



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2009/2153(INI)

22.3.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on the Commission Green Paper on the management of bio-waste in the
European Union
(2009/2153(INI))

Rapporteur: Giles Chichester

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls the established waste hierarchy presented in the Waste Framework Directive for which landfilling is considered as the worst option; stresses that bio-waste must first be reduced then collected separately and recycled, in particular by recovering energy, where possible, and through composting;
2. Notes that bio-waste constitutes a significant part of waste (also in urban areas) and that a huge unexploited potential exists today in many Member States to use bio-waste as compost by collecting it separately, but also to recover energy and materials from waste in general, with the aim of diverting waste from landfills;
3. Stresses the role which reused bio-waste in the form of compost can play in combating climate change soil degradation and erosion; calls on Member States to provide for composting in their national legislation and urges that they exchange best practices; stresses that improvements in bio-waste management and the harmonisation of quality standards for compost are needed to encourage the development of a European market for compost;
4. Stresses that diverting bio-waste from landfills needs to be increased, notes, in this context, that bio-waste can contribute to the EU target of at least 20 % renewable energy by 2020 and also that of the EU Fuel Quality Directive; recalls that the Renewables Directive supports the use of all types of biomass, including bio-waste for energy purposes, as a renewable source of energy, and that bio-fuels from waste count double towards the 10 % renewable energy target in transport; calls, therefore, on Member States to consider energy recovery from the biodegradable parts of waste in their national legislation as part of an integrated waste hierarchy policy and urges them to share best practice ideas;
5. Calls on Member States to outline how, taking into account their specific geographic and climatic conditions, energy from bio-waste including anaerobic digestion for biogas and advanced biofuels production can contribute to exploiting the potential of existing biomass resources;
6. Draws attention to the importance of strengthening public awareness and acceptance of bio-waste separate collection, recycling and energy recovery, namely through media and educational campaigns;
7. Recognises the need for Member States to set up a consistent and stable legal framework which supports the construction of facilities for composting and energy recovery from (bio)waste;
8. Stresses that, with a view to attaining the objectives at various levels (combating warming of the climate, soil degradation and soil erosion; attaining renewable energy objectives), a

combination of composting and fermentation of selectively collected bio-waste, if feasible, undoubtedly possesses advantages and should be encouraged;

9. Underlines the fact that in many Member States some infrastructure is already in place but financial incentives are required to create and establish the potential compost and digestate, bioenergy and biofuel markets from bio-waste;
10. While taking into account the need for compliance with the Waste Incineration Directive (WID) standards, encourages regional and local authorities to make use of existing decentralised district heating and cooling facilities and to use structural funds for financing waste-to-energy, composting and energy recovery from bio-waste facilities so as to be able to divert more waste from landfills;
11. Considers food waste disposers linked to public sewerage systems to be an option for diverting bio-waste from landfills and producing biogas from bio-waste;
12. Notes that waste-to-energy plants and other facilities for energy recovery from bio-waste benefit from the same conditions of access to electricity grids and gas pipelines as other renewable energy sources;
13. Underlines the environmental advantage of producing transport fuels from bio-waste; calls, therefore, for biofuels from bio-waste to count towards recycling targets; calls for the definition of bio-waste in the Waste Framework Directive to be aligned with that of the Renewable Energy Directive;
14. Emphasises the importance of keeping open all technical options for managing bio-waste so as to encourage innovation and job creation in this field;
15. Calls on the Commission to elaborate in its impact assessment an improved system for the management of bio-waste regarding the recycling of separately collected bio-waste, the use of composting for agricultural and ecological benefit, the mechanical/biological treatment options, and the use of bio-waste as a source for generating energy; considers that this impact assessment should be used as a basis for preparing a new European Union legal framework on biodegradable waste;
16. Stresses that the whole range of biodegradable waste must be considered in order to promote compost production and recovery from all waste flows; points out that biodegradable waste includes not only bio-waste but also sewage sludge and the part of household waste which is fermentable (soiled or unsorted paper and cardboard, certain textiles, etc.);
17. Stresses that separate collection of bio-waste or other bio-waste management systems that maximise resource recovery should be incorporated in a European Union framework and calls on Member States to consider establishing separate collection schemes for bio-waste; considers that financial incentives are needed to expand this separate collection and other bio-waste management systems that maximise resource recovery;
18. Notes that a future European Union framework would provide legal guidance and clarity for many Member States and would encourage them to make investments in the field of

bio-waste management;

19. Calls on the Commission to further engage in research into bio-waste treatment methods in order to better quantify the soil-related benefits, as well as the energy recovery and the environmental impacts.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	18.3.2010
Result of final vote	+: 48 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Zigmantas Balčytis, Zoltán Balczó, Jan Březina, Reinhard Bütikofer, Maria Da Graça Carvalho, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Giles Chichester, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Ioan Enciu, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, Fiona Hall, Jacky Hénin, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Sajjad Karim, Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, Judith A. Merkies, Angelika Niebler, Jaroslav Paška, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Michèle Rivasi, Paul Rübig, Amalia Sartori, Francisco Sosa Wagner, Konrad Szymański, Britta Thomsen, Patrizia Toia, Evžen Tošenovský, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas, Claude Turmes, Marita Ulvskog, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Kathleen Van Brempt, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Henri Weber
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	António Fernando Correia De Campos, Rachida Dati, Andrzej Grzyb, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Oriol Junqueras Vies, Ivailo Kalfin, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Hermann Winkler