



EBA
European Biogas Association

WORKSHOP REPORT

WORKSHOP ON EU FERTILISER AND END-OF-WASTE CRITERIA

14 May 2013, Thon Hotel EU, Brussels

On May 14th, European Biogas Association (EBA) welcomed international stakeholders to discuss the inclusion of organic fertiliser into the scope of the EU Fertiliser Regulation, as well as the End-of-Waste status for digestate and the impact of the REACH Regulation on digestate. Arthur Wellinger, President of EBA, gave a short introduction into the topics and the related challenges which have to be solved.

The European Union, worldwide one of the most important economies and living areas, has a great interest in maintaining a sufficient amount of resources while keeping the amount of waste very low. The End-of-Waste (EoW) criteria derived from the Waste Framework Directive enable residues to cease being waste under certain conditions and to become new products for the market.

Since around three years EBA is involved in the work of the Joint Research Center (JRC) in Sevilla on the definition of the End-of-Waste status for digestate so that it would be considered a valuable product. The possible impact would be an improved consumer confidence and a higher market value enabled by a strict positive list for the allowed feedstock on the one hand, and the obliged participation to a quality assurance system on the other hand. Bartosz Zambrzycki (European Commission DG ENVI) explained in his speech that because of very controversial discussions about allowed feedstock (regarding specifically sewage sludge and biowaste from not source separated collection) and the requirement on limit values, it will be decided in autumn, if and how the criteria for the End-of-Waste could be established.

The second very important topic for digestate is its inclusion into the, hopefully soon revised, Fertiliser Regulation. Eric Liégeois (European Commission DG ENTR) a policy officer in charge of the Regulation reported very comprehensively about the progress made within the revision process at expert level. According to Liégeois, the Commission proposal will be presented in autumn 2013 and has to be agreed afterwards by the European Parliament and the Member States. As waste will not be included into the



Above: Eric Liégeois (EC DG ENTR) gave an update about the revision of EU Fertiliser Regulation

Below: Bartosz Zambrzycki (EC DG ENV) reported about the EoW Criteria for digestate and chatted with EBA President over coffee





allowed feedstock of the Fertiliser Regulation, digestate from biowaste could not be subject to the Fertiliser Regulation as long as it does not reach the End-of-Waste status. Therefore, for EBA it is very important that there will be EoW criteria for digestate, as otherwise another solution has to be found to include digestate from biowaste into the Fertiliser Regulation.

David Wilken together with Thomas Karle, both from the German Biogas Association, talked about the quality and the application of organic fertilisers and about possibilities for trading and upgrading the digestate. Both underlined the importance of getting the EoW status for digestate and its inclusion into the future Fertiliser Regulation in order to reach a better market value for digestate.

Lastly, Franz Kirchmeyr, Vice-President of EBA, presented the possible challenges imposed by the REACH Regulation on digestate. As long as digestate is seen as waste or its feedstock was not chemically modified, digestate does not fall under the REACH Regulation. Even then when digestate reaches the EoW status and no chemically modified feedstock is used in its production, it still does not fall under the Regulation. However, this has to be confirmed by REACH. The inclusion in REACH is certain, when chemically modified feedstock is used while digestate reaches the product status – in this case the product digestate will be included in the scope of the REACH regulation and it has to be registered. To avoid this, plant operators may even prefer not to reach the EoW status in order to avoid the consequences and efforts caused by the REACH regulation. EBA supports the European Commission to find a straightforward solution to the matter while not including digestate in the REACH regulation.



Above: and below: snaps from the speakers and audience



**NEXT EBA WORKSHOP:
18 JUNE IN BRUSSELS ON
BIOMETHANE POLICIES**

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

PRESENTATIONS AND PICTURES

- **ALL PRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL THE MEETING PARTICIPANTS**
- **EBA MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO THE PRESENTATIONS AND PICTURES IN THE MEMBERS SECTION OF THE WEBSITE**