INTERNAL UPDATE, edition 11/2015, 9-13 March

Please see the separate document for the timeline.

This week’s issues:

News

External

1. Circular Economy: to be financed by private sector and Juncker Plan
2. Circular Economy: Open letter to President Junker signed by MWE and 15
3. Circular Economy: EEB published a report with ideas for the “Circular Economy Package 2.0”
4. Reuse: Spain first EU country to mandate reuse of electrical goods
5. WtE: Report on an assessment of advanced biofuels from waste and residues
6. Heating: Germany seeks to boost the renewable sources of energy used to heat buildings

Technology and Business

7. Waste processing plant: Indaver (Belgium) sold for €555m
8. AD: Landfill gas supplied to AD plant in the Netherlands

Conferences, seminars and meetings

2. EESC Seminar - “Reuse targets: why they matter and how to make them work”, 20 April, Brussels
News

External

1. Low carbon-Circular economy to be financed by private sector and Juncker Plan

On 3 March, Commissioner Vella gave a press conference advancing some elements on the new laws and the way to achieve the EU’s commitment under its 7th Environmental Action Programme to be a low-carbon, Circular Economy with high quality ecosystems by 2050. He stated that this transformation into a low carbon and Circular Economy will be paid for by the private sector and, to a lesser extent, funds from the Juncker investment Plan. The Commission sees its future role as more of a facilitator, rather than purely a regulator, helping to channel private sector investment into green growth. According to the Commission’s own figures, moving to the 2050 low-carbon economy will cost an estimated €270 billion annually for 40 years. The Juncker Plan aims to unlock €315 billion over the next three years, by offering €21 billion in risk guarantees to private investors.

More information:

2. Open letter to President Junker on the Circular Economy, signed by MWE and 15 Organisations

On 6 of March, after the withdrawal and re-launching of discussions on the Circular Economy Package, Municipal Waste Europe, together with 15 other stakeholders, sent a letter to the European Commission underlining the importance of the publication of a new proposal within a short timeframe, to enable our European Economy to rebound through the creation of a Circular Economy.

The letter is available here:
3. EEB published a report with ideas for the “Circular Economy Package 2.0”

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) has published a document containing an infographic and details on what the European Commission’s new Circular Economy Package, dubbed the “Circular Economy Package 2.0”, could look like. The EEB insists that the Commission must propose a package that really is “more ambitious” to justify the original proposal’s withdrawal. They said that this “Circular Economy Package 2.0” must “strengthen the previous proposal’s waste targets” and “come forward with both legislative and non-legislative measures that cut resource use in products”. The document emphasises the re-use part of the loop, focussing on durability and reparability and paying attention to information given to consumers, repair services and on guarantees for the products and spare parts.

More information:
http://www.ciwm-journal.co.uk/archives/12599

Full report:

4. Spain first EU country to mandate reuse of electrical goods

Spain is the first European country to require a proportion of some types of WEEE to be prepared for reuse rather than recycled or burned. The move to introduce a separate national quantitative target for reuse comes in addition to Spain’s implementation of new EU-mandated waste targets introduced as part of the 2012 EU WEEE Directive. Traditionally EU and national targets have not distinguished between reuse and recycling. This has led to waste treatment sites and logistics that are totally unsuitable for preparing goods for re-use. The new Spanish Royal Decree requires 2% of large household appliances and 3% of IT equipment to be prepared for re-use from 2017. The targets will rise to 3% and 4% respectively from 2018. In addition to the new targets, the new Spanish rules also include the following requirements:

- Improves the monitoring, traceability and supervision requirements of waste management activities by the public administration
• Separate collection, transport and storage conditions to allow appropriate preparation for reuse and to prevent breakages and loss of materials.
• Recognises the role of social economy actors in waste collection and treatment and the possibility of handing over WEEE to these entities.
• It recognises the job creation potential of preparation for re-use (4.700 jobs, according to the Spanish biodiversity-green employment project 2007-2013)
• Gives local authorities the possibility to include social clauses in public contracts
• It recognises the importance of promoting easily repairable and reusable products

