



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA sounds note of caution over European Parliament Circular Economy proposals

LONDON, 15 March 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice of the UK waste and resource management industry, today gave its reaction to the European Parliament's amendments to the EU Circular Economy legislation adopted yesterday (14 March).

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

"While ESA recognizes the ambition shown by the Parliament in adopting its amendments, ambitions have to be realistic if they are to result in practical steps towards a more circular economy."

"Since the start of negotiations on the Commission's proposals ESA has consistently pointed out that raising recycling rates will not help to achieve a more circular economy unless accompanied by effective measures to increase and sustain the demand for the extra recyclable materials collected. Nothing which the Parliament did yesterday addresses this fundamental issue."

"The same lack of realism runs through other amendments adopted by the Parliament. The recycling calculation method chosen is virtually impracticable, and if it could be implemented would make a 70% recycling rate unachievable by even the best performing Member States. The Parliament's deletion of the practicability condition (TEEP) from the separate collection requirements shows the same disregard for what is possible on the ground. And the proposed 10% ceiling on disposal of municipal waste in 2030, which would limit both landfill and incineration without energy recovery, would make the proper management of non-recyclable residual waste impossible."

“ESA will look to the Commission and the Council to address the need for sustainable markets for secondary raw materials, and to put realism and practicability back into the Circular Economy legislation, when the three-way “Trilogue” discussions get underway. This is vital if the industry is to have a sound basis for future investment.”

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Notes to editors:

1. The **Environmental Services Association** (ESA) is the trade association representing the UK’s resource and waste management industry, which is leading the transformation of how the UK’s waste is managed.
2. We work with all levels of government, regulators and the public to deliver a more sustainable waste and resource management solution for the UK. ESA’s recent Circular Economy report ‘*Going for Growth – A practical route to a circular economy*’, which outlines how a Circular rather than a linear economy can help manage resources sustainably, can be downloaded [here](#).
3. ESA’s Members manage waste on behalf of the whole of society and we are recovering more than ever before. For example, the industry has helped quintuple the UK’s household recycling rates over the last decade.
4. **The sector at a glance**
 - Total turnover: **£11 billion**
 - Direct Employment: **106,000 people** (*including waste collection, treatment and materials recovery*)
 - Municipal waste handled each year: **27 million tonnes**
 - Energy generated (across landfill gas, anaerobic digestion and energy from waste) each year: **approximately 11,867 GWh**, which is 3.5% of the UK’s electricity
 - **9,083 GWh of that was renewable electricity** (taking out non-biodegradable portion of EfW) which is **11%** of UK’s renewable electricity
 - Greenhouse **gas emissions down by 70% since 1990**.
 - The **top seven companies account for approximately 40% of turnover**. Many hundreds of SMEs provide either localised or more specialised services
 - Waste & recycling is the **most highly rated of all council services** by the public (2016 survey)

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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