



FEAD BULLETIN N° 39 - 12 February 2021

Communication, Networking, and Future Events

- **FEAD Press Release on the EP new CEAP resolution**
 -  On February 10, FEAD issued a [Press Release](#) welcoming the European Parliament's adopted resolution on the new Circular Economy Action Plan. For more information on the topic, please see the *Life of EU Institutions* section below.
 -  **FEAD on the news:** the PR was featured [on the news](#) on 10 February.
- **FEAD Event on Batteries - 22 March 2021**
 - FEAD will hold a side event to the [EU Industry Days 2021](#) in partnership with the European Commission, on **22 March 2021, at 14h00 – 16h00 CET**, on the topic of **recycling of batteries**, in view of the new Regulation on sustainable batteries recently proposed by the European Commission (December 2020).
 - The event will be entitled "**Batteries' recycling: energising the EU green transition**" and will include the following **speakers - UPDATED LIST:**
 - **Mr Jose RIZO MARTIN**, Senior Expert in the European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment, Directorate B, Circular Economy & Green Growth
 - **MEP Maria SPYRAKI**, Shadow-Rapporteur for the new Regulation on Sustainable Batteries, European Parliament – ITRE Committee (EPP, Greece)

- **Dr Hartmut STAHL**, Senior Researcher, Oeko Institut
 - **Mr Ralf MITTERMAYR**, CEO, Saubermacher Dienstleistungs AG (Austria)
 - **Mr Alessandro DANESI**, Commercial Director of S.E.VAL Group (Italy)
 - **Mr Tero HOLLÄNDER**, Head of Business Line Batteries Fortum (Finland)
 - **Mr Peter KURTH**, FEAD President
 - Wrap-up by **Ms Valérie PLAINEMAISON**, FEAD Secretary-General
- More information on the event and on the registration will follow soon! Make sure you check the [dedicated page of our website](#).



**Batteries' recycling:
energising the EU
green transition**

22 March, 14h00-16h00
Online conference


**EU INDUSTRY
WEEK 2021**

Ongoing Surveys and Consultations

- **EC Consultation on Environmental crime – improving EU rules on environmental protection through criminal law:**
 - The Commission has [published](#) a new initiative - Consultation (public questionnaire) on **Environmental crime – improving EU rules on environmental protection through criminal law**. (EC deadline for feedback is 03 May 2021 - midnight Brussels time).
 - The Environmental Crime Directive aims to protect the environment through criminal law, appropriate

sanctioning and cross-border cooperation. The Commission recently evaluated the Directive and found that it did not meet its objectives. This initiative will mainly review:

- the scope of the Directive, sanction types and levels, judicial cooperation, organised crime, statistical data collection, and practical law-enforcement.
- Regulation 2019/1009 will apply from 16 July 2022. Its updated technical annexes will help EU countries and industry apply the rules.

- **EC Consultation on Fertilising products - technical update:**

- The Commission has **published** an initiative - Consultation on a **Draft Act on Fertilising products - technical update**.
- New EU rules have been adopted to cover various types of fertilising products (inorganic, organo-mineral and organic fertilisers, growing media, plant biostimulants etc.). They ensure that only those fertilising products that meet the efficiency and safety requirements can be sold freely across the EU.
- Regulation 2019/1009 will apply from 16 July 2022. Its updated technical annexes will help EU countries and industry apply the rules.
- The main changes that we distinguish as involving the waste management sector are related to Annex II: **CMC 3**(compost) and **CMC 5** (digestate). Mainly CMCs 3 and 5 **exclude** from their input materials living or dead organisms **from the organic fraction of mixed municipal household waste**. The objective of those provisions **is to encourage the separate collection of waste in municipalities**, by not providing opportunities for the use of mixed waste.
- Please, find **here** the **revised text of Annex II**, in word, with the changes highlighted in yellow, the Commission Delegated Regulation text **with all the proposed amendments** (also available on the EC website).

