

Your Voice In Europe: ROADMAP feedback for Waste to Energy Communication

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Related document: Waste to Energy Communication

Feedback:

Friends of the Earth Cyprus

(www.foecyprus.org, www.facebook.com/foecyprus)

As Friends of the Earth Cyprus we would like to express our concerns about the Roadmap “Exploiting the potential of waste to energy”.

We generally believe that waste to energy practices should be minimised not being more exploited. This is due to many implications and effects that this will have on the transition towards circular economy, the reduction of green house gases, the improvement of air quality and energy security of the union with sustainable renewable sources.

Our efforts should be to emphasise and strengthen the circular economy ideas and principles and in the same time focusing on the higher waste hierarchy methods and measures. By following and searching further more into ways and technologies already proven not to be the best practises and solutions, we believe that this roadmap will undermine the transition to circular economy. Incineration and land-filling (the least preferred waste treatment ways) should be limited and in the long run abandoned as a practice. They have no contribution to the circular economy principles and they give to our resources a way out of the circle.

While planning for decarbonising the European energy system, waste to energy will promote the incineration of more plastics, not giving way to systems of separate collection, reusing and reducing plastics. The efforts should be concentrated on reducing and reusing these materials, minimising the need of fossil fuels, which these products are in a huge percent made of.

The emissions of green house gases is a factor we cannot neglect. Even that there are more sustainable and renewable ways of energy production, we see a push on these methods that are in contradiction with Europe's climate change policy and targets.

Concerns about air quality and the emissions of incineration plants are high on our priority not only because of the long term economic losses (the external cost of air pollution) but more importantly because of the immediate threat to the health of European citizens and ecosystem. These are only a few reasons why the promotion of waste to energy by the commission should not go forward. By consulting only specific (mainly pro incineration) actors and neglecting NGOs, local communities and municipalities, there is no way that an optimised policy on waste management in general will be followed.

The concept of maximising separate collection of waste and a strict implementation of waste hierarchy should be the main goal of the commission and of all the stakeholders.

Friends of the Earth Cyprus

31 April, 2016

Limassol, Cyprus

Friends of the Earth Cyprus

(www.foecyprus.org, www.facebook.com/foecyprus)

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30 April, 2016

Limassol, Cyprus