

ACTU' ASSISES

MAY 2011

14th and 15th of September 2011 - Cité des Congrès - NANTES

« The 11th Assises des Déchets will debate on waste management current issues to find concrete solutions to this important social issues. You will find a detailed programme , plenary sessions and technical workshops on our website, www.assises-dechets.org: take the opportunity to sign up! For now, this newsletter suggests a zoom on each of the four plenary sessions that will punctuate the conference: session leaders of the debates are providing details on the highlights of the next Assises.»

WEDNESDAY 14th OF SEPTEMBER

11 am Plenary session 1 :

Financing waste public service

Duration: 1.30

Session leader: Olivier DAVID

Head of planning and waste management
MEDDTL/DGPR

2.30 pm Plenary session 2 :

End of waste statut

Duration: 1.30

Session leader: Vincent DESIGNOLLE,
Head of natural and technological risks,
DREAL Pays de la Loire

THURSDAY 15th OF SEPTEMBER

11.15 am Plenary session 3 :

Responsibilities of waste producers

Duration 1.30

Session leader: Patricia BLANC

Head of the pollution prevention and the environmental quality, MEDDTL/DGPR

2.15 pm Plenary session 4 :

Green streams and future investments

Duration: 1.30

Session leader: Loic LEJAY

Operation manager development of the activities linked to recycling and waste recovery within the programme Green Streams.
MEDDTL / DGPR

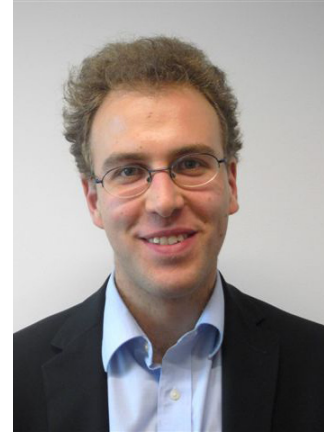
TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS IN
THE NEXT ISSUE

Plenary session 1

Financing waste public service

« A turning, where dialogue is essential »

Interview of **Olivier DAVID**,
Head of planning and waste management, MEDDTL.



The first plenary session of the 11th Assises des Déchets is very expected. Because the actual French model of waste public service is in the middle of thoughts. The ascension of PWR streams, but also the incentive pricing, shove the traditional patterns.

How do PWR streams have an influence on waste public service?

Since the beginning of 2000, we can notice an important development of the PWR streams (Presurized Water Reaction) that the Grenelle of the environment has emphasized. After the packaging stream, which keeps on progressing, others are gaining power and influence: electronic waste W3E, tires, vehicles out of use, textiles, paper are from specific PWR or assimilated streams. Three new streams are today on the right track (diffuse specific waste, furnishings, waste of care activities with infectious risks). Therefore, eco-contributions are constantly progressing: less than 200 million euros in 2000, more than 1,2 billion euros tomorrow. However the tax product of household waste collection is not declining, it grew by 40% since 2000 to nearly 5 billion euros. This assessment leads to real questions.

What is the most pressing issue to you?

It appears to all that the traditional taxes or local charges ensuring the financing of waste public service (TEOM, REOM) can not persist in this estate, while products producers support an increasing share in the waste managing cost. In this context, the first question is to know whether it is legitimate to keep the current method of financing waste public service, or conversely, if it is opportune to build a new model with companies more and more present through streams called « financial » like « Eco-Emballages », or « technical », where eco-organism is known to directly manage waste, like WEEE.

Is the incentive pricing also creating impacts?

Of course, the obligation of the pricing incentive implementation to 2014, established by the Grenelle is far from being neutral. It raises technical and legal issues, and its environmental benefits should be highlighted. Two types of questions arise: first the articulation of this incentive pricing with the current system, with the obligation to move towards the cost of waste management transparency that rarely allows the budgetary organisation arising from the TEOM... But also the technical construction of this incentive pricing: which tax changes, which technical models (according to the weight, the volume, the number of rounds or tubs...), which impacts on prevention and sorting quality?

