

## ESWET Position Paper

# Renewable Energy Directive II

17.10.2017

**ESWET supports the transition to more renewable Europe. The European Union's commitment to the Paris Agreement needs to be translated into ambitious targets and practical measures that will help mitigate climate change. However, the transition needs to be executed in a manner that will ensure security of energy supply. Using sustainable biomass is a way to accommodate both goals, and this is where Waste-to-Energy plays an important role. Here is why.**

Waste-to-Energy recovers energy from different types of waste, one of them being biomass that is not of sufficient quality to be recycled. It is for example a polluted cardboard or kitchen waste that cannot be treated in an anaerobic digestion plant due to its impurities. Such waste has nevertheless the same quality as biomass treated in dedicated plants: it is carbon neutral and it substitutes the use of virgin fossil fuels.

Moreover, treating waste of biological origin in Waste-to-Energy plants prevents methane emissions from landfills. Methane, released during the decomposing of biomass, is much more harmful for the climate than CO<sub>2</sub>. All these factors mean that thermal recovery of energy from waste of biological origins contributes to the climate change mitigation.

What is more, Waste-to-Energy implements the idea of a cascading use of biomass, as it treats only waste biomass. There are therefore no sustainability concerns that are sometimes raised with relation to other sources of bioenergy (wood, crops).

ESWET therefore believes that support for renewable energy should be technology neutral as long as a given renewable source is sustainable. Hence, in order to maintain a level playing field, biomass fraction treated in Waste-to-Energy plants should be treated equally to any other biomass used to generate energy. As for the exact amount of this fraction, it can be determined for example by using carbon 14 dating.

We are therefore calling ITRE and ENVI Committees to maintain the support for the renewable part of energy generated in the Waste-to-Energy plants and reject the amendments requesting to end it. Please find below a voting list prepared by ESWET for the votes in the Committees: ENVI on 23.10 and ITRE on 28.11.

### 1. Recommendations for the ENVI Committee

Am.	Tabled by	Text	Action
30	Bas Eickhout	Member States shall ensure that no financial support is provided for the extraction of energy from incineration of municipal waste by 2021	Reject
415	Simona Bonafè, Massimo Paolucci, Damiano Zoffoli, Nicola Caputo, Patrizia Toia, Isabella De Monte	By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States shall ensure that no support scheme for energy from renewable sources is provided for municipal waste which does not comply with the separate collection obligations set out in the Directive 2008/98/EC	Reject
416	Piernicola Pedicini, Eleonora Evi, Dario Tamburrano, David Borrelli	By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States shall ensure that no financial support is provided for the extraction of energy from incineration of municipal waste nor for co-incineration in cement kilns by 2021	Reject
417	Sirpa Pietikäinen	By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States shall ensure that no financial support is provided for energy extraction from mixed incineration of municipal solid waste by 2021	Reject

### 2. Recommendations for the ITRE Committee

Am.	Tabled by	Text	Action
30	Dario Tamburrano, David Borrelli, Piernicola Pedicini, Eleonora Evi	Member States shall ensure that no financial support is provided for the extraction of energy from incineration of municipal waste by 2021	Reject

## Contact

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## About ESWET:

ESWET - The European Suppliers of Waste-to-Energy Technology is the European Association representing manufacturers in the field of Waste-to-Energy technology.

The main purpose of ESWET is to foster the development and the dissemination of Waste-to-Energy technology.

ESWET also seeks to raise the awareness of the positive implications of the technology in terms of better waste management, energy and for the environment.