



# *Bio-waste Management in the EU- Commission action*

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- 1. The history of the bio-waste dossier  
→ EU policy on biowaste to date**
- 2. The most recent developments.**
- 3. The outcomes of the study underlying  
the Commission's Impact Assessment.**
- 4. The way forward.**

# Bio-waste: EU policies up-to-date

## Background

- **Bio-waste management discussions already in 1999 (context of adoption of the Landfill Directive);**
- **2002** 6 Environmental Action Program identifies biodegradable waste as a stream to be further addressed;
- **2003-2005** Preliminary Impact Assessment studies;
- **2005** Thematic Strategy on Waste calls for LCA-based guidelines for bio-waste management and end-of-waste compost standards;
- **2007-2008** Waste Framework Directive calls upon the Commission to assess bio-waste management in the EU and proposes measures to improve it, if appropriate;

*Art. 22 of WFD “The Commission will carry out an assessment on the management of bio-waste with a view to submit a proposal, if appropriate”*

## Latest developments

- **3 December 2008** Publication of a Green Paper on bio-waste;
- **January 2009** Launch of study on bio-waste;
- **9-10 June 2009** Conference on bio-waste and a need for legislation;
- **25 June 2009** Council Conclusions on the Green Paper;
- **July 2009 to**
- **January 2010** Preparation of an Impact Assessment;

# Most relevant current legislation addressing bio-waste management

**Waste Framework Directive (2008/98) – recycling target for household waste**

**Landfill Directive (1999/31) – diversion targets for biodegradable waste**

**Industrial Emissions Directive (Revision of IPPC) - will cover management and emissions from large compost and biogas plants**

**Recycling targets in support for renewable energy generation (biogas production and waste incineration) – 20% by 2020**

**Compost standards for organic farming and standards for eco-label**

# Impact Assessment

# Impact Assessment – contents

1. Definition of the problem
2. Baseline scenario
3. Selection of policy options/scenarios
4. Comparison of policy options with the baseline scenario
5. Results and recommendations



# Impact Assessment – Key Questions

1. Subsidiarity: Is an intervention at the EU level necessary?
2. Proportionality: What EU activities could be efficient and justified?

## Impact Assessment – Problem Definition

- What is the problem?
- What could we gain?
- What is the scope for policy action?

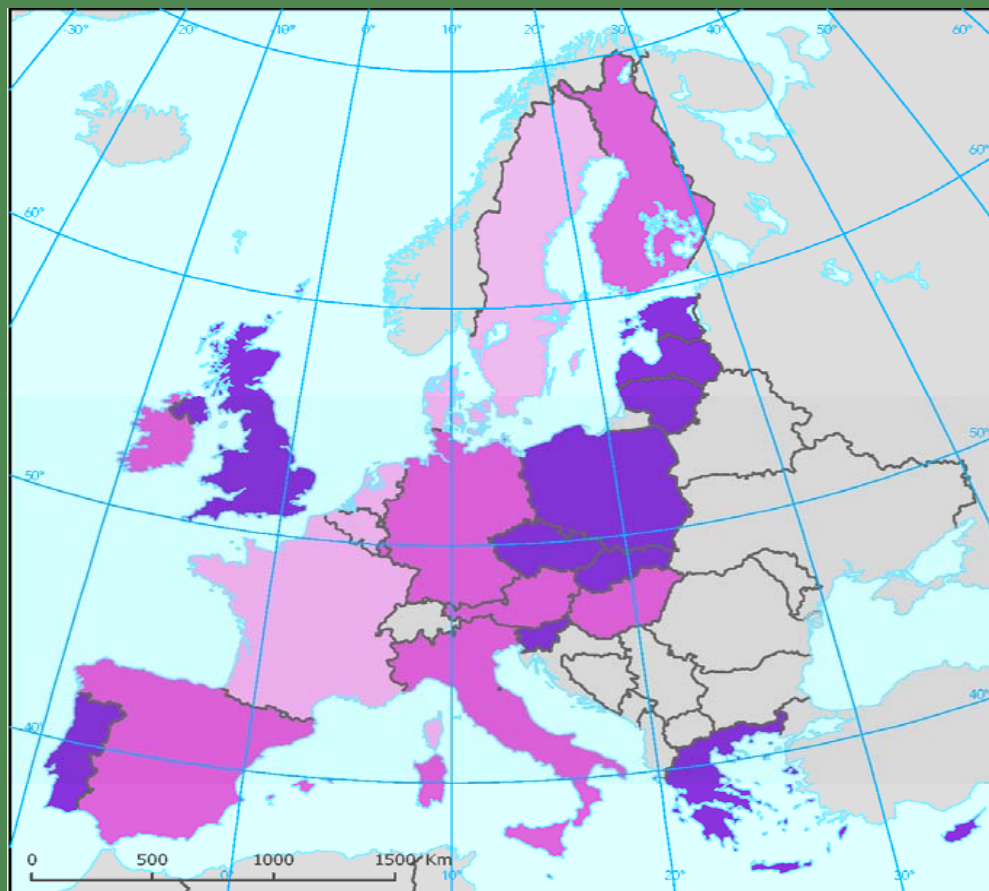
## The Problem: are we missing opportunities?

