



ROADMAP TO A RESOURCE EFFICIENT EUROPE
(COM(2011) 571 final) of 20 September 2011

EUCOPRO POSITION

INTRODUCTION

EUCOPRO (European Association for Co-processing) represents companies active in pre-treatment operations of (mainly) hazardous waste streams. The operations of EUCOPRO members consist in treating waste in order to transform it into waste-derived fuels and raw materials suitable for recovery by co-processing.

Waste co-processing reduces the consumption of primary resources in production processes, decreases greenhouse gas emissions of resource-intensive industries and provides a sustainable solution for the treatment of hazardous waste flows.

Members of EUCOPRO are professional companies, operating under stringent regulations and controls without potential adverse environmental or human health impacts. They operate plants located in 11 European countries¹.

These plants prepare around 1,6 million tons of waste per year for recovery by co-processing.

EUCOPRO is committed to providing its long and practical experience as well as the extensive knowledge of its members to the benefit of the European institutions and to provide input on the development of adequate regulatory frameworks in the areas of waste and energy policy. In this EUCOPRO would like to share its views on the European Commission's Roadmap to A Resource Efficient Europe.

Context

EUCOPRO welcomes the European Commission Roadmap to A Resource Efficient Europe which represents an important contribution to industry efforts by identifying the economic sectors that consume the most resources, and by suggesting tools and indicators to help guide action in Europe.

EUCOPRO is in favour of better regulation to encourage resource efficiency and the development of resource efficient technologies and processes. EUCOPRO members provide professional solutions to contribute to a more resource efficient Europe. EUCOPRO believes that co-processing may be used as an example of such a resource-efficient process.

Co-processing as a key part of industrial symbiosis

Boosting efficient production in order to reduce imports and use of resources in the EU and industrial symbiosis are two of the Roadmap' key objectives. EUCOPRO members are a key actor of the chain as they transform waste into usable resource for co-processing industries. As a result, EUCOPRO members contribute to reducing the consumption of primary resources and raw materials while fully using the energy potential of waste flows.

¹ Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain



Turning waste into a resource

The Commission Communication mentions that EU citizens and industry throw away up to 2.7 billion tonnes of waste every year. EUCOPRO members are important players in the waste treatment sector. The treated waste is effectively used as energy resource and, hereby, reduces the demand for fossil fuel imports. Waste co-processing increases the competitiveness of European energy intensive industries.

EUCOPRO supports the actions proposed by the European Commission, more specifically:

- EUCOPRO supports the development of strict end-of-waste criteria in order to ensure a high level of environmental protection and a treatment of hazardous waste by professional platforms;
- EUCOPRO supports the Commission's goals to reduce residual waste close to zero. EUCOPRO members deliver waste derived fuels and waste raw materials to the cement industry without generating any final residual waste. However, we encourage the Commission to accompany this ambitious target with guidelines and funding instruments;
- EUCOPRO shares the objective of the Commission to eradicate illegal waste shipments. EUCOPRO members believe that the enforcement of the existing waste regulation should be considered as a political priority that should precede the development of additional requirements.
- EUCOPRO members would like the Commission to fully take into account the use of waste as energy and material resources in resource intensive industries. The preparation and co-processing of specific waste flows by professional and duly permitted and controlled installations contributes to a more resource efficient Europe and makes fully part of an industrial symbiosis model.

Reduction of global CO2 emissions

Additionally to its contribution to a more resource efficient economy, waste co-processing generates a reduction of CO2 emissions and other pollutants compared to the combustion of primary fuels.

For further information, please contact: Bernard Mathieu – President
Phone: 32 2 678 33 86
www.eucopro.org