

Press Release

FEAD event - Batteries' recycling: energising the EU green transition

Brussels, 22 March 2021 - In relation to the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation on Batteries and Waste Batteries, **FEAD, the European Waste Management Association**, held today a successful online debate to allow a valuable exchange of views among the legislators and the industry.

The debate, initiated by FEAD President – **Peter Kurth**, was joined by **Hartmut Stahl**, Senior Researcher - Oeko Institut, **Jose Rizo Martin** – Senior Expert at the European Commission, **MEP Maria Spyra**ki – EPP Shadow Rapporteur for ITRE opinion on the new Sustainable Batteries' Framework, **Ralf MITTERMAYER** – CEO, Saubermacher Dienstleistungs AG, **Alessandro Danesi** – Commercial Director - S.E.VAL Group, **Janne Koivisto** – Public Affairs Manager – Fortum, and **Valerie Plainemaison**, FEAD's Secretary-General.

The discussion was facilitated by moderator **Claire Doole**, and revolved around **the following key issues** in relation to the Batteries' and Waste Batteries' Regulation:

- **More ambitious collection targets;** to achieve the correct handling and disposal of batteries, higher collection targets of up to **80%** for all types of batteries are needed, except for automotive batteries for which collection targets of **100%** should apply.
- **Mandatory recycled content;** the circular economy requires a strong demand for recyclates, and in this regard mandatory recycled content is crucial. FEAD calls that **all types of batteries**, not only portable batteries, include higher levels of recycled content during the production of new batteries.
- **Need for appropriate and rapid implementation tools;** FEAD calls for an early determination of the methodology to be used in the calculation and verification of recycled content, and a performant data gathering for the calculation and verification of recycling efficiencies, and for the recovery of materials.

In conclusion, panellists agreed that having **a strong battery value chain** is of strategic value and importance for Europe, as well as for the waste management industry. Recycling in a safe manner is an important activity in this value chain, from an economic and resource point of view.

FEAD President – Peter Kurth stressed that: “The right framework conditions are needed for a functioning circular economy in the battery sector at European level so that it can develop its full potential. This includes practice-oriented targets for efficiency quotas, ambitious minimum input quotas for recycling raw materials for batteries, and ambitious collection targets coupled with a practical deposit system for batteries. If the framework conditions are right, battery recycling can be a key project for Europe in the transition to a true circular economy.”

FEAD warmly thanks the panellists for their participation and collaboration and welcomes the large interest expressed by attendees across Europe.

FEAD Secretariat

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