- **Past problem:** biodegradable waste are poorly managed (too much landfilling and related methane emissions);
- **Answer:** biodegradable waste diversion targets in the Landfill Directive;
- **New risk:** missing opportunities from sub-optimal treatment of diverted bio-waste:

Diverting biodegradable waste from landfill into other disposal operations such as low grade incineration or low grade MBT;

Missed opportunities: recycling potential, soil improvement potential, renewable energy generation;

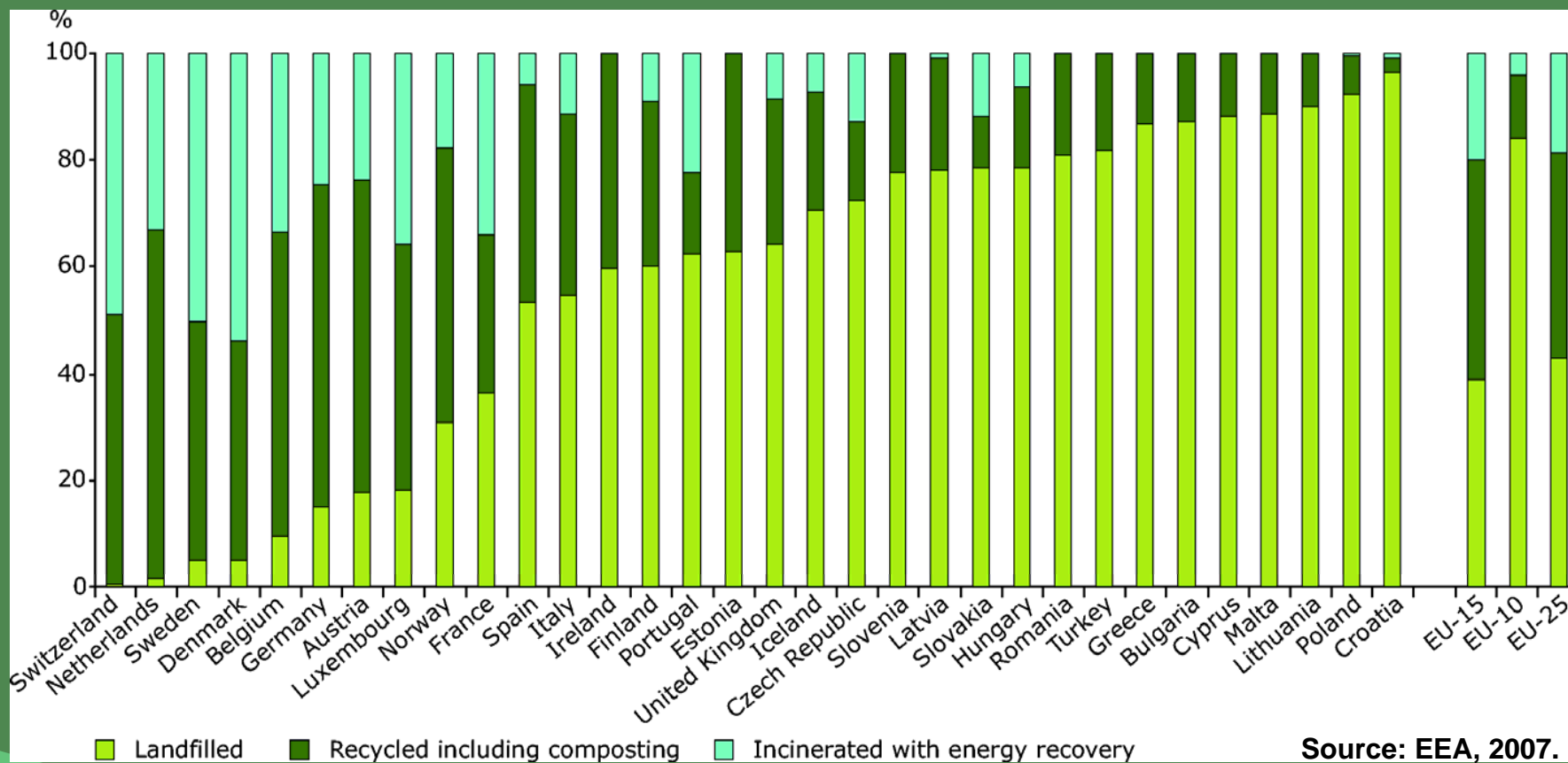
- **Answer:** additional measures on bio-waste management?



