

## 6<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme

Following the stakeholder consultation meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011 CEWEP would like to submit a few comments.

We think that the following points should be considered:

- The Environmental Action Programme is an important tool defining the principles of EU environmental policy. It is important that a long term strategy exists. It gives legitimacy to Environmental Policy in times of crisis, and investment security, when governments are concentrated on other issues.
- In the future the main focus should be on helping Member States with the implementation of existing waste legislation (tools and mechanisms improving implementation). In Europe there are still major differences between Member States, and even amongst regions within the Member States.
- More financial instruments to implement environmental legislation should be accessible.
- Improvement of statistics, data gathering and conformity is essential in order to be able to measure if actions are improving the environment.
- Thematic strategies give a good starting point to tackle complex, interrelated environmental issues.
- Include synergies between sectors (waste, energy, infrastructure)
- Flexibility is important; prioritisation of which areas of environmental protection need to be improved should take the regional context into account.
- Ambitious targets can benefit from a step-by-step approach.
- A dedicated enforcement body is needed to help implementation of environmental legislation, such as waste legislation.

For any questions please do not hesitate to contact:

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CEWEP represents 390 Waste-to-Energy plants across Europe. Membership of CEWEP underlines a Waste-to-Energy Plant's commitment to

- ensuring high environmental standards,
- achieving low emissions and
- maintaining state of the art energy production from waste, which cannot be reused or recycled in a technically or economically viable way.

Waste-to-Energy plants turn this remaining waste into energy, supplying about 13 million inhabitants with electricity and about 12 million inhabitants with heat.