



environmental
services
association



Towards a resource-efficient Europe:

Strategic priorities of the Environmental Services Association, the voice of the UK's waste and resource management industry

Our Vision for Europe

Waste must be managed in ways which protect the environment and human health and which improve the efficiency with which resources are used in the economy.

Waste should be reduced and where possible prevented. This will require profound changes in production processes and consumption patterns which cannot be achieved overnight. The waste which cannot be prevented must be recognised as a productive resource, and used as a valuable source of raw materials and energy.

The ESA calls on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to enforce all existing EU waste legislation and ensure implementation of the statutory waste hierarchy; and to reflect these priorities when implementing the “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe” and reviewing the EU’s Action Plan on Sustainable Production and Consumption.

The EU’s waste and resource management industry plays a pivotal role in bringing waste material back into productive use, and by doing so helps deliver green growth and green jobs, while contributing to Europe’s climate change goals and the transition to a green economy. To play its full part, the sector needs to operate in the right policy environment at local, national and EU level.

The ESA, representing the UK’s waste and resource management sector, is taking a lead in the move towards a more resource-efficient economy. The ESA’s policy paper “Driving Change: policy proposals for a greener government” sets out its priorities for action at national level. This leaflet sets out the ESA’s priorities for action at EU level.

Jean-Dominique Mallet
Chairman, ESA



ESA priorities for action at EU Level

1. Ensure full implementation of all EU waste legislation, in particular the revised Waste Framework Directive and the statutory waste hierarchy, to prevent waste and to promote recycling and energy recovery.

ESA calls on the Commission and Member States to:

- Ensure the early adoption of national waste prevention programmes and waste management plans, including full application of the waste hierarchy and the principles of self-sufficiency and proximity, in consultation with the waste and resource management industry.
- Allow flexibility in waste collection and sorting arrangements, so that the differing wishes and needs of local communities can be met, and markets for recyclable materials can work more effectively. Co-mingled collection of dry recyclables should be supported where it meets these criteria and the requirements of the revised WFD.



- Adopt clear, workable and stringent “end of waste” criteria for the main recyclable waste materials, to provide regulatory certainty and a level playing field in the EU, and so help to bring valuable resources back into the productive economy, while ensuring that the environment and human health continue to be protected.
- Focus end of waste criteria on material streams which, once they have reached end of waste status, lead to high quality products for which markets already exist and which are directly used by consuming industries. End of waste status should not, in any way, under the pretext of recovery, result in lower environmental standards.
- Recognise the important contribution that energy from waste technologies can make towards achieving the EU’s renewable energy and climate change targets and further reducing landfill.



2. Promote better enforcement of all EU waste legislation, to ensure the environment and human health are protected.

ESA calls on the Commission and the Member States to:

- Ensure all existing EU waste legislation is fully implemented and enforced, in a harmonized way, throughout the European Union.
- Help competent authorities to implement and enforce waste legislation more strictly, by strengthening the role of the European Environment Agency or by establishing a new EU Waste Implementation Agency, but without leading to an increase in costs and administrative burden for operators who fully comply with the legislation.

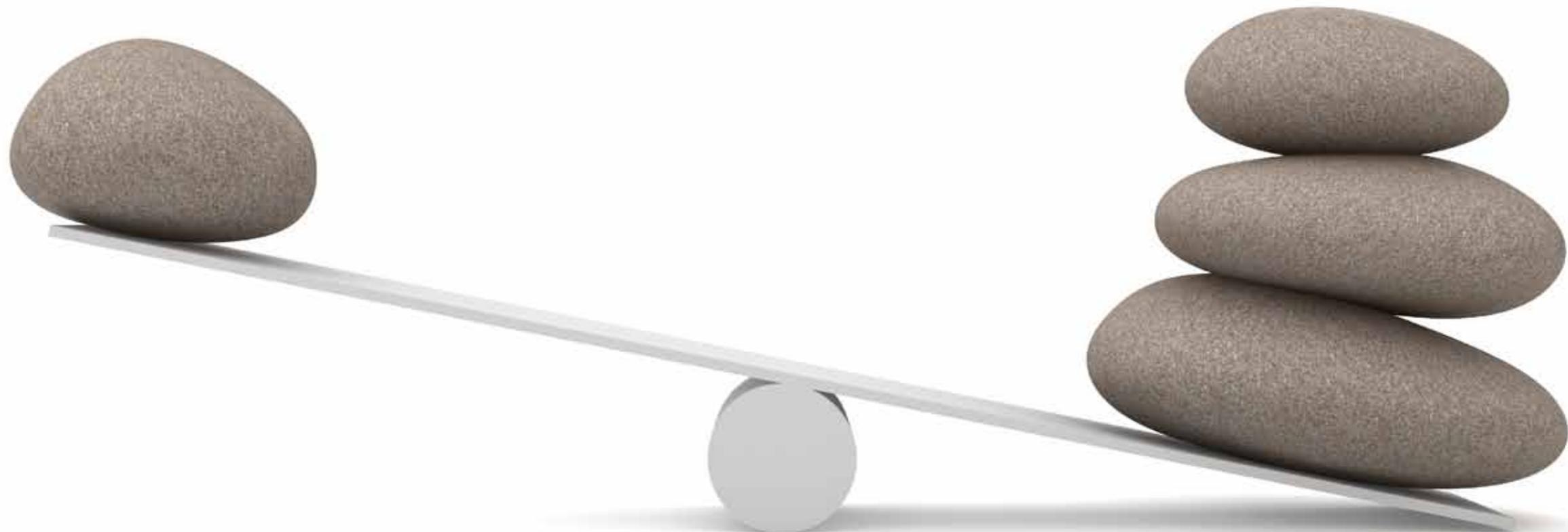
- Take action against movements of hazardous waste within the EU which are contrary to the principles of the revised Waste Framework Directive, notably the waste hierarchy and life-cycle thinking. The proximity principle should apply to movements of hazardous waste within the EU, except where this would conflict with these principles.

- Take tougher action against illegal exports of waste, while at the same time recognising the important contribution that properly regulated and lawful exports of “green list” recyclable materials to countries outside the EU can make to the global markets for secondary raw materials. Criteria should be developed to help Member States assess more easily whether waste qualifies as “green list”.

3. Ensure fair competition between the private and public sectors in EU rules on public procurement.

ESA calls on the Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of Ministers to:

- Ensure there is a level playing field in waste and resource management services between private and public sector providers, particularly in the EU Public Procurement Directives and the revision of the VAT Directive, which currently disadvantage the private sector.
- Propose and implement targets for use of recycled content and/or recyclable materials in products being procured by public bodies to deliver more green procurement.





4. Implement the European Commission's "Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe". Policy interventions must focus on the whole life cycle of products and materials, not just on what happens when items are discarded.

ESA calls on the Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of Ministers to:

- Improve product design, by requiring products in key sectors of the economy to be made more durable, repairable, re-usable, and/or recyclable, based on the principle of producer responsibility. Europe's waste and resource management sector should have an increased role in this process to ensure future product design takes proper account of end of life considerations.
- Work with Europe's waste and resource management sector and other interested parties to define appropriate indicators and targets for guiding action and monitoring progress on resource efficiency, by 2013.



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