Nantes plenary session is therefore going to answer these questions...

In all cases, whereas the current evolution are strong and structured, it is ensured that we need a circumstantial route point, essential in this transitional period. Around the same table, the presence of local collectivities representatives, which we know do not have the same analysis, and companies which regarding their increasing contributions want to be more and more heard (sorting instructions, collection methods...) ensure us a rich and reasoned debate. We will probably develop the first tracks of sustainable development that will build the waste household public service of the future.

Plenary session 2

Output of waste status :



Transposed into French law by order from December 18, 2010, the waste framework directive 2008/98/EU introduces the possibility of an end of waste status. If this end of waste status, mentioned in article 6 of this directive, allows the obtained product to no longer be subject to applicable waste regulations (responsibility, traceability, cross-border transfers ...) it must nevertheless respect all standards and monitoring applicable to products, particularly those of REACH.

As to the restrictive legal framework of products, will people nevertheless be motivated to recycle certain waste for end of waste products?

What economic balances can be implemented? Can we expect all Member States to think alike? All these questions and more will be honed in on during this plenary session.

Under what conditions can waste become non waste? More precisely, how is it possible for the Member States of the European Union. It's by assessing all current actions recording these various regulations which will be the starting point for this plenary session led by **Vincent Designolle**, manager of technological and natural risks division at the DREAL in the Loire region. Experiences carried out by the European Commission, French administration and another Member State will evaluate the actions needed. Article 6 of the Waste Framework Directive has set four conditions for end of waste status. To be operational, these general conditions must be translated into specific criteria for each type of waste. The definition of criteria must be drawn up on a European level using a committee of experts (comitology) or, if necessary, on a national level (article 6.4 of the directive).

Adapting

Today, actions carried out on a European level have been defined for the waste category referred to as "simple" which is usually "homogeneous": ferrous metals, aluminium and soon copper, paper and glass. Able to be transformed after recovery, these new products are no longer subject to obligations within the waste regulation framework... but they may then be subject to other regulations, especially with REACH, notably imposing an evaluation of chemical substances contained in the products.

There will be undeniable changes for "waste" producers, the professionals in charge of collecting and processing and the users of these products. They must all learn to adapt and new organizations must be put in place as the knowledge and evaluation of the new "product" will be part of the requirements of its new status. This will be especially difficult for non-dangerous waste with high deposit levels, low risks but with considerable homogeneities. It can be envisaged that the waste industries get organized with, for example "the emergence of middle-men guaranteeing traceability, homogeneity and stability of waste in the conditions necessary for recovery as a product."

Undoubtedly these evolutions are likely to change the economic models of the different players in the industry – the feedback from waste producers and processing professionals will definitely be a core debate issue.

Concerns and Enthusiasm

Although the end product is irreproachable (safety, quality...), won't these new requirements nonetheless risk making the end of waste status unprofitable regarding its challenging waste recycling objectives? With all the requirements for obtaining an end of waste status and the associated product regulations, is it possible to sell these recycled products on the market at a competitive price compared to new products? Is waste regarded differently once it leaves the out of waste status? Business owners, but also NGO representatives will come share their experiences and express their concerns ... or their enthusiasm. A debate where a representative from the Ministry of the Environment will answer any questions which could arise.

Also, what about these new economic balances on a European level? If this harmonization is supposedly a desired effect, the situation of the EU Member States varies considerably. Depending on how the provisions implemented progress, as well as the national terms and conditions chosen, the risk is developing an increase of cross-border movement, generators of tensions and incoherence of the different industries. Managers, but also national and community public authorities would do better to express their ideas regarding the community harmonization on this matter.

A debate between environmental protection agencies, companies and public authorities which promises to be productive considering it lies at the heart of waste policies, but also to protect consumers and preserve the environment. «Confronting one another with varied experiences», notes Vincent Designolle, "contributing to everyone's evolving thought process".

Plenary session 3

Responsibilities of waste producers

Chain of responsibility: rupture or continuity?

