



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Council classifies highly efficient Waste-to-Energy plants as recovery An important step towards climate protection**

The Council agreed at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007 under which circumstances efficient Waste-to-Energy plants can be classified as recovery operations within the Waste Framework Directive.

With climate protection high on the political agenda, decision makers have now provided incentives to improve energy efficiency in WtE plants. This can save up to 45 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year, in addition to the current saving of fossil fuels which would have been used in power plants to produce the energy that is generated by WtE plants.

This has been calculated by FFact (<http://www.cewep.eu/studies/climate-protection/art230,236.html>), assuming an ambitious policy aiming at 60% recycling and suggesting that the remaining 40% of municipal solid waste should be used in WtE plants instead of being landfilled.

CEWEP is happy that the Council has acknowledged the important role WtE can play in sustainable waste management, in collaboration with recycling (including composting and anaerobic digestion), and its contribution to ensuring security of energy supply – from unwanted and unrecyclable waste – to necessary energy.

The unanimous vote on the Waste Framework Directive under the German Presidency gives a clear signal to the European Parliament, to which the Directive will now pass for the second reading, probably early 2008.

CEWEP is optimistic that the Parliament, who already voted for a broad definition of energy recovery in their first reading on 13<sup>th</sup> February, will lend its support to classifying efficient Waste-to-Energy plants as recovery operations. That means higher up the waste hierarchy than landfilling, helping to reduce Europe's dependence on both landfills and fossil fuels.

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CEWEP represents 340 Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plants across Europe (80% of the total European WtE market). WtE plants thermally treat household waste and waste similar to household waste, that is not otherwise reusable or recyclable in an environmentally sound way and generate energy from it.

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