- ✨ Please feel free to provide us **with your feedback on the proposed amendments by Friday the 19th of February 2021 COB**, so we can build up a FEAD reply to circulate to members (EC deadline for feedback is **16 March 2021** - midnight Brussels time).
- **EC Consultation on Batteries:**
 - The Commission has **published** a new initiative - **Consultation on the Proposal for a Regulation on Batteries - modernising EU rules.**
 - ⌚ **FEAD has prepared an UPDATED draft response.** Please, send us your feedback **ASAP** (EC deadline is approaching).
 - Particularly we request your feedback on the **levels of recovered materials** (Annex XII Part C page 19 of the attached Regulation Annexes), which set **high levels** of materials' recovery by all recycling processes.
 - Please, find all the relevant documents (proposal for a regulation, annexes, impact assessment report, and Regulatory Scrutiny Board opinion) **here**.
- **EC study on PVC:**
 - The European Commission (through the consultant Ramboll) has recently launched a **“study on the use of PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) in the context of a non-toxic environment”**.
 - The objective of this study is to identify and describe uncertainties, particularly under a chemicals angle, about **PVC production, recovery and end of life treatment**. A part of the study is dedicated to the **current status of PVC waste management and recycling in the EU**.
 - Within this context, they invited **FEAD** to an online focus group to discuss preliminary data findings and considerations concerning the following topics:
 - Mechanical recycling of PVC waste in the EU;
 - Chemical recycling of PVC waste in the EU; (Co-

mingled) collection of PVC waste; and Decontamination techniques for PVC waste.



- **The online focus group will take place on 04.03.2021, 09h00 – 13h00.**
- ✎ If you are **interested in participating** in the online focus group, please, let us know **by the 23rd February 2021 COB, indicating your preference for one of the breakout sessions** dedicated to the topics listed above.
- **JRC study on Waste plastics - mechanical recycling, chemical recycling and energy recovery: seminar to launch data collection:**
 - The Joint Research Center has recently launched a study entitled “**Background data collection for waste plastic recycling**”. The goal of this study is to gather **life cycle inventory and economic data** for different (cascading) treatment routes of **waste plastics - mechanical recycling, chemical recycling and energy recovery** - as well as to establish a methodology to **calculate the actual recycling and/or recovery rates** for chemical recovery processes.
 - The outcome of this study will feed into work to be conducted by the JRC to assess different waste plastic treatment options from a life cycle, economic and technical perspective.
 - On **Thursday 4 March 2021, from 14h15 to 16h30 CET**, the JRC will organise an online **information session** to introduce the data collection project and explain how and why stakeholders should get involved. This information session will have the following agenda:
 - 14h15-14h30: Log in time/ connection try out
 - 14h30-14h45: Introduction and background of the study by the JRC
 - 14h45-15h45: Methodology, proposed pathways for study and stakeholder involvement by the contractor (AIMPLAS)
 - 15h45-16h30: Questions and Answers
 - FEAD will participate, and in case you are interested in attending as well, **please let us know as soon as**

possible or write directly to Hans.SAVEYN@ec.europa.eu on behalf of your organisation. The deadline to confirm the attendance is the 25th of February.

- **EC Consultation on the Revision of the IED & of the E-PRTR:**
 - The Commission has published two initiatives - **Public Consultations (questionnaires) on the Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive and of the E-PRTR**. (Please, note that while there are two different initiatives on the EC website, the consultation and the questionnaire are merged).
 - ✎ **FEAD has prepared a draft response** to the common **EC Questionnaire**. **Please, send us your feedback by 01 March 2021 COB** (EC deadline is **23 March 2021** - midnight Brussels time).

- **EC Consultation on Sewage Sludge use in farming – evaluation:**
 - The Commission has **published** an initiative - **Public Consultation (questionnaire) on Sewage sludge use in farming – evaluation** (deadline for feedback is **05 March 2021** - midnight Brussels time).
 - For your convenience, please, find the Questionnaire, the Evaluation/Fitness Check Roadmap, and FEAD's response to the corresponding Roadmap **here**.
 - The Consultancy is also conducting a **survey targeting specific stakeholders on the sewage sludge directive** on behalf of the Commission. Please, find the survey **here**.
 - ✎ **FEAD** held an online meeting on **09 February 2021** to prepare a **common FEAD reply** for submission. Please, find the **minutes here**. We will share with you a revised version of the draft replies to the two surveys in the following days.

- **SUP Directive Guidelines:**
 - We received the **latest version of the SUP directive guidelines**, which are currently at the late stage of preparation by the Commission.

-  The guidelines are going to be finalised by the Commission by the end of February, so in case you have anything relevant to highlight, **please report it to us and to your Member State authority (which are now being consulted by the Commission), as soon as possible.**
 -  **FEAD provided feedback to EC consultation:**
 - On 10 February, **FEAD provided feedback** to the Commission's initiative - **Public Consultation (questionnaire) on EU Action Plan Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil** published [here](#).
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Life of EU institutions