Analysis of Patricia BLANC,
Head of the pollution prevention and the environmental quality,
MEDDTL.



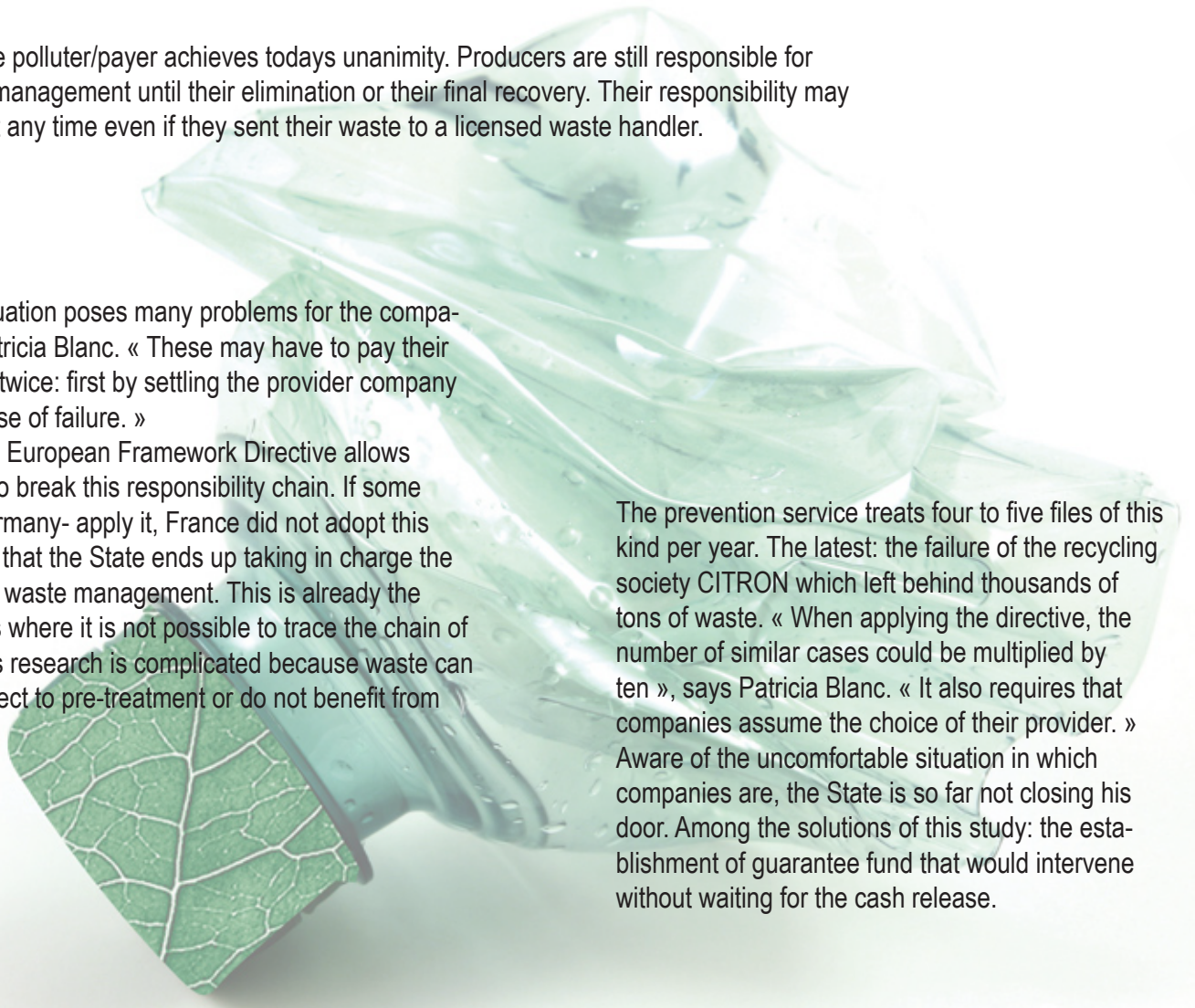
Producers are responsible for their waste... even if they entrust its management to a provider. In case of bankruptcy of this one, they end up paying several times the waste elimination. Some european countries hace decided to break the responsibility chain. France, who fears having to bear the cost of industrial failures, did not do it. But the debate remains open.