**Three country groupings defined by diversion strategy**

- 1: incineration > 25 % and material recovery > 25 %
- 2: incineration < 25 % and material recovery > 25 %
- 3: incineration < 25 % and material recovery < 25 %
- Outside data coverage

# Recycling, incineration and landfilling of MSW



# IA on bio-waste management – preliminary results

# Possible gains

Potential offered by optimisation of bio-waste management limited but positive across many areas:

- **CO<sub>2</sub> savings potential** – 10-50 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> (including prevention)
- **Soil improvement potential** – between 3-7% of agricultural soils could be improved (3-7% of agricultural soils)
- **Potential for renewable energy** – maximum 7% of 2020 target if maximized energy production at cost of recycling
- **Potential to meet biofuel production targets - 42 % -** if the bio-waste is subject to anaerobic digestion and biogas is used as biofuel

# General findings

- **Significant improvement potential from full implementation and enforcement of the existing legislation (Landfill Directive, waste hierarchy);**
- **Waste prevention offers significant potential benefits;**
- **Technical analysis gives strong evidence of potential gains from increased recycling;**
- **No EU level obstacles identified preventing MS from more active bio-waste policies - best practice examples exists;**
- **However - further improvement still possible;**

## Detailed findings

### ***Additional GHG savings at low cost for society from:***

- Increased bio-waste prevention;
- Increased biological treatment;
- Avoided landfilling of bio-waste;

Improved recycling of bio-waste

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***significant savings for the society in terms of  
environmental and financial costs***

*(although citizens' participation and support crucial)*



# General recommendations

- Enforcement of current legislation is of key importance;
- More bio-waste prevention necessary;
- Additional support for separate collection and biological treatment (e.g. targets) is justified on economic and environmental grounds;
- Further improvement of compost markets (e.g. EU standards for product quality compost) can improve bio-waste recycling;
- It should be possible to achieve that by adaptation of existing legislation.

# Current status and next steps

- Draft of Impact Assessment being subject to thorough quality check by the Commission services;
- When completed and approved, the Impact Assessment will form a sound basis for further legislative and/or non-legislative proposals;
- Impact Assessment will be published as an annex to any such proposals.

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