- A final agreement was reached on some last political aspects of the **Regional and Cohesion Fund Regulation**, between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. The rest of the [agreement reached in December 2020](#) is valid.
 - The final outcome is really positive for us, compared to the initial proposal of the Commission, which restricted regional funds only to recycling, and excluded the investments on residual waste treatment, or even on recovery.
 - FEAD held a series of formal and informal contacts in 2019 and 2020, both at the European Parliament and the European Commission, and supported actions by members at a national level.
 - Contacts at the EC (Daniel Calleja, DG ENVI Director-General, Kestutis Sadauskas, DG ENVI Director, Mathias Pellegrini, DG ENVI Head of Unit) were not encouraging, as there was a clear willingness that regional funds would no longer benefit energy recovery activities, neither any activities related to residual waste treatment. That was because of budget restrictions, and their view on the circular economy.
 - However, contacts at the EP, and particularly with Shadow Rapporteur Hetman (Pol, EPP) showed positive consideration towards our views and made

some use of our proposals of amendments. Mr Hetman, in particular, had quite a clear position on the need for Central and Eastern Europe countries to continue benefiting from those funds for investments also on residual waste treatment facilities, especially with regard to energy recovery. Apparently, a majority of MS shared, in the end, these views.

- In particular, the favourable changes for us include:
 - **On investments in disposal of landfills (Row 103), ex AM 99 from the Parliament**

Exclusion of:

(f) investments in disposal of waste in landfill, **except: (i) for the outermost regions, in duly justified cases only; or (ii) for investments for decommissioning, reconverting or making safe existing landfills provided that such investments do not increase their capacity;**

- **On investments in residual waste treatment facility (Row 111), ex AM 99 from the Parliament**

Exclusion of:

(g) investments **increasing the capacity** of facilities for the treatment of residual waste, except for: **(i) the outermost regions in duly justified cases only; (ii) investment in technologies to recover materials from residual waste for circular economy purposes;**

- A **new recital** reading:
“In case of investments increasing the capacity of facilities for the treatment of residual waste, residual waste should be understood as primarily non separately collected municipal waste and rejects from waste treatment”.

- The consolidated version, which is not yet published, will be submitted for a final vote in EP plenary in the coming weeks.

- On 10 February 2021, the European Parliament in a Plenary Session adopted a [resolution on the New Circular Economy Action Plan](#), with 574 votes in favour, 22 against, and 95 abstaining.

- The final report highlights many issues that we support, including the need to:
 - enhance the **demand for secondary raw materials** (SRMs) through **mandatory recycled content** and **mandatory Green Public Procurement rules**,
 - reinforce **separate collection and selective sorting systems**,
 - set up mandatory **eco-design** rules for recyclability,
 - establish **material footprint indicators** (as part of a required hierarchy on materials) and **recycling and recovery targets** for key product value chains, and
 - put in place safe and efficient **waste exports'** procedures.
 - However, we are still concerned about the following issues:
 - Paragraph 96: The establishment of **targets to cap the generation of residual waste is not needed** if recycling targets are in place. Measures for tackling residual waste are sufficiently mentioned in the resolution;
 - Paragraph 104: we deem that the aim of “minimising incineration” goes in the wrong direction. **Energy recovery from waste (R1 criterion) is a necessary treatment for non-recyclable waste**;
 - Paragraph 105: **selective collection should not be harmonised** at EU level. Local and national considerations can be key drivers for success in finding the most adapted, efficient, environmentally, and economically sound collections systems, and for not impacting well-functioning existing systems.
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Final votes - Second voting session					
Subject	AM	Voting	+	-	o
Simon (A9-0002/2021) ECB Annual Report 2020 Vote: resolution (as a whole)		690	533	94	63
Huitema (A9-0008/2021) New Circular Economy Action Plan Vote: resolution (as a whole)		691	574	22	95

Monitoring of EU Institutions

This week's focus: Taxonomy updates and way forward

- Regarding the latest updates on **Taxonomy**, we have the following information (also available on the [EC website](#)):
- On 20 Jan, the **Commission requested from the Platform on Sustainable Finance to rework the EU's green finance taxonomy rules**, after 10 MS threatened to veto delegated acts, because, in their opinion:
 - emissions thresholds for gas were too strict to maintain the use of gas as a transition fuel.
 - **The definition of “sustainable activities”, in particular “transition” activities, is too narrow** and risks creating a green bubble that would see investors rushing to buy stocks only for strictly green activities (as of taxonomy).
- At the request of the Council, **the Platform is now working on a broader definition of transition activities**. [Here's a document highlighting the requests to the platform](#). Requests for clarification are key and touch upon the following points:
 - *Can the current EU taxonomy be used to provide greater support for attracting capital for the transition of companies towards “sustainable” activities, including in ways not yet proposed by the Commission and if so in which ways?*
 - *Can the EU taxonomy framework support finance for companies undertaking activities that do not yet meet, or*

*may be unable to meet, the substantial contribution criteria?
And how can this be done?*

