



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



| FEAD PRESS RELEASE | 18 December 2018

FEAD Issues Position Paper on Norway's Proposal to the Basel Convention

Tuesday, 18 December 2018 - In a bid to combat marine litter, Norway has submitted a proposal to restrict exports of plastic waste, by amending the Basel Convention. The proposal aims at submitting exports of 'green listed' plastic waste for recovery and in most cases also for recycling to a notification procedure.

FEAD, as representatives of the private Waste Management Industry, would like to warn against this proposal which would do much more harm than good as it would thwart the development of an EU market for plastic recycling.

The Basel Convention - shorthand for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal - came into force in 1992. It currently consists of two main procedures for waste shipment which are called "Amber Listed" and "Green Listed". "Amber Listed" waste is hazardous waste, submitted to restrictions. "Green Listed" waste is non-hazardous waste, and the Basel Convention aims to facilitate their trade on the commodities markets, with the aim of promoting recycling and recovery. Controls and traceability must ensure that hazardous waste is not illegally traded.

In June, the Norwegian government proposed that scrap plastics be added to Annex II of the Basel Convention, as a list of wastes for 'special consideration' that requires notification by exporting countries and consent by importing countries prior to export. In their eyes, this would address the marine litter crisis.

We firmly believe that this proposal is bound to miss its objective. To combat marine litter, countries need to work on preventing illegal waste dumping, improving and expanding their respective waste management and particularly collection and recycling capabilities. To reduce the amounts of refuse going into the world's oceans, we need an effective enforcement of waste management legislation, an expansion of waste treatment infrastructure, dissemination of information and best practice, as well as educational measures.

The notification procedure would seriously hinder the development of an EU market for plastic recycling. It would raise the administrative burden and the costs of shipping plastic waste to EU countries where they are further prepared, or it would make shipping simply impossible. The proposal is unclear, with classifications subject to confusion and varying interpretations. This will result in delays, costs, legal cases. **FEAD is opposed to a revision making major plastic flows destined for recycling or recovery operations no longer benefit from the green procedure.**

As experts in environmental services, FEAD is deeply concerned about the global scourge of marine plastic pollution, but does not see how the proposal, in the absence of any impact assessment, would help reduce global marine pollution. It would with certainty hinder the development of the EU recycling markets, while preventing waste operators from shipping collected waste to duly licensed destinations where they find their market.

APOH, Slovakia
ARMD, Romania
ASEGRE, Spain

BDE, Germany
CAObH, Czech Republic
DMWA, Netherlands

ESA, UK
EWMA, Estonia
FISE, Italy

FLEA, Luxembourg
FNADE, France
Go4Circle, Belgium

HRABRI ČISTAČ, Serbia
IWMA, Ireland
LASUA, Latvia

NORSK INDUSTRI, Norway
PASEPPE, Greece
PIGO, Poland

SRI, Sweden
VÖEB, Austria
YTP, Finland

FEAD aisbl – Rue Philippe Le Bon, 15 – B-1000 Brussels, Tel : +32 2 732 32 13, Fax : +32 2 734 95 92, Email : info@fead.be, Website : www.fead.be

Please follow us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/fead-waste>, as well as our Twitter account: @FeadInfo



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

In view of Norway's proposal, FEAD has reacted with a position paper which calls for:

- A robust impact assessment since the Norwegian proposal could negatively impact plastic recycling and recovery;
- Complementing measures to stimulate European demand for recycled materials and investment in recycling capacities (e.g. Packaging and WEEE plastics);
- Sufficient lead in time to allow new recycling infrastructure to be built;
- A clear commitment by the EU to limit delays for notified shipments;
- Consideration to be given to intra EU trade.

For further information please contact the FEAD Secretariat at info@fead.be.

Note to the editor:

FEAD, the European Federation for Waste Management and Environmental Services, represents the private waste and resource management industry across Europe. FEAD's members are national waste management associations covering 19 Member States, Norway and Serbia.

FEAD's members represent about 3,000 companies with activities in all forms of waste management. Our companies 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. These companies employ over 320,000 people who operate around 2,400 recycling and sorting centres, 1,100 composting sites, 260 waste-to-energy plants and 900 controlled landfills.

They enable the transition to a circular economy by producing resources which can be re-injected in the economy and by supplying energy. Our companies add value through innovative and cost-efficient collection, sorting, and recycling of secondary raw materials. As a result, they play a crucial role in achieving the best economic and environmental outcomes.

APOH, Slovakia
ARMD, Romania
ASEGRE, Spain

BDE, Germany
CAObH, Czech Republic
DMWA, Netherlands

ESA, UK
EWMA, Estonia
FISE, Italy

FLEA, Luxembourg
FNADE, France
Go4Circle, Belgium

HRABRI ČISTAČ, Serbia
IWMA, Ireland
LASUA, Latvia

NORSK INDUSTRI, Norway
PASEPPE, Greece
PIGO, Poland

SRI, Sweden
VÖEB, Austria
YTP, Finland