfill taxes in a dedicated fashion to improve upstream waste management.





## Landfill Directive snapshot conclusions

- **Impact reduction of sites and upstream steering:**
- most national and regional authorities seem to be taking the 2007 deadline for upgrading and closing down existing landfills seriously;
- general positive role in the reduction of environmental impacts of landfilling activities
- **however, no evidence yet that this Directive is being used strategically to divert waste stream more to prevention, re-use and recycling options.**



# Landfill Directive snapshot conclusions

## National Biowaste Strategies:

- Had to be ready by July 2003.
- NGO feedback on existence and entry into force not always coherent with Commission Report on this. Only 5 of 13 countries seem to have robust strategies.
- Robust means: a clear legal status and with binding and concrete commitments and implementation measures.



# Landfill Directive snapshot conclusions

## Biodegradable waste targets:

- In most member states some transposition of the reduction targets appears, but in several cases with important irregularities (f.e., not basing it on volumes in 1995, incomplete sets of local targets, delays clause used too easily, in 5 of 10 countries)



## Recommendations to the Commission

- Detailed scrutiny of the setting of landfill tariffs -what costs remain in fact externalised?
- Closer scrutiny of National Biowaste Strategies – will they actually work? [first target is for 2006!]
- Investigate irregularities in transposition of the biodegradable waste diversion targets;
- Investigate interpretation of pre-treatment - will it help to reduce landfilling, can it better steer waste management towards separation recyclables etc?



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