



## PRESS RELEASE

### *FEAD sees the new Circular Economy Action Plan as an essential component in the fight against climate change*

Brussels, 11 March 2020

FEAD welcomes the ambitious new Circular Economy Action Plan put forward by the European Commission for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. It will be an essential component in the fight against climate change and protecting the environment.

Peter Kurth, FEAD's President, comments: "This Action Plan is extremely important to us. By collecting, sorting, recycling, and disposing of waste, private waste management companies are at the very heart of the circular economy. However, to play our major role we especially need strong and responsive recycling markets. Our companies need positive, ambitious, and concrete signals to go by, many of which are in the Action plan adopted today".

FEAD expresses its full support in the following key areas:

- Work on **mandatory recycled content** in certain products, such as packaging, automotive, and construction etc. FEAD strongly recommends that paper should also be included.
- Set up **mandatory green public procurement rules**.
- Examine recycling targets on **industrial and commercial waste**.
- Develop binding rules on **eco-design** and appropriate labelling. This is an absolute prerequisite to achieve quality recycling.

But FEAD raises some concerns:

- Recycling **markets** have to remain **open and competitive**. EPR schemes can help, but only if properly managed, to improve the collection and recycling of household waste but should not be extended to industrial and commercial waste.
- The issue of **exports** must be carefully examined with the aim to create viable economic conditions on EU recycling markets and to ensure environmental protection in case of waste shipments outside of the EU.
- Further initiatives must be introduced to ensure the correct **implementation of the existing European acquis**, that to date has not been properly enforced or applied in half the EU countries.
- Measures must be taken to **reduce large scale landfilling**, and consequently to shift waste treatments higher up in the hierarchy.
- The **entire waste management chain avoids more CO2 emissions** than it emits. Recycled PET, aluminum, and textiles avoid more than 90% CO2 emissions in comparison to products originating from virgin materials. This positive contribution has to be recognised.

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For further information, please contact: [info@fead.be](mailto:info@fead.be)

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 over

- 3,000 companies with activities in all forms of waste management;
- 60% share in the household waste market;
- Handle more than 75% of industrial and commercial waste in Europe;
- Combined annual turnover of approximately € 75 billion;
- Employment of 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 that can be reinjected 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.