

The Committee of the Regions' Commission for Sustainable Development (DEVE) is holding a Round Table discussion on the **Waste Strategy**, to take place:

from 3-6 p.m. on 27 February
at the Committee building, 101 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels.

The aim of the Round Table discussion, which will take place during one of the DEVE Commission's regular meetings, is to get an overview of the stakeholders' positions and to feed into the CoR's opinion on the waste strategy.

Since waste management is one of local and regional authorities' key responsibilities, the documents adopted by the European Commission on 21 December 2005, i.e. the Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (COM(2005) 666 final), and the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste, (COM(2005) 667 final), are of major importance. Accordingly, the Committee of the Regions is soliciting substantial input from stakeholders dealing with waste issues.

At this Round Table the CoR Rapporteur, **Mr Laust Grove Vejstrup**, will present a working document (which will be available from 8 February at <http://www.cor.eu.int/en/presentation/deve.htm>). The draft opinion of the Commission DEVE will be adopted at the DEVE Commission meeting on 3 April and the plenary adoption is scheduled for June 2006.

Participants in the Round Table will include **MEP Hans Blokland**, Vice-chairman of the European Parliament's Environment Committee and Rapporteur on the Waste Strategy, representatives from the EU Presidency, the European Commission, regional and local associations, the European Environment Bureau and industry (please see the attached programme for further details).

The Committee of the Regions is pleased to invite you to attend the Round Table and participate in the discussion on this important topic. If you or one of your colleagues will be able to attend the meeting, please register via http://www.cor.eu.int/document/activities/deve_registration_form_270206.doc

The deadline for registration is **20 February 2006**.

Interpreting will be provided at the Round Table FR/DE/EN/IT/ES/NL/EL/DA/FI/SV/PL/MT/HU (languages to be confirmed).

For further information please contact the secretariat (Ms. Chantal Fontaine, tel. 00 32 2 282 2143, or Mr. Robert Kaukewitsch, tel. 00 32 2 282 2366).