

ESWET's comment on the Circular Economy report by the EU Parliament.

On 27 January 2021, the EU Parliament released a balanced report on the path to Circular Economy. ESWET welcomes the vote and calls for the respect of the waste hierarchy to improve sustainable waste management in Europe.

Brussels, 28 January 2021 - ESWET welcomes the release of the European Parliament's **report on the EU Circular Economy Action Plan**. In particular, the Parliament acknowledged the importance of resource efficiency in order to reduce **dependency on primary raw materials**, responsible for 45% of CO₂ emissions generated in Europe.

The Parliament report called the EU Member States to strengthen their **reuse and recycling efforts** and **move away from landfills**. ESWET is pleased to see that the text highlighted the importance of providing Waste-to-Energy plants with the most advanced technologies as a complement to recycling for the treatment of non-recyclable waste.

*"The EU Parliament report rightly focused on achieving the EU waste targets to **end landfilling in Europe and further reduce non-recyclable waste**." Patrick Clerens, ESWET Secretary-General, said. "Following the waste hierarchy, modern and highly efficient **waste-to-energy plants** are essential to treat the residual waste that cannot be recycled, **recovering energy and secondary raw materials**."*

Waste-to-Energy **contributes to the efficiency of the EU waste management** by treating the fraction of waste that cannot be recycled, thus **preventing landfills**. Today, we see several EU countries landfill more than half of the waste they generate. Simultaneously, we know that **landfilled waste is a lost resource** where it is a potential generator of **methane emissions** and a source of pollution to air, soil and water.

Efforts towards waste prevention should indeed be a priority but the need for **non-recyclable waste** treatment capacity cannot be overlooked. It would only perpetuate the unsustainable bailout options we see today like massive shipments of waste outside Europe, which cause pollution and waste crime.

The report of the **European Parliament** correctly depicts **Waste-to-Energy** as a **complementary tool to recycling** for the safe treatment of non-recyclable waste and resource recovery. State-of-the-art waste-to-energy plants currently built in Europe are at the forefront for energy efficiency and low emissions. They **secure resources in Europe** and are an **essential link for a sustainable EU waste management chain**.

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