- *Can the current EU Taxonomy framework support finance for companies active in sectors that are not covered in the Taxonomy Regulation's Delegated Act?*
 - *How does the use of key terminology such as “sustainable”, “green” and “harmful” compare across the taxonomy framework and other relevant sustainable finance frameworks and how can it be clarified and harmonised?*
 - *What further avenues could be explored to enable financing the transition through development of the taxonomy framework and beyond?*
 - *Can we clearly address the concerns that the taxonomy will be used to prevent financing of transitional activities, while at the same time ensuring that we are not facilitating “greenwashing”?*
 - **What to expect:**
 - The Platform will have to provide advice by **mid-March 2021 ([statement by the Chair of the Platform](#))**.
 - **The publication of the draft delegated acts is TBC, with sources saying April 2021 at the earliest.**
 - By 1 June 2021: the EC will adopt a delegated act setting out the content, presentation and methodologies for complying with the **disclosure requirements** under art. 8 of the Taxonomy Regulation.
 - **Coming soon:** the Platform is also tasked with assisting the EC in analysing requests from stakeholders to develop or revise technical screening criteria for a given economic activity. In early 2021, the Platform will outline how it intends to receive and process such request. It will be then possible to formally submit requests through a dedicated process on this website.
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Press Review & Reports

- **[New EEA briefing - Digital technologies will deliver more efficient waste management in Europe](#)**

- On 03 February, the **European Environment Agency** published a briefing entitled "[Digital technologies will deliver more efficient waste management in Europe](#)".
 - The briefing is based on the underpinning [report by the European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy](#) (ETC/WMGE).
- **New EEA briefing - Designing safe and sustainable products requires a new approach for chemicals**
 - On 04 February, the **European Environment Agency** published a briefing entitled "[Designing safe and sustainable products requires a new approach for chemicals](#)".
- **New EEA report & briefings on plastics and the circular economy**
 - The **European Environment Agency** has just published a new report entitled "[Plastics, the circular economy and Europe's environment — A priority for action](#)".
 - The EEA report points to **three pathways for the way ahead** including **smarter use of plastics, increased circularity, and use of renewable raw materials**. Together these can help ensure we achieve a sustainable and circular plastics system.
 - Alongside the report, EEA published two relevant briefings:
 - "[A framework for enabling circular business models in Europe](#)"
 - "[Plastic in textiles: towards a circular economy for synthetic textiles in Europe](#)"
- **New Ellen MacArthur Foundation report on circular economy policy goals**
 - The **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** has just published a new report entitled "[Universal circular economy policy goals: enabling the transition to scale](#)".

Webinars & Conferences

- **🔗 FNADE webinar - Agir pour le climat avec la gestion des déchets**
 - **FEAD's French member FNADE** will hold a webinar on how waste management acts for the climate.
 - Tuesday 2 March 2021, 09:00 - 11:30 CET. More information will follow.

 - **🔗 ESA webinar - WHAT MEETING NET-ZERO MEANS FOR WASTE BUSINESSES**
 - **FEAD's UK member ESA** will hold a webinar on what it means for waste businesses to meet net-zero.
 - WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021, 12:00 - 13:00 CET. Register [here](#).

 - **Brunswick Group and Europe Jacques Delors webinar with Frans Timmermans**
 - Launch event with European Commission Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans: "**Navigating the European Green Deal: How can businesses engage in the green transition?**"
 - 17 February 2021, 14:00 - 15:00 CET. Register [here](#).

 - **FEICA Webinar - Review of the EU Construction Products Regulation (CPR)**
 - FEICA will hold a webinar on 25 February 2021 at 13:00 - 14:30 CET on the review of the EU Construction Products Regulation (CPR). Register [here](#).

 - **EPR Club second webinar - "EPR as an instrument to tackle microplastics pollution?"**
 - The [EPR Club](#) will hold the second part of the international conference "**EPR as an instrument to tackle microplastics pollution?**", organised in collaboration with the [European Parliament Intergroup on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development'](#). This part will be focused on **EPR as policy instruments**.
 - 24 February 2021, 14:00 - 16:00 CET. Register [here](#).
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FEAD website - Reminder

- **Go to your Member Area** (<https://fead.be/index.php> > “Members Only”)
- **Enter your login and password** (Please ask your login and password to info@fead.be if you forgot it)
- **Go to “Active Files” and here you have access to all files followed by FEAD Secretariat. We keep it updated!**
- **Frequency of FEAD Bulletin:** The bulletin will be sent maximum once per week, but without a minimum if it not necessary. If there is a slow week with no new relevant information, then we deem that it is not necessary to send it.

For further information or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the FEAD Secretariat at info@fead.be