

## FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009*

### **Agenda item 7. Waste**

#### Intervention by Poland<sup>1</sup>

I am going to put you a bit in a Picture of what we are doing in my country and to share some of our experiences with you. But before that I would like to say that Poland completely associates itself with the statement which has just been presented by the distinguished representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

As for Poland we have designed, introduced and operated a set of instruments. One of them is the National Waste Management Plan which includes a scope of tasks necessary to ensure integrated waste management in the country, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy in a manner which ensures environmental protection considering the current and future possibilities and economic conditions as well as the technological level of existing infrastructure. Among main goals there you can find those which relate to hazardous waste management, e.g.:

The major document which specifies measures to be completed and objectives to be achieved in waste management is the 2010 National Waste Management Plan. The Plan includes the scope of tasks necessary to ensure integrated waste management in the country, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy in a manner which ensures environmental protection and considering the current and future possibilities and economic conditions as well as the technological level of the existing infrastructure.

Among main goals there you can find those which related to objectives to be achieved in hazardous waste management:

- maintaining the recovery of waste oil at the level of 50% and recycling at the level of at least 35%;
- achieving required recovery and recycling levels of batteries, used electrical and electronic equipment, waste oil, end-of-life vehicles, used tyres;
- increasing the efficiency of selective collection of hazardous waste;
- extending and ensuring full performance of recovery and recycling facilities for various types of dangerous waste;
- eliminating totally PCBs from the environment by controlled treatment of PCBs and decontamination or neutralisation of equipment containing PCBs;
- removing dumping grounds and warehouses with plant protection products with expired data of use;
- extending the explosive waste management system.

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<sup>1</sup> The text is presented as received from the author.

Furthermore, the aim assumed is the achievement of required packaging waste recovery and recycling levels and increasing the quantity of municipal sludge processed before being discharged to the environment and also maximisation of the utilisation of biogenic substances contained in the sludge.

With respect to the development of the sustainable development policy in waste management, the hierarchy of waste management is most important, according to which priority is given to preventing the formation and minimising the generation of waste. Furthermore, environmental education which promotes appropriate waste management is under way.

With respect to the reduction of waste generation, innovative integrated solutions are supported which ensure prevention of the generation and reduction of pollution of various environmental compartments, in particular by the implementation of advanced, low- or non-waste technologies which may contribute to the production and consumption of goods so as to ensure the achievement of high profitability and environmental protection.

The national legislation also promotes the introduction of the EMAS environmental management system which encourages entrepreneurs to identify environmental aspects and to plan relevant measures in order to reduce negative environmental impacts. Certain incentives are introduced for companies which participate in the environmental management system.

Moreover, a system of product and deposit fees has been introduced, which imposes a requirement on manufacturers and importers to recover and recycle packaging and after-use waste. Product fees already include:

- packaging,
- electrical and electronic equipment,
- batteries,
- lubricating oils,
- tyres.

The product fee creates an incentive system for the reduction of the generation of environmentally troublesome waste and promotes waste recycling. Furthermore, other financial instruments, such as increased fees for waste storage, are also applied. Moreover, research on and launching new, more durable products with lower content of hazardous substances is supported to ensure their easier recycling.