



## PRESS RELEASE

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**THE ASSOCIATION OF CITIES AND REGIONS FOR RECYCLING  
AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (ACR+)  
WITH THE SUPPORT OF SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT AND SITA, LAUNCHES  
THE FIRST-EVER EUROPEAN DECISION-MAKING TOOL FOR MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT**

After several years of studies and data gathering, the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) is publishing, with the support of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT and its waste subsidiary SITA, an analysis of European waste prevention and recycling issues. The study includes, in particular, data on the various waste management models in the 27 European capitals. The book *Municipal Waste in Europe – Towards a European Recycling Society*, published by Victoires Editions, brings together Europe's waste management policies and outlines the challenges which public authorities need to address.

Founded 15 years ago, ACR+ today brings together some 100 European local authorities responsible for waste management. The book is based on years of multiple exchanges of information and experience between association members.

The fact is, although Europe provides a common legal and regulatory framework, local authorities are the main public players. **Jean-Pierre Hannequart, President of ACR+** says *"Each member authority of the association has its own strategy, which articulates the common framework of the European directives but also places it in its own particular context based on country, region, urban characteristics, and local economic and social issues. This wide diversity does not prevent the existence of many common points of view on waste management policy: each town, city and region needs to develop a prevention strategy, apply similar legal concepts, organise selective collection, and make balanced choices between various waste treatment techniques."*

This book will allow all players, whether technicians, decision-makers, policy-makers, public authorities or private companies, to take a critical look at analysis methods, and at the parameters they need to take into account in municipal waste management.

In the words of **Christophe Cros, Senior Executive Vice President of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT**: *"Quantified targets for recycling, reducing discharge, and recovery are some of the challenges posed by the Member States, for which SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT is mobilising its expertise and resources to service local authorities. However, a 27-member Europe varies greatly in the efficiency of their waste management methods, and each country follows its own programme adapted to its particular socioeconomic fabric. Best-practice transfers must be encouraged so new Member States can benefit from the experience of pioneer States, which will lead to a homogeneous European market."*

Convinced that the exchange of experience and expertise leads to better choices, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT has committed financial support to the project and has placed its technical know-how and its European waste management experience at ACR+'s disposal, in particular via a panel of experts from SITA.

ACR+ is founded on 15 years' exchange of experience and expertise between local and regional authorities to achieve this veritable panorama of European waste management.



This comprehensive study of over 250 pages available in French and English is illustrated with photos, tables and diagrams. It covers the key challenges in waste management, the European legal context, broad management principles, collection methods, waste treatment techniques and cost issues. It also discusses the concrete application of concepts such as sustainable consumption and dematerialisation, and examines legal, economic and educational management tools.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF THE BOOK:**

The book is based on contributions from all the members of ACR+ and in particular from its Board of Directors. Its precise content and final editing is the result of a team of seven people: Jérôme Bodart, Gabriela Collado, Yves Decelle, Olivier De Clercq, Jean-Pierre Hannequart, Francis Radermaker and Kit Strange.

#### **WHERE TO FIND IT:**

The French version is available **in bookstores in Belgium and France from 30 September.**

You can also order it online from [www.victoires-editions.fr](http://www.victoires-editions.fr) or [www.environnement-online.com](http://www.environnement-online.com), or directly from the Victoires-Editions shop (38, rue Croix des Petits Champs 75001 Paris).

#### ***ACR+ : AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PLAYERS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT***

*ACR+ is an international network of some 100 members in 20 countries with the common objective of sustainable waste and resource management through prevention, re-use and recycling. ACR+ members are essentially local and regional authorities, along with national networks of local authorities representing some 1,100 municipalities. The association aims to promote the exchange of information and experience on all themes related to municipal waste management. ACR+'s studies, bulletins, conferences and seminars allow members to discuss and confront problems and solutions with other players in waste management in Europe and elsewhere.*

#### ***SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT***

*Natural resources are not infinite. Each day, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) and its subsidiaries deal with the challenge of protecting resources by providing innovative solutions to industries and millions of people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies drinking water to 76 million people, provides wastewater treatment services for 44 million people, and collects the waste produced by 51 million people. With 65,400 employees, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT is the world leader exclusively dedicated to environmental services and is present on five continents. In 2008, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT posted revenues of 12.4 billion Euros. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT is a 35%-owned subsidiary of GDF SUEZ.*

#### **PRESS CONTACTS:**

##### **SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT**

Hélène Enginger  
+33 1 58 18 45 94  
[helene.enginger@suez-env.com](mailto:helene.enginger@suez-env.com)

##### **ACR+**

Audrey Martin  
+32 2 234 65 07  
[am@acrplus.org](mailto:am@acrplus.org)

##### **SITA Belgium**

Katrien Deneff  
+32 3 545 17 50

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More about ACR+ : [www.acrplus.org](http://www.acrplus.org)