



environmental  
services  
association

## **ESA PRESS STATEMENT**

# ***Frictionless trade in recyclable waste vital post-Brexit***

**LONDON, 19 April 2018:** The Environmental Services Association, the voice of the UK resource and waste management industry, today released a joint statement with its Dutch counterpart, the DWMA, underlining the importance of continued trade in waste for recycling and recovery between the UK and other European countries after the UK leaves the EU.

ESA Executive Director Jacob Hayler said:

***“ESA sees Brexit as an opportunity for the UK to further develop its domestic treatment capacity for both recyclable and residual waste, and we hope that Defra’s resources and waste strategy will contain concrete measures for making this a reality. But at the same time we should not lose sight of the fact that – for recyclable material in particular – self-sufficiency is a long way off.***

***This means it is absolutely vital that when the UK leaves the EU trade in recyclable and recoverable waste should continue to be as frictionless as possible. We are therefore pleased to be making a joint statement with our Dutch colleagues on this important topic today.”***

Dick Hoogendoorn, director of the Dutch Waste Management Association said:

***“The baseline for the circular economy to start and grow is stopping large scale landfilling across Europe. Our waste sector is willing to lend other member states a helping hand. Dutch waste companies can help with the treatment of waste for recycling and recovery from other European countries until they have developed sufficient capacity. Nations are becoming increasingly interdependent concerning the sound treatment of waste. This counts for almost all countries within Europe.”***

The joint statement by the ESA and the DWMA can be found here:

[http://www.esauk.org/esa\\_reports/180418\\_Joint\\_ESA-DWMA\\_Communique\\_on\\_trade\\_in\\_waste.pdf](http://www.esauk.org/esa_reports/180418_Joint_ESA-DWMA_Communique_on_trade_in_waste.pdf)

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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](http://www.esauk.org)

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