



Eurits: Proposal to revise the Waste Framework Directive: 10 key points February 2006

1. **Definitions:** it is essential that robust definitions are developed to avoid uncertainty and to prevent waste policy being set through the European Court of Justice. Although some of the definitions in the Commission's proposal are acceptable, others are incomplete and some notable ones are missing. Definitions that should be added include: interim operation, collector and waste prevention itself – a notable omission.
2. **High temperature incineration:** requires a special status in recognition of its special role in decontamination and in the complete destruction of extremely hazardous compounds such as POPs. This could be achieved by a new entry in the waste hierarchy for **decontamination**. Waste can only be classified as suitable for recycling once the items have been decontaminated of any hazardous/dangerous components and the introduction of a decontamination step must be recognised as being an essential part of the recycling/recovery process.
3. **Interim operations:** the proposed Directive is the ideal opportunity to develop better definitions and guidelines for interim operations, such as sorting, blending and mixing and to clarify when their use should be forbidden.
4. **End of waste definition and methodology:** the end of waste section is acceptable in theory, but there should be strong controls and adequate stakeholder consultation when a waste is being declassified. Wastes for energy recovery should never be classified as a non-waste.
5. **Dilution:** there should be a complete ban on the dilution of waste.
6. **Disposal vs Recovery:** Eurits believes that the content of annexes I and II does not help to clarify the difference between the two concepts and that it is very difficult to improve them. A preferred solution would be to introduce the Basel and OECD regulations through separate legislation.
7. **Permits:** Eurits believes that there should be no exemptions from the requirements to hold a permit but recognises that the scope of the permit should reflect the level of risk. The hazards and risks are the same whether the waste goes to a recovery facility or a disposal facility. It is crucial that all facilities are licensed to the same high environmental standards.
8. **Energy efficiency criteria and energy efficiency limit:** criteria should be developed for all operations covered by the Waste Incineration Directive, including co-incinerators such as cement kilns, and not just municipal waste incineration, otherwise there is a strong risk of market distortions. Eurits believes that the efficiency factor should be 0.5 not 0.6, given that 0.6-0.65 is outside of the range agreed in the Waste Incineration BREF. 0.5 is achievable with the application of BAT and as it is 2/3 of the BAT range still presents a considerable challenge to plant operators but does give sufficient incentive to invest.
9. **Operation classification** – in classifying an activity as recovery or disposal the waste characteristics must be taken into account.
10. **Record-keeping** - transparency and control of waste management activities is crucial to be able to track the safe treatment of waste, particularly for interim operations. Eurits believes that input/output records should be produced.