The principle polluter/payer achieves todays unanimity. Producers are still responsible for their waste management until their elimination or their final recovery. Their responsibility may be sought at any time even if they sent their waste to a licensed waste handler.

« This juridical situation poses many problems for the compa-nies », agreed Patricia Blanc. « These may have to pay their waste elimination twice: first by settling the provider company and second, in case of failure. »

To clarify things, a European Framework Directive allows States members to break this responsibility chain. If some countries -like Germany- apply it, France did not adopt this option. The risk is that the State ends up taking in charge the cost of concerned waste management. This is already the case for situations where it is not possible to trace the chain of responsibility. This research is complicated because waste can be mixed, be subject to pre-treatment or do not benefit from traceability.

The prevention service treats four to five files of this kind per year. The latest: the failure of the recycling society CITRON which left behind thousands of tons of waste. « When applying the directive, the number of similar cases could be multiplied by ten », says Patricia Blanc. « It also requires that companies assume the choice of their provider. » Aware of the uncomfortable situation in which companies are, the State is so far not closing his door. Among the solutions of this study: the establishment of guarantee fund that would intervene without waiting for the cash release.



Plenary session 4

Future investments : a new course for recycling.

Analysis of **Loïc LEJAY**,

operation manager development of the activities linked to recycling and waste recovery within the programme Green Streams.

The State launched in 2011 the first call for expressions of interest investment for the future, on the theme of circular economy, with a budget of 250 million over four years. In some fields, vehicles out of use, waste electrical and electronic equipment for example, we can hope that it will give a new impetus to the recycling industry... even if the actors still have to choose their organizational strategies. Analysis from Loïc Lejay, session leader of the plenary session 4 of the Assises.



Can the economic model of the circular economy asserts itself thanks to the public pulse ?

The dynamics of the future investments is at least promising. This new device, where the State is going to interfere in various forms (from subsidy to stake) could provide new opportunities. It will support both R&D, the industrial research and technologic platforms, along with experimental development and pilot operations. We can hope that this program gives a real boost to the recycling value chain. During the plenary, in addition to organic waste, construction waste, office paper or plastic packaging, we will specifically treat projects in the sectors of life vehicle (ELV) and electrical or electronic waste (D3E)

Are the industrial strategies stabilized ?

The context is rapidly changing. The guidelines of the action plan green streams, the proposal of the working groups industrial valorisation of waste COSEI (1), recent changes in regulations or the role of eco-organisms on R&D and technologic orientations deserve to be illuminated. Once the impulse given, we need to know if we will develop the final recycling or if we will satisfy ourselves to « collect for recycling », without industrial strategies... We must therefore continue to ask ourselves the conditions necessary for a dynamic and sustained investment in new recycling and recovery units : the experimental pre-industrial stage but also the industrial deployment phase. During the plenary, we will then compare different points of view : ADEME as operator of the programme «circular economy », industrials, private organizations, competitiveness clusters...

Do we have the first analysis elements ?

There are still many open questions, on employment for example, on the positioning of the chemical industry, or the place that waste recycling will take among « green tech » according to the risky capital... During plenary, we will particularly look at questions of cooperation and collaboration. An innovative industrial partnership, like the joint-venture Sita/Paprec on the recycling factory of plastic bottles PET in Limay, can it be a model ? What are the most successful collaborative programmes within the competitiveness clusters Axelera (2) and Team (3) ? And, more broadly, we will examine how the cooperation between waste operators, R&D laboratories and equipment manufacturers could re-enforce the French expertise and propel export...

1- Strategic committee of eco-industries

2- Specialised in Chimie and Environment

3- Specialised on recycling technologies, waste recovery and material and equipment recyclability.