More information

5. Report on an assessment of advanced biofuels from waste and residues

The International Council on Clean Transportation, Institute for European Environmental Policy and NNFCC the Bioeconomy Consultants have made an in-depth analysis and confirmed that advanced biofuels from wastes and residues, if mobilized in a sustainable manner, can make a sizeable contribution to reducing European dependence on imported oil. The report called “Wasted: Europe’s Untapped resources - An Assessment of Advanced Biofuels from Waste and residues” starts with a precautionary approach and only focuses on wastes and residues that were viewed by all project partners as sustainable. The main conclusions are that if all the sustainably available resources were converted only to road transport fuel, the technical potential could equal 16 per cent of demand in 2030. Commercializing this resource could also create hundreds of thousands of jobs, both in building and operating refineries and in collecting the resources to feed them. Meanwhile, the potential CO₂ savings range from 60 to 85 per cent in most cases, making a significant contribution to EU climate goals.

Read the full report:
6. Germany seeks to boost the renewable sources of energy used to heat buildings

Germany has updated its renewable energy support programme to accelerate the use of renewable heating in buildings as part of efforts to meet its climate target. Renewable sources of energy accounted for almost 28 percent of Germany’s electricity last year, but only 9.9 percent of its heating, far below a target for a 14 percent share by 2020. Under the changes, the government has reformed a market incentive program worth €300 million, to include revenue dependent support for solar heat as well as ambitious efficiency criteria. The program also envisages a bonus for small and mid-size companies that invest in renewable sources of heating as well as grants and loans for bigger companies and supports primarily the installation of renewable heating systems in old residential and commercial buildings.

More information:

Technology and Business

7. Waste processing plant Indaver (Belgium) sold for €555m

Logistics firm Katoennatie has reached an agreement with Delta to buy its 74.99% majority stake in its waste processing subsidiary Indaver. The agreed price of €555m is based on a total value for Indaver, which has extensive reach in the WfW, biomass and biogas markets of €842m. Katoennatie president Fernand Huts said that the deal brought the "Flemish crown jewels" back into the country’s ownership. Netherlands-based Delta put Indaver on the market in September last year in order to reduce its debt burden. The sale will be subject to approval by the competition authorities in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany and other Delta’s shareholders but Katoennatie is confident it will have completed the deal by the end of the second quarter of this year.

More information (for ends subscribers):
http://www.endswasteandbioenergy.com/article/1337327/indaver-sold-%E2%82%AC555m
8. Landfill gas supplied to AD plant in the Netherlands

Waste company HVC’s (Netherlands) has signed an innovative agreement allowing it to replace its use of natural gas completely by supporting an anaerobic digestion plant. The plant, in the north of the country near Alkmaar, annually used 700,000m³ of natural gas to power its digestion process, which the company was buying in. However, an anaerobic digestion facility was built next to the landfill and both companies announced a new cooperation agreement on 5 March 2015. HVC spokeswoman Christine Schreij said it was win-win situation as HVC reduced its costs. Not only will the digester be heated by the landfill gas, so will HVC’s offices at the site. The facility, which processes 80,000 tonnes of fruit, vegetable and garden waste a year is one of the Netherlands' largest. The plant has been in operation since 2011 and recently announced more than five million cubic metres of biogas had been sent to the national grid since its opening.

More information (for ends subscribers):

Conferences, seminars and meetings

External

This conference aims to provide a broad overview of innovative developments related to collection, based mainly on feedback from the experience of authorities and private operators.

More information:
http://www.amorce.asso.fr/fr/informations-pratiques/agenda/collecte-et-decheterie/

2. EESC Seminar - “Reuse targets: why they matter and how to make them work”, 20 April, Brussels
With the European Commission currently investigating the feasibility of introducing separate EU targets for the re-use of electrical goods, as well as policies that could better support a circular economy, this seminar will demonstrate how some EU member states are showing that re-use can be
promoted through target setting with some impressive results. It will also look at the role of how economic instruments, such as Extended Producer Responsibility, can better support reuse. Speakers will include representatives of EU institutions, national authorities, social enterprises and Producer Responsibility Organisations.

More information:
http://www.rreuse.org/event-reuse-targets-why-they-matter-and-how-to-make-them-work/

Internal
Past:
- SG Vanya Veras attended to a Horizon2020 preparation project Meeting in Vienna

Upcoming:
- PC meeting and General Assembly: 26 May in Brussels
- PC meeting: 7 September
- PC meeting: 23 November in Brussels
- Seminar: 24 November in Brussels