

CONFERENCE ON BIO-WASTE RECYCLING IN EUROPE

Barcelona, 15th February 2010

CONCLUSIONS

1. Bio-waste recycling has long been discussed in recent years at European level. This conference aims to help to clarify this debate.
2. Bio-waste recycling in appropriate conditions contributes not only to improve waste management, but also to:
 - a) The beneficial and sustainable use of resources
 - b) Soil protection
 - c) Renewable energy production
 - d) The fight against climate change
3. There is a consensus on the need to incorporate additional measures for a sound management of bio-waste in the areas of:
 - a) Prevention
 - b) The promotion of separate collection
 - c) Targets for recycling
 - d) The adoption quality criteria for compost

According to the European Commission,

- a) the preliminary findings of the impact study reveal that an improvement in the management of bio-waste provides environmental, social and economic benefits. Therefore, additional measures should be adopted to explore the full benefits of bio-waste recycling.
- b) the question is to determine which is the most appropriate tool to do it.

The European Parliament endorses the need to strengthen bio-waste recycling at European level and will work to build an agreement that allows the development of a specific EU policy regulation.

4. The different cases presented at the conference show that the availability of a clear guidance regarding the promotion of bio-waste recycling, not only promotes recycling, but would also assist member states in their efforts to fulfill the objectives of reduction of biodegradable waste going to landfill.

5. In addition, the new Waste Framework Directive has set a target for recycling which does not explicitly refer to bio-waste, so that, by itself, it is not enough to promote biowaste recycling.

6. From the discussions held at the conference, it is clear that an integrated approach is necessary to ensure traceability, quality and safety in the use of compost. This approach should include both prevention and separate collection, as well as treatment and quality assurance systems.

7. This conference has highlighted the need for action in this area in order to achieve a European legislative framework on bio-waste and has provided specific elements that should be considered in that context. We face a key time to promote this regulation.