



FEAD BULLETIN N° 42 - 12 March 2021

Communication, Networking, and Future Events

- **FEAD in EP Hearing on plastics**
 - On February 25, FEAD's President, Peter Kurth, participated in a **Joint Public Hearing**, held by the European Parliament's **ENVI and PETI** Committees on the topic of "**Plastics and waste management in the circular economy**".
 - During the discussion at the EP Hearing, several MEPs posed questions, which due to time limits remained unanswered. **FEAD issued a paper replying to those questions.**
 - **FEAD** has shared the above-mentioned paper with multiple **ENVI** and **PETI** MEPs and we have already received **thank-you messages and positive feedback.**

- **FEAD Event on Batteries - 22 March 2021 - REGISTRATION OPEN**
 - **FEAD** will hold a side event to the **EU Industry Days 2021** in partnership with the **European Commission**, on **22 March 2021, at 14h00 – 16h00 CET**, on the topic of **recycling of batteries**, in view of the new Regulation on sustainable batteries recently proposed by the European Commission (December 2020). The event will be entitled "**Batteries' recycling: energising the EU green transition**".

- Read more about the upcoming event [here](#).



Batteries' recycling: energising the EU green transition

22 March, 14h00-16h00

Online conference



REGISTER HERE

- **FEAD Event on Waste-to-Energy - 12 April 2021 - Save-the-Date**
 - **SAVE THE DATE** for the new **FEAD** online event entitled "**Waste-to-Energy: an essential element for circularity**".
 - **Monday 12 April 2021 at 16:00-18:00 CET**
 - The event aims at showing that WtE is a crucial link in the whole waste management chain and that it is integral to the circular economy. It allows to move up waste treatments pursuant to the Waste Hierarchy, as a key enabler to more recycling and a no-regret option for safe treatment of non-recyclable waste. It saves CO₂ emissions by substituting fossil fuel for residual waste to produce heat and electricity. Speakers from the EU institutions and Member States, experts from the waste management sector, and stakeholders will debate on why and how future EU regulations, in particular the Taxonomy, should have a positive approach to Waste-to-Energy.
 - **More information and a link for registration will follow soon.**



ONLINE EVENT

WASTE-TO-ENERGY

an essential element for circularity

12 APRIL 2021, 16H00 - 18H00




- **FEAD supported Event: European technology for a greener and carbon-neutral Hong Kong – electric vehicles and waste management**
 - The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Brussels and HKETO in Berlin are co-organising a webinar event to introduce the latest green business opportunities offered by Hong Kong to European businesses.
 - **Friday, 19 March 2021, 10:00-11:00 CET**
 - More information [here](#). Register [here](#).

Ongoing Surveys and Consultations

- **EC Consultation on Environmental crime – improving EU rules on environmental protection through criminal law:**
 - The Commission has [published](#) an initiative - Consultation (public questionnaire) on **Environmental crime – improving EU rules on environmental protection through criminal law**. (EC deadline for feedback is 03 May 2021 - midnight Brussels time).
- **Textile recycling technologies and recycled fibres - stakeholder survey:**
 - The consultants VITO, Ecologic Institute EU, and CENTEXBEL were tasked by DG GROW to organise a

study on the **Technical, Regulatory, Economic and Environmental Effectiveness of Textile Fibres Recycling**. The outcome of this study will help the Commission in formulating future policies and regulations to facilitate a **circular textile value chain**.

-  In order to improve the outcome of the study, they want our opinion on textile recycling technologies and recycled fibres. [FEAD has prepared a draft response to the survey](#). Please, send us your feedback by **Thursday, 25 March COB** at the latest.


- **FEAD survey on MS implementation of EU plastics tax:**


- Following a request from our Finnish member, YTP, on **how the EU Member States are implementing the new tax on plastic**, FEAD has decided to conduct a relevant **survey**. We are kindly asking you to provide us with your feedback about how your countries are implementing the plastic tax. Please, fill in your input [here](#) and send it back to us at your earliest convenience.

- **EC “study on the use of PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) in the context of a non-toxic environment” - PVC waste management and recycling:**


- On Thursday 4 March, FEAD participated in the focus group on PVC recycling in the EU taking place in the framework of the European Commission's “study on the use of PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) in the context of a non-toxic environment”. Please find the slides [here](#).

- **JRC- AIMPLAS Waste Plastics Seminar:**

- On Thursday 4 March 2021, the JRC held a seminar on **“Waste plastics - mechanical recycling, chemical recycling and energy recovery”**. Please, find the slides [here](#).
- The JRC has also launched a [short survey](#) addressed to all relevant stakeholders in the waste plastic recycling and energy recovery sectors.
 -  Please, send us your feedback and examples **bynext Tuesday, 16th March at 12h CET**.

