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PRESS RELEASE

Federico Foschini elected President of the Board of Municipal Waste Europe

At their General Assembly in Helsinki two weeks ago, Municipal Waste Europe members elected Federico Foschini, Senior Policy Advisor of Gruppo Hera and representing UTILITALIA within Municipal Waste Europe, as their President for the following two-year term.

Members elected Johann Mayr, Federal Coordinator for ARGEAVW, Austria and Tony Clark, Managing Director of Avfall Sverige, Sweden, to the Board as Vice-Presidents and Carla Velez, Secretary General of ESGRA, Portugal as Treasurer.

Members welcome the new Board and look forward to working with them on the challenges of circular economy, the policy changes driven by the Green Deal and the carbon neutrality goal.

Given the pressures of climate change and the added fuel crisis resulting from Russia's war against the Ukraine, Municipal Waste Europe is putting its focus on the revisions of EU waste legislation with a view to supporting a circular economy and rendering Europe more self-reliant. This work includes open discussions with all stakeholders to identify opportunities and importantly, implementation of existing rules as well as preparation for upcoming modifications.

No matter how harmonised, clear, science and data-based or ambitious legislation is, if it is not fully and correctly implemented it has not made a difference. A great deal of investment in all aspects of waste management and production are necessary throughout Europe to enable a circular economy to become a reality. Investors require legal certainty and the ability to access reliable feedstock before they take that financial decision. All waste legislation has a role to play here as well as market forces which will need to guide where for example investments in recycling facilities are made; geographically, logistically and for economies of scale. Thinking about the steps before and after production and sales is not what producers are used to. Many are learning and adapting but if we are to be successful we all must learn to work together to create new partnerships and operational models. We have about ten years to get ourselves organised – municipalities are up for the challenge!