

## ESWET VOTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON DRAFT REPORT APPLICATION OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE

ESWET welcomes the work done by Rapporteur Iturgaiz to improve the acceptability of Waste Treatment Facilities. We are very much supportive of the PETI Committee's efforts to ensure that citizens support the facilities that treat their waste.

Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plants often face concern from the population where new plants are to be installed, but enjoy broad support in locations where they have been in operation for years.

Why such fears? Why such twisting of facts?

### HERE ARE THE REAL FACTS!!!

#### Waste Hierarchy - FACTS



- Waste Hierarchy is legally-binding
- Mandatory separate collection of recyclables
- Minimum recycling rate of 50% by 2020; many countries are already above this target
- Countries with the highest recycling rates also rely the most on Waste-to-Energy
- Many countries have proven it is possible to stop landfilling

#### "Toxic" Waste - FACTS

"Toxic" is not a good wording, it is better to refer to "hazardous". There is a clear definition of "hazardous" waste, which must be managed specifically. Plants with a permit to incinerate only non-hazardous waste are not allowed to incinerate hazardous waste.

#### Fly ash - FACTS

Fly ash and residue from flue gas treatment represent less than 5% of the waste input. Many pollutants are concentrated in it to avoid that they spread uncontrolled into the environment. They are carefully managed to ensure that they are permanently isolated from the eco-cycle.

#### Emissions - FACTS

***"Dioxins emissions from Waste-to-Energy plants are no longer significant"***

-Green Environment Minister of Germany, Jürgen Trittin in 2005

Today's Waste-to-Energy plants are clean. Even though some people continue to make use of old fears, these are completely unfounded today.

On the other hand, WtE plants for example in Copenhagen, Zurich and Vienna, located right in the city centre, have a high acceptance in the public and they are well integrated into district heating/cooling networks, avoiding CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as pollution from individual boilers.

**VOTE NO TO AMENDMENTS 6, 19, 60 AND 65**

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**Amendment 6, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Recital F a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

Amendment

**VOTE NO**

*Fa. whereas some incinerators suffer from the lack of appropriate infrastructure for separation and treatment of waste; whereas there do not appear to be clear limits to the kind of waste incinerated and concerns remain over the fate of toxic ashes resulting from the incineration;*

**Amendment 19, Judith A. Merkies, Recital T**

*Motion for a resolution*

Amendment

**VOTE NO**

T. whereas monitoring and control procedures in place to ensure that household waste is not contaminated by toxic waste are sometimes weak or non-existent, leading to contamination of landfills and incinerators; ***whereas it must be stressed that disposing of toxic waste through incineration in installations conceived for burning household waste is categorically prohibited,***

T. whereas monitoring and control procedures in place to ensure that household waste is not contaminated by toxic waste are sometimes weak or non-existent, leading to contamination of landfills and incinerators;

**Amendment 60, Judith A. Merkies, Paragraph 20**

*Motion for a resolution*

Amendment

**VOTE NO**

20. Urges the Commission to propose clearer and more specific criteria for the location of landfills in relation to local housing, schools or health facilities in order to ensure more robust guarantees against potential risks to human health and the environment; bearing in mind that there are a large number of variables and local considerations that need to be taken into account with full respect for the subsidiarity principle;

20. Urges the Commission to propose clearer and more specific criteria for the location of landfills ***and incinerators*** in relation to local housing, schools or health facilities in order to ensure more robust guarantees against potential risks to human health and the environment; bearing in mind that there are a large number of variables and local considerations that need to be taken into account with full respect for the subsidiarity principle;

**Amendment 65, Rolandas Paksas, Paragraph 28 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

Amendment

**VOTE NO**

***28a. Calls on the Commission and Member States to take steps ensuring the proper implementation of waste management principles, to prevent or restrict the negative effects of waste incineration on the environment, notably pollution of the air, soil, surface water and groundwater through emissions and the resultant risks for human health, and to prioritise more advanced and ecological methods of waste management, in particular waste sorting and reuse;***

**VOTE NO TO AMENDMENTS 6, 19, 60 AND 65**

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