- **EC Consultation on the Revision of the IED & of the E-PRTR & Consultant's stakeholders' questionnaire:**
 - The Commission has published two initiatives - **Public Consultations (questionnaires) on the Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive and of the E-PRTR**. (Please, note that while there are two different initiatives on the EC website, the consultation and the questionnaire are merged).
 - The Consultancy **Ricardo** is also conducting on behalf of the Commission a **stakeholders' survey** and they have requested our feedback.
 - On **Tuesday 9 March**, **FEAD** held an online meeting to discuss Members' positions on the two consultations on the **revision of the IED**. Please, find the **updated draft replies** to the **Commission survey** and to **Ricardo's survey**. Please also find the **minutes of the meeting** and the **draft position paper of Business Europe** (mentioned during the meeting).
 - With regard to the **Commission's survey**, we remind you that the FEAD draft position on landfills, for the moment, is to **leave them out of the IED** with the following justification:
 - ***Landfills are not covered by the Waste Treatment BREF because the Landfill Directive is so detailed that this document is considered the BREF for landfills. The Commission has already indicated that the Landfill Directive will be updated in 2024. We deem it is more effective to further update the Landfill Directive instead of going into a Sevilla-Process with all its uncertainties.***
 -  Thus, we need **your approval of this point and of the whole reply to the Commission's survey by next Friday, 19 March COB** (EC deadline is 23 March 2021).
 - Regarding the **consultant's (Ricardo) survey**, we have received feedback from a member requesting that **batteries disposal and recycling, and biological**

treatment are **excluded** from the IED. The relevant justifications are reported in the survey (in brief: *currently, treatment of non-hazardous waste batteries as well as small installations of biological treatment of waste are excluded from the IED, and that should remain as it is*).

-  In order to discuss these issues and to continue with providing the common feedback to the consultant's survey (on GHG emissions and BREF cycles), we will organise a **second FEAD web-meeting**. We kindly ask you to fill in this [doodle](#) as soon as possible, in order to set it up (approx. 1.5 h, during week 22-26 March). In the meanwhile, please take a look at the draft reply to Ricardo's survey (up to page 12), with the revised answers according to the outcomes of the first meeting.

- **Updates & FEAD meeting on Taxonomy and WtE**

- As written in last week's FEAD bulletin, the Commission held a series of webinars on the last week of February on how the Platform for Sustainable Finance (currently advising the Commission on delegated acts, the definition of technical screening criteria and the way forward) is proceeding.
- Briefly, here's what we can expect:
 - **The Commission will adopt the first delegated act on adaptation and mitigation activities on 21 April 2021.**
 - The Commission has asked the Platform to further investigate the scope of transition activities, with a deadline set to mid-end March.
 - The Commission is set to send a draft to Member States and to the Parliament around mid-March. Just as a reminder, after adoption, MS and the Parliament will have approximately 4 months (2+2 if renewed) to raise objections.
 - The proposal for a second delegated act (covering objective 3-6, including circular economy) can be expected in the Summer (June/July), with discussions starting in the Platform towards the end of Summer.

- Considering this process, **FEAD kick-started the work on technical screening criteria for waste-to-energy**, and held an online **meeting** on Wednesday, 10 March, to build a common strategy on a way forward.
 - Please find the [presentation](#) used in the meeting, together with a [first attempt at discussing Technical Screening Criteria for Waste-to-Energy](#). (Please note that the latter is just a first attempt at a potential draft FEAD position on the criteria. The document is a “thoughts starter” developed on the basis of CEWEP’s work, including some comments developed by the FEAD Secretariat).
 - **EC 1st Stakeholders' workshop on Safe and Sustainable-by-Design criteria for chemicals, materials and products**
 - The European Commission will hold online the **1stStakeholders' workshop on Safe and Sustainable-by-Design criteria for chemicals, materials and products** on Friday 19 March at 09:30-13:00 CET. Please find [here](#) the link for the registration to the workshop.
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Monitoring of EU Institutions

Life of EU institutions

- **March 2021 European Parliament Plenary updates:**
 - On Tuesday 9 March, the EP approved the **€26bn InvestEU programme**, which aims to mobilise €400bn in investment over the next six years as part of the **Next Generation EU recovery package**. Approximately 38% of the investment will be channelled to “**sustainable infrastructure**”, however, projects will also have to meet the EU’s “**do no significant harm**” principle.
 - On Wednesday 10 March, the EP approved a **report** (rapporteur: Doleschal, EPP, Germany) calling for **construction products to meet minimum standards for the environment, health and safety**. Almost the entire

parliament voted in favour (only 4 MEPs voted against and 5 abstained)!

