

Waste Management

Packaging Waste Management Plan

Attainment of recovery and recycling targets. The purpose of Directive 94/62/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of European Union, is the harmonisation of the national measures concerning the management of packaging and packaging waste, in order, on the one hand, to prevent or reduce any impact on the environment and, on the other hand, to ensure the functioning of the internal market and to avoid obstacles to trade and distortion and restriction of competition. The specific quantitative targets for recovery/recycling and the specified timetable for their implementation, as set out in article 6 of the Directive, were also incorporated in article 6 of the national laws on packaging and packaging waste, of 2002 to 2006.

On the basis of the above article, by 31.12.2005 at least 50% of the weight of packaging waste should be recovered and at least 25% recycled. According to the relevant report which was prepared by the Environment Service, for the recovery and recycling of packaging waste in Cyprus for 2005 and 2006, the total percentage of actual recovery and recycling of packaging waste was only 11,1% and 25,2%, respectively, while, according to preliminary data, the percentage remained at the same low levels in 2007 (25,9%).

The Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment informed us that the Republic of Cyprus could not achieve the quantitative targets set by the Directive, in 2005, due to the absence of an integrated system for the management of packaging waste. In 2006, the Environment Service issued a licence to a non-profit company for the application of a collective packaging

waste system, which started operating in 2007. This led to the increase of the percentage of recycling that took place in 2007 and the quantitative targets for paper, metal and wood were achieved in 2007. The non-achievement of the total quantitative target is due to the low levels of recycling for plastic and glass.

Programme for a collective waste management system. The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, together with a number of obliged packaging waste managers, had registered, in 2003, a non-profit company for the collective management of packaging, within the framework of their responsibilities for the recovery and recycling of their packaging, according to Law 32(I)/2002.

On the basis of the provisions of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Laws of 2002-2006 and the relevant Regulations, the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment approved, on 21.7.2006, the system for the collective management of packaging and packaging waste of the aforesaid company until 31.7.2012. This system is the only collective system operating in Cyprus, covering all Districts except Larnaca.

As stated above, according to article 6 of the Law, by 31.12.2005 at least 50% of the weight of packaging waste should be recovered, and at least 25% recycled. The attainment of the above quantitative targets in the first year of the operation of the system, i.e. during the period 1.8.2006-31.7.2007, was included in the terms for the approval of the system of the company, according to which their non-attainment may constitute a reason for the revocation of the approval. We observed that, according to the relevant report which was prepared by the company on the recovery of packaging waste for

the period 1.8.2006-31.7.2007, the total percentage of the actual recovery and recycling of packaging waste was only 7%. The corresponding percentages for 2007 and 2008 amounted to 15% and 15,15%, respectively, which are much lower than the quantitative targets set.

The Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment informed us that there were problems in implementing the waste recycle programme of the company as its success depends solely from the response of the public.

Hazardous waste.

According to the provisions of Directive 2006/12 of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste, which includes hazardous waste, as defined in Directive 91/689, the member states shall take the appropriate measures to establish an integrated and adequate network of installations for the disposal of waste and shall draw up a waste management plan. In order to comply with these provisions, the Strategy for the Management of Waste was prepared in 2004 according to article 9 of Law No. 215(I)/2002 and a number of private installations dealing with specific types of hazardous waste were licensed.

For the management of the types of hazardous waste which are not covered by the private installations, for which the recorded quantities are too small to attract investment interest from the private sector, the Environment Service, following an invitation for tenders, assigned, inter alia, the design of an integrated system for the management of hazardous waste in Cyprus to a joint venture of foreign private consultants. The final report of the consultants was submitted to the Service on 7.12.2007, and since then the consultations

with the affected Communities and the submission of the report to the Council of Ministers for a final decision, are pending.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment.

According to Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), which was transposed into national law by the RAA (Regulatory Administrative Act) 668/2004, Cyprus must adopt appropriate measures in order to minimise the disposal of WEEE as unsorted municipal waste and shall ensure that by 31.12.2008, at the latest, a rate of separate collection of at least four kilograms on average per inhabitant per year of WEEE from private households is achieved.

The first collective WEEE management system was licensed in June 2008 and started operating in September 2009. Five recycling establishments have also been licensed for particular types of WEEE, and a further application is currently being examined.

According to the report submitted by the Department of Environment to the European Commission on 9.8.2010, as per article 12 of the Directive, the collection rates (kg of WEEE collected per year per capita) for the years 2007 and 2008 are 3,05 and 2,84 respectively, not meeting the quantitative target set by the Directive. As mentioned in the report, the Department expects that, since a fully operational collective scheme is now in place, the target will be achieved in the 2009-2010 period.