



European Environmental Bureau

Deregulation and the future of the Packaging Legislation



Presentation

- Packaging still a problem?
- The EC waste strategy proposal
- ... potential impacts on packaging and packaging prevention
- What happened to the EC report?
- Possible packaging perspectives for 2008
 - Building on the EC study



Yes – still a problem





Yes – still a problem

- EEA Signals 2004 – “projections suggest volumes of packaging are likely to continue rising substantially in future” – so need FURTHER MEASURES to bring further reductions
- EEA 2005 – “Overall, this study shows that although the member countries have generally met the recovery and recycling targets, the production of packaging waste is still rising across EU”.
- EEA 2005 – “Because the manufacture of packaging accounts for a large share of its environmental impacts, measures to reduce the generation of packaging have greater potential to reduce overall environmental impacts than the management of the waste alone”.



Yes – still a problem

- Growing quantities mean growing costs of management – even with light weighting. Growing packaging also = growing real volumes for recycling
- Packaging = EU 15 average around 170 kg/capita/year (between 100 (GR) – 200 (IR) kg) = 1/3 of W.EU average MSW arisings!
- Germany, Hungary etc reuse packaging falling – deposit system and ‘tax’ system not supporting
 - Packaging industry versus German State on deposit system (lost again in Hesse State Court). ... also argued that foreign firms have to put a deposit on their products....similar to state of Baden-Wuerttemberg last year



EC waste strategy proposal – general evaluation

Deregulation, lessening environmental protection

- 1) Nationalisation - as a much greater dependence on National waste management plans (*to implement the steering and environmental ambition setting roles that EU targets and recycling directives currently achieve*)
- 2) Extensive use of comitology to set technical standards at EU level (*this has significant governance implications as the Commission – if a committee cannot agree on a proposal – can almost by default (after a usually symbolic passage through Council-Council very rarely gathers sufficient majority to reject proposals) adopts a proposal it wishes to.*)



EC waste strategy proposal – general evaluation

- 3) The clear tendency to improve the 'status' of incineration (classifying it as recovery) and the lack of conviction that the benefits of material recycling over incineration are not that great eg waste oils, biowaste etc
- 4) A continued lack of political conviction on prevention – no EU measures on National plans (although do oblige National targets and indicators).



EC waste strategy proposal – potential impacts on packaging legislation

- RECYCLING - Not much appetite for harmonised targets and waste stream directives in general (deletion of article 2.2, no recognition of importance of Producer Responsibility or commitment to continue using, deletion of waste oils instead of a recycling target, trend of delegation to National waste Management plans eg biowaste, EU role as just setting installation and product standards, definition of recycling includes chemical feedstock?, incineration promoted)
- PREVENTION – National plans and maybe targets and indicators, but no harmonisation at EU level, no commitment to prevent further roll-back on reuse



What happened to the EC report...?

- ...the general message was clear. The **directive works** to reduce environmental impacts, more needs to be done on prevention, butno report.

Waste Strategy only says – Next Steps– report on the implementation of Directive (2006)

- But Art 6.5...*Not later than 31 December 2007, EP and Council shall.. Acting on a proposal for the EC... fix targets for the third five-year phase 2009 until 2014, this requires a proposal by beginning 2006*
- What justification for no proposal?



Perspectives 2008



Building on EC packaging study- Prevention

- PEI – insufficient data, lifecycle=prevention best, LCA used properly
- Prevention plans – potential to require concrete action (target setting) and assessing against target, link to national targets..
- Heavy metals – dedicated research needed
- Producer responsibility -It works! Growing packaging also = growing real volumes for recycling (should mean increasing targets to avoid increasing real volumes for disposal)
- Prevention targets – start with minimum re-use targets and stabilisation packaging volumes short-term
- Essential requirements – *“It is not possible to assess whether the present ER are sufficient”*. Should be re-written ..



Building on EC packaging study- Reuse

- Heavily biased debate – re-study of reuse v recycling studies should have been commissioned by EC not Industry or NGOs!
 - “In scientific terms there is a (*environmental*) case for support measures in specific cases” .
- “Reuseable packaging performs best in certain logistical and societal situations” – so does recycling!
- Throw-away trend steered by costs with no internalisation
“support measures may be appropriate”
- Political leadership needed - to set the framework for so called support measures . Reverse loss of reuse, protect existing reuse in new MSs. EU deposit system?



Packaging Prevention and Reuse – steps needed

- **Clear hierarchy** between policy objectives, with preference given to reuse over recycling – and minimum **TARGETS** (seek convergence national policies and avoid Court cases)
- General **tax**/duty on packaging generation
- A clearly differentiated **definition of prevention** (in a strict sense as prevention of packaging material generated and, if needed, also.. reduction of waste going to disposal).
- Active support mechanisms for reuse (labelling, harmonisation of sizes eg wine bottles) to allow for an internal market for reuse systems in this sector under the supervision of the Commission.
- Harmonised and profiled **European label for reuse**



Additional prevention/recycling measures?

- Closer scrutiny of methodology used to prove reached targets
- Compulsory labelling plastic type (encourage recycling)
- Data monitoring schemes – pack. prevention and prevention waste impacts
- Positive taxes /fiscal incentives
- System changes – local supply
- Bans (landfilling and incineration) – prevention of impacts
- Taxes/pricing of virgin materials..



Plastic packaging – perspectives 2008

- Current EU PPWD – target 22,5% recycling plastic packaging
- Germany – achieving about 30% material recycling of collected plastic packaging (= ~200,000 tonnes out of 600,000 tonnes collected. ..)
 - ALREADY have
 - Better sorting technologies (infra red)
 - Increasing prices raw plastics materials due to increase crude prices? (in particular relevant for PE and PP?)
 - Some (German) experts estimate that it could be technically and economically feasible to go to 50-60% plastic packaging recycling...



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