- The report urges the Commission to improve the **Construction Products Regulation (CPR)**, in part by introducing new requirements on “environmental performance and sustainability criteria across the lifecycle of products into the harmonised standards for specific product categories” under the regulation. The commission should also explore how the CPR “could support the circularity of construction products”, the report adds.
- The EC is expected to publish its proposal to revise the regulation in **Q3 2021** and a **strategy for a "sustainable built environment"** is expected to follow later on.
- **FEAD** had provided [feedback to the relevant Roadmap on the Review of the CPR](#) and had also responded to the Commission's public consultation (questionnaire).
- On Wednesday 10 March, MEPs approved the [final "own-initiative report"](#) entitled "**a WTO-compatible EU carbon border adjustment mechanism**". The adoption of a controversial **amendment** had preceded on the previous day, which removed a call to end the free allocation of emissions allowances to heavy industry in the **EU ETS** once a planned CBAM is established. The Commission is expected to present a **legislative proposal** in **Q2 2021** and a **proposal** on how to include the revenue generated to finance part of the EU budget. For more information read [here](#).
 - Find **FEAD's position on the CBAM** [here](#).
 - **European Parliament Briefing: [Carbon emissions pricing - Some points of reference](#)**
- **EU Environment Ministers** will hold their first **informal video conference** under the Portuguese Presidency on Thursday, 18 March. Please find [here](#) the provisional agenda.
 - Among other topics, the Ministers will discuss the Commission's legislative proposal on **batteries and waste**

batteries, which aims to strengthen and align the current EU batteries legislation with the European Green Deal. Please, find here the [Presidency background paper with questions for Ministers](#).

- The Ministers will also exchange views on the **EU chemicals strategy for sustainability** and on the **8th Environment Action Programme**.

[This week's focus: updates on correspondents' guidelines on new plastic waste entries](#)

- We have been notified by the Commission that the next Correspondents' meeting will be held on **25 March (10h00-12h00)** and will be open to observers. We still wait for further details on this.
- In light of this meeting, it will be important and relatively urgent to come to a decision on a mechanism to put forward. Concerning the proposal circulated last week on a traceability mechanism based on "pre-validating the contractual agreement" between the plant of origin and the plant of destination, we have received a **series of comments that require clarification and a compromise effort (if possible) from all parties**.
- ▶ We propose to find a slot next week to briefly convene to find a common position ahead of the upcoming Correspondents' meeting. **Please express your [preference in this doodle](#) by Monday, 15 March COB.**
- Please find [here](#) a **recap of the main comments received**, to give you an idea of where we need to start from. Should you have any comments/further proposals, please send them to us **by Monday at the latest**.

Press Review & Reports

- [Think2030 paper: "A low-carbon and circular industry for Europe"](#)
 - The Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) have co-written a

paper entitled "[A low-carbon and circular industry for Europe](#)".

- You can watch here an [online briefing](#) on the paper, held today, 5 March.

Webinars & Conferences

- **"Empowering the circular bioeconomy through the EU Green Deal!"**
 - **MEP Franc Bogovič**, chair of the Bioeconomy Working Group of the [European Parliament Intergroup on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development'](#) is hosting a webinar entitled "Empowering the circular bioeconomy through the EU Green Deal!".
 - 17 March 2021, 14:00 - 16:00 CET. Register [here](#).
- **CEPS webinar - How to measure the climate and circularity impact of the recovery plans?**
 - In order to gain access to the funds available through the Recovery and Resilience Facility member states will need to prepare and submit national recovery and resilience plans. A number of member states have published their plans indicating their ambitions. What kind of approaches can be adopted by governments for classifying different budget lines and measuring the impact on climate change and circularity? How can potential trade-offs be measured and monitored?

The event is organised in collaboration with the European Environmental Bureau.
 - Speakers:
 - **Sirpa Pietikainen**, MEP, European Parliament
 - **Geraldine Mahieu**, Acting Director, European Commission
 - **Vincent Marcus**, Deputy Director of Economy and Evaluation, Ministry of Ecology, France
 - **Shardul Agrawala**, Head of the Environment and Economic Integration Division, OECD
 - **Vasileios Rizos**, Research Fellow and Head of Sustainable Resources and Circular Economy.

- 18 March 2021, 11:00 - 12:30 CET. Register [here](#).
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FEAD website - Reminder

- **Go to your Member Area (<https://fead.be/index.php> > “Members Only”)**
- **Enter your login and password** (Please ask your login and password to info@fead.be if you forgot it)
- **Go to “Active Files” and here you have access to all files followed by FEAD Secretariat. We keep it updated!**
- **Frequency of FEAD Bulletin:** The bulletin will be sent maximum once per week, but without a minimum if it not necessary. If there is a slow week with no new relevant information, then we deem that it is not necessary to send it.

For further information or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the FEAD Secretariat at info@fead.be