



18 June 2008

**PRESS RELEASE AFTER THE PLENARY VOTE OF 17 JUNE  
AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
ON THE WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**

**A REUSE/RECYCLING POLICY IS WELCOME  
BUT IT DOES NOT FULFILL ESSENTIAL ENVIRONMENT AND HARMONISATION GOALS**

What were the goals of the revision of the Waste-Framework Directive?

For professionals of waste, it is to ensure for the next 30 years a legal framework which recognises the environment protection as the n°1 priority of the waste European policy, and as a condition for the promotion of recovery and recycling.

FNADE regrets that the vote in second reading at European Parliament on 17 June, as well as the previous negotiations with the Council of Ministers in Trilogue, have sacrificed essential results of the vote in ENVI Committee on 8 April, despite some positive elements such as confirmation of the R1 formula for energy recovery, provisions on control and traceability of hazardous wastes, less rigid « hierarchy » of treatments, safeguard of principle of proximity and self-sufficiency.

Negotiations have resulted in objectives and in definitions of principles, but without precise means to reach environmentally sound management of wastes, with the same level playing field throughout Europe.

We wished more precise and binding provisions, more detailed and harmonised criteria on:

- obligation of **permits without exemption for each treatment of hazardous wastes**, not confirmed;
- the **definition of recovery**: it should have been accompanied with environment and efficiency criteria; a vague and unconditional definition encourages mostly sham recovery and insofar tourism of waste since transboundary waste shipment are easier for recovery goal; there should have been made a distinction between material recovery and energy recovery (R1 formula is not enough);
- the **list of recovery operations**: it should have been a harmonised list, therefore unique in EU27 in order to avoid certain types of treatment to be considered as disposal in one country and as recovery in another one, which favours exports of wastes;
- the **definition of recycling**: it should have been the « final » operation of re-introduction of material/substances into a product;
- the **end of waste status**: with harmonised criteria, instead of each Member State unilaterally deciding, which favours more eco-dumping than Europe as a "Society of recycling";
- Finally, the creation **of a new legal category, the « by-products »** with the purpose of escaping waste legislation, which will allow « blind » declassification a lot of waste streams, including hazardous ones, without avoiding many legal uncertainties.

The future Directive will still generate numerous litigations, and will not be the instrument of a real waste European policy. It gives priority to subsidiarity, which is a vision we do not support.