

NUMBER 8 –2008

CITPA NEWS

AGM 2008

Further to earlier messages with respect to this year's AGM, please note that the timing has slightly changed.

The meeting is still scheduled to take place on the 25th of November 2008, but will start at **10h30** and end around 18h00 (in the context of the Paperweek) in Brussels.

The day will begin with a seminar on Belgian packaging waste policy, followed by lunch.

The afternoon will start with the annual meeting, followed by a strategy workshop. Further details will follow nearer to the event.

Please mark the date in your diaries!

EU POLICY – ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2009

On the 13th of February 2008, the Commission presented its Annual Policy Strategy, setting out its political priorities for 2009.

It outlines the Commission's policy objectives in five priority areas:

- growth and jobs;
- climate change and sustainable Europe;
- making a reality of the common immigration policy;

- putting the citizen first; and
- Europe as a world partner.

The Commission will seek to gain approval for its legislative initiatives and also look forward by stimulating debate on the internal market, social agenda and budget reviews.

Commission President, José Manuel Barroso said, "The European Commission will continue to put its emphasis on delivering concrete results for European citizens. While we hope to have a new institutional architecture in place with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, our focus will remain on the policy initiatives presented over recent years. Economic reform, more jobs, tackling climate change and energy insecurity, migration and more security for our citizens are at the centre of our priorities for 2009".

During 2009, the Commission will also continue to deliver on its better regulation agenda, to focus on the proper enforcement of EU legislation and to ensure the sound management of financial programmes.

The year 2009 will be an important year for the European Union, marked by the possible entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, a new European Parliament and a new European Commission.

On the basis of this Annual Policy Strategy, the Commission will initiate an exchange of views with the European Parliament and Council on where the policy priorities should lie in 2009, and how this should be reflected in the Commission's legislative and work programme to be adopted in October and in the budget for 2009.

More information and the Annual Policy Strategy 2009 can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/synthesis/index_en.htm

In comparison with the 2001 guidelines these new guidelines broaden the scope of aid projects as well as increase the aid intensities.

The guidelines set out new conditions for State aid measures to promote environmental protection and strike a very important balance between delivering larger environmental benefits and minimizing distortions of competition. If aid is not well targeted, it will not deliver environmental results and it risks distorting competition which can lead to lower economic growth in the European Union.

A copy of the Commission's proposals can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/index_en.htm

Impact on the corrugated industry

The Commission's proposals have an impact on the corrugated industry where it concerns the availability of raw materials used, such as wood for paper and corn or wheat for starch.

These materials are likely to become a scarce resource, due to the competition with renewable energy and biofuels.

This is even more so with the financial aid that Member States can give to promote the use for renewable energy and biofuels purposes.

FEFCO will organise an informative workshop on the impact of EU biofuels policy for the starch supply to the corrugated industry in April 2008. Further details will be communicated soon.