

## **Summary Appreciation of the PERSU II – Urban Solid Wastes Strategic Plan**

### **Abstract**

Considering there is an overall positive balance regarding the foreseen and executed actions within the first instrument of reference planning in the urban solid wastes area (USW) - PERSU I, 1997 and that these along with the most recent regulatory framework, at european and national level, have benefited from great changes, it is important to stress the carrying out of the PERSU II (2006/2016), without significant time gaps. It would be an accrued appreciation motive if this initiative was associated with a public consultation process, with the adequate deadlines and the possibility to access in due time to the indispensable framing information.

From the analysis made regarding the implement of the goals described in PERSU I, the Council states if was behind the european averages and the established targets, namely regarding multi-material recycling and organic optimisation. On the other hand, there was a clear prevalence of the landfill solution, which leads to the conclusion that prevention and recycling, far from being priorities, were left as values with a small expression that it is urgent to recover at this stage.

After a summary analysis of the PERSU II, the Council concisely considers:

- To be necessary to clarify the investments to be promoted in each one of the waste management hierarchy, financially justifying them, as a contribute to achieve the proposed goals and minimise the negative environmental impacts, namely the CO2 emissions.
- Faced with the conclusions from the PERSU I performance evaluation, the bet in the higher hierarchy solutions – reduction, re-use and recycling – should be clearly defined and be devoted to the predicted investment program, corresponding to the emphasis it should be relied upon it.
- Faced with the deficit in the Common Industrial Wastes reception infrastructures, their deposit in landfills causes distortions in the USW management, making pressure to make the incineration option the final destination, showing that the proposed measures should completely ensure and demonstrate that the intention is to invest in prevention and recycling and not in end-of-the-line solutions and, furthermore, to bet in the improvement of collection and separation methods in the origin, increasing the recycling rates.
- The bet in promoting the Mechanic and Biological Treatment (MBT), is good, for it should minimise the production of waste-derived fuel (WDF), as an end-of-the-line product in the MBT, so as to avoid incineration or landfill deposit, recommending: environmental information and education and citizen participation; right management

for municipality services managers and operators; study of the more efficient ways to perform a door-to-door selective collection; an effective coordination between the UWR municipalities and multi-municipalities and the integration management systems to establish action, training, public enlightenment and investment programs regarding selective collection; establishing understanding protocols with the MBT users; investment in the research and development of emerging and/or existing technologies that represent a more effective way of dealing with WDF.

- It is important to underline and give special attention to associating WDF incineration with the production of renewable energy, namely when it comes to public enlightenment.
- To register the importance that economic, financial and social sustainability takes within the framework of a wastes management policy. Having this as the fundamental base for the teachings deriving from PERSU I.
- To maintain the doubt regarding the articulation that will eventually connect the current PERSU II and the future Wastes Management National Plan, as well as the other Wastes Management Specific Plans. Therefore, it would be important that PERSU II would foresee adaptation formulas and the adjustments needed due to that new management planning model, as well as explicitly assuming the territorial continuing principle and the interested parts and public informed participation, in other words, a responsible government.