

Brussels

14 May 2013

EPR Club Seminar



EPR Schemes: the Case of Poland

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS



eprclub.eu



EPR in Poland

A few words of introduction

Extended Producer Responsibility has been developed in Poland since Poland's accession to EU. Although EPR functioning still needs to be improved in order to effectively contribute to the achievement of recycling and recovery targets, EPR organizations already exist for most of waste flows, including: Packaging, WEEE, ELV, Batteries, tyres, oils, plastic bags and light bulbs.

Jean-Michel Kaleta

Chief Executive Officer, SITA Polska



SITA Polska is key player on waste management and urban cleaning market in Poland, providing innovative solutions to local communities and industry since 1992. SITA Polska employs 2,600 people and manages over 1.1 million tonnes of waste per year, with the objective of steadily increasing recycling and recovery. SITA Polska was a pioneer in Poland in the production of alternative fuels recovered in cement industry.

In 2012, it won the first energy from waste project realized in Poland under a PPP scheme to design, finance, build and operate during 25 years a incineration plant for the City of Poznan (550,000 inhabitants). SITA Polska is a subsidiary of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT Group, a reference player in the management of waste and water services operating worldwide and in 18 EU Member States.

EU Transparency Register: 27799842497-69

www.sitapolska.pl

Piotr Szewczyk

Director, Municipal and Solid Waste Treatment and Neutralization Plant « Orli Staw »

The Municipal Association "Clean Town, Clean Municipality" was created in 1998. It assembles 20 towns and municipalities from Wielkopolskie and Łódzkie voivodship with the whole area 2000km² inhabited by 320 000 people. The aim of the Municipal Association is the preparation and the realization of the program which deals with solving the problem of community waste treatment.



The fundamental issue of the program is to create a powerful waste management centre through the building of Municipal Solid Waste Treatment and Neutralisation Plant "Orli Staw" in Prażuchy Nowe, Ceków Kolonia municipality.

www.orlistaw.pl

Summary of Discussions

Over 30 participants representing different stakeholders (recyclers, EPR organizations, local public authorities, European Commission, NGOs) listened to the presentations delivered by two waste management experts from Poland. Jean-Michel Kaleta, Chief Executive Officer of SITA Polska, represented the recyclers' point of view in Poland, while Piotr Szewczyk, Director of the Municipal and Solid Waste Treatment and Neutralization Plant «Orli Staw», represented an association of 22 local public authorities.

It was stated that Poland is expected not to reach the EU 2020 recycling and recovery targets and that still 78% of the Municipal Solid Waste is dumped into landfills. Moreover, the current EPR schemes run in Poland are quite poor and it is most likely that real level of recovery and recycling is much lower than the reported official data.

To face those problems Poland introduced a new law in January 2012 granting the ownership of the municipal solid waste to the local authorities and, therefore, the implementation of a municipal waste tax and the launch of public tenders for waste collection and treatment. The law is to be enforced before June 2013, but it appears that local authorities lack the knowledge, capacities and information to implement such a system and face EPR organizations.

The presentations were followed by an interesting debate among the different stakeholders, showing clearly that EPR schemes in Poland are, for the time being, not working properly and not contributing to increasing recycling and recovery rates. The main reasons for this are believed to be the fragmented competition and the free riding between EPR organizations lowering the recycling fees, as well as the lack of traceability and transparency in addressing waste flows.

It was highlighted that the European Commission plays only a restricted role of guidance in addressing such problems, as they do not have any direct access to primary data to monitor and evaluate the situation.