



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Environment Committee votes for waste prevention and recycling targets

What's next?

[Brussels, 17 April 2008] The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management (ACR+) welcomes favorably the positions voted by the Environment Committee of the European Parliament on 8 April 2008. The vote is in keeping with the position advocated by ACR+ in favour of waste prevention and recycling targets, which are vital to ensure the implementation of a multi-level waste management hierarchy.

However, this vote is not a final decision and one may fear that the requirements be weakened in the next steps of the procedure. Indeed, before the adoption by the Parliament at its plenary session scheduled for 16 June 2008, the rapporteur Caroline Jackson must now negotiate with the Council in order to reach agreement in second reading. Should this fail, a conciliation procedure will be conducted, probably into Fall 2008.

Therefore, it is important to show support for the positions voted by the Environment Committee of the European Parliament.

More specifically:

- Concerning **prevention**, ACR+ believes that amendments reasserting the vital importance of the concept of « waste plans or programmes » must be strongly supported. Beyond stabilization, in most cases it is important to call for waste reduction. Thereby, ACR+ considers that, as a minimum, the European objective should be to stabilize waste generation at 2009 levels by 2012 and to reduce waste generation by 2020. For many cities and regions, those objectives are not even sufficient and should be more ambitious. As a matter of fact, ACR+ is confident that there is a waste prevention potential of 100 kg on the basis of the European average waste production of 600 kg per inhabitant per year; in other words, a waste prevention target of around 15% could be aimed at.



- As regards **recycling**, ACR+ supports the amendments that go for a very clear distinction between material recovery (recycling) and energy recovery. The recycling target of 50% for household and similar waste is also a very positive move, as well as the amendments that compel Member States to set up waste collection schemes for paper, metal, plastic, glass, textiles, other biodegradable wastes, oils and hazardous wastes. The ACR+ surveys and studies related to the performances of cities in terms of selective collection show that the proposed target is truly achievable.
- Concerning **producer responsibility**, ACR+ supports the amendments tabled by the European Parliament to further clarify the implementation terms of producer responsibility schemes, but regrets that those terms are not considered as cumulative. Furthermore, ACR+ advocates for explicit references to the real and complete costs.

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*The **Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management** (ACR+) is an international network of members who share the common aim of promoting the sustainable consumption of resources and management of waste through prevention at source, reuse and recycling. ACR+ currently has about 90 members, mainly local and regional authorities as well as national networks of local authorities representing around 750 municipalities. ACR+ also welcomes other key players in the sustainable resource-product-waste management, such as NGOs, academic institutions or private organisations, as partner members.*

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