



MUNICIPAL WASTE EUROPE

– promoting public responsibility for waste

PRESS RELEASE

On Wednesday 13 April 2011, 40 representatives of 11 countries around Europe joined together in a discussion evening, organised by Municipal Waste Europe.

As a conclusion, it was clearly stated that Municipal Waste Management is a Service of General Interest (SGI).

Municipal Waste management should be under the responsibility by the local authorities, taking into consideration local needs and circumstances. Local authorities are free to choose how they organise the service; through public structures, public-public co-operations, concessions or tendering to the market.

Municipal waste management is needed for all citizens and is based on environmental concerns to prevent and utilize waste in the best possible way. It became clear during the evening that municipal waste management cannot be compared to other utility or commercial services. Market failures in municipal waste management would create environmental damage and impact on human health and put a large burden on future generations, which is unacceptable.

Members of the European Parliament present, acknowledged from personal experience the importance of local authorities having a fair choice whether or not to organise municipal waste management in-house or through tendering to the market.

The European Commission representative confirmed that the intentions remain to keep the EU-legislation neutral when it comes to the local choice between tendering or in-house organisation of services. The Commission intends to present a new legislative formula concerning concessions before the summer. However, the intention is not to limit possibilities for local policy choices. This is fully in line with the rulings of the European Court of Justice.

President of Municipal Waste Europe Erik de Baedts said: "I was happy to notice that both representatives from the European Commission and the European Parliament underlined the regulatory framework for municipal waste management as a Service of General Interest for which the local authorities have the responsibility and the freedom to organise. They have and will keep the options either to deliver the service themselves, through public cooperation, or by involving a private party."

Municipal Waste Europe welcomes this open approach to one of the fundamental public services protecting the environment and delivering resources to the European economy.

Municipal Waste Management is a Service of General Interest!

Municipal Waste Europe is the European association representing municipalities responsible for waste management and their publicly owned waste management companies. The members come from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

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