



## **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MEPs should stand firm on waste recycling and prevention targets**

**ACR+ studies confirm that proposed targets are achievable, or even underestimated**

[Brussels, 3 June 2008] Recent studies from the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) confirm the achievability of the recycling and prevention targets for municipal waste proposed by the Environmental Committee of the European Parliament in April 2008, in the framework of the review of the Waste Framework Directive.

The proposed targets, together with other amendments from the Parliament, are being negotiated with the Council with a view to reaching agreement in second reading at the 16<sup>th</sup> of June plenary session of the Parliament<sup>1</sup>.

In this context, the achievability of the proposed targets has raised controversy. Through the negotiation process, the Council might end up undermining the European Parliament's proposals. Yet, according to ACR+ findings, the Parliament's proposals are truly achievable...

### **Recycling**

Proposed target: by 2020, to achieve 50% by weight of reuse or recycling for household and similar waste.

ACR+ findings: an ACR+ survey related to the performances of cities in terms of selective collection demonstrate that many cities and regions in Europe already achieve municipal waste selective collection and recycling rates of between 50 and 80%.

(More details in the overview referenced below)

Therefore, it appears that the proposed target for municipal waste is not only achievable, but could even be surpassed.

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<sup>1</sup> See also: ACR+ Press Release "Environment Committee votes for waste prevention and recycling targets - What's next?" at <http://www.acrplus.org/upload/documents/document434.pdf>



## Prevention

**Proposed target:** by 2012, to stabilize the overall waste production at 2009 levels and set up further qualitative and quantitative targets for 2020, which would need to be specified by the Commission by 2010.

**ACR+ findings:** in the framework of its European Campaign for Waste Reduction, ACR+ has collected data which allowed to estimate that there is a potential for waste reduction at source of ~15%. Based on a European average waste production of 600 kg/inh/year, this means reducing the amount of waste at source by around 100 kg/inh/year.

In light of these findings, the stabilization target is truly realistic and, for many cities and regions, should be more ambitious.

## More data and information:

Quantitative Targets for Waste Recycling and Prevention – An Overview of Findings from ACR+ Studies, freely accessible on the ACR+ website:

<http://www.acrplus.org/upload/documents/document440.pdf>

## References

Analysis of Municipal Waste Management Practices in Europe. An Image of some of the best performing cities and regions, ACR+ report commissioned by ISR, June 2008 (free for ACR+ Members, may be purchased from the ACR+ Secretariat)

100 kg less waste per inhabitant, ACR+ European Campaign for Waste Reduction, brochure, 2007 (downloadable from <http://www.acrplus.org/upload/documents/document366.pdf>)

Reports of the Biowaste and Packaging clusters, European Campaign for Waste Reduction, ACR+, 2008 (available to the participants of the European Campaign for Waste Reduction)

*ACR+ will be presenting its European Campaign for Waste Reduction at the European Green Week from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008. The ACR+ booth will feature a quiz on waste reduction.*

## For further information:

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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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