FROM VISION TO ACTION: IMPLEMENTING EU WASTE LEGISLATION

04 FEBRUARY 2025
EESC –BRUSSELS

HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

Moderation: Jean Paul Judson

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AGENDA

9:00 – 10:30 – Registration and Welcome coffee

10:30 – 11:00 – Opening keynote speech

11:00 – 12:30 – Unlocking the opportunities of the implementation of the EU waste management legislation at the local level

12:30 – 13:30 – Lunch

13:30 – 13:45 – Keynote speech

13:45 – 14:00 – Setting the scene

14:00 - 15:30 – Achieving energy and material autonomy through circular economy policies

15:30 – 15:45 – Closing

15:45-17:00 – Networking drinks

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OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH

Paulina Dejmek Hack

Head of Jessika Roswall's cabinet, European Commission

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PANEL 1

Unlocking the opportunities of the implementation of the EU waste management legislation at the local level

Marek Kabacinski
Krakow public waste management director, Poland, Member of Municipal Waste Europe

Åsa Ågren Wilkström
Regional Councillor, Region of Västerbotten, Sweden

Rait Pihelgas
Member of Järva Rural Municipality Council and Deputy Director of the association of Estonian cities and municipalities, Estonia

Benedita Chaves
Director of innovation and Development, LIPOR association for Sustainable Waster Management of Greater Porto, Member of Municipal Waste Europe Portugal

Herwart Wilms
Managing Director REMONDIS Sustainable Services and FEAD Vice-President

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PANEL 1

Marek Kabacinski

Krakow public waste management director, Member of Municipal Waste Europe, Poland

BIOWASTE

KITCHEN WASTE

GREEN WASTE

- In Poland, there are only 12 installations treating bio-waste through the **R3 proces (recycling)**
- Problems with plant construction - **site constraints**
- **Public resistance** to the construction of bio-digestion plants
- **Lack of funding** for infrastructure development

TEXTILES

- **'100% BENEFITS'**- special programme in cooperation with the Polish Red Cross (since December 2015)
- collection of textiles **together with bulky waste** (since January 2025)
- Selective Municipal Waste Collection Point **(PSZOK)**

From 1 January 2025 in Poland textiles **cannot be collected in black bins/bags** for mixed waste.

In 2016-2024 in Krakow almost **1 000 tonnes** of textiles were collected

- **Lack of treatment facilities** for textile waste – **collected and what next?**
- The collected textiles are **selected and given** to needy people in the city of Krakow

MUNICIPAL WASTE RECYCLING CENTER

Film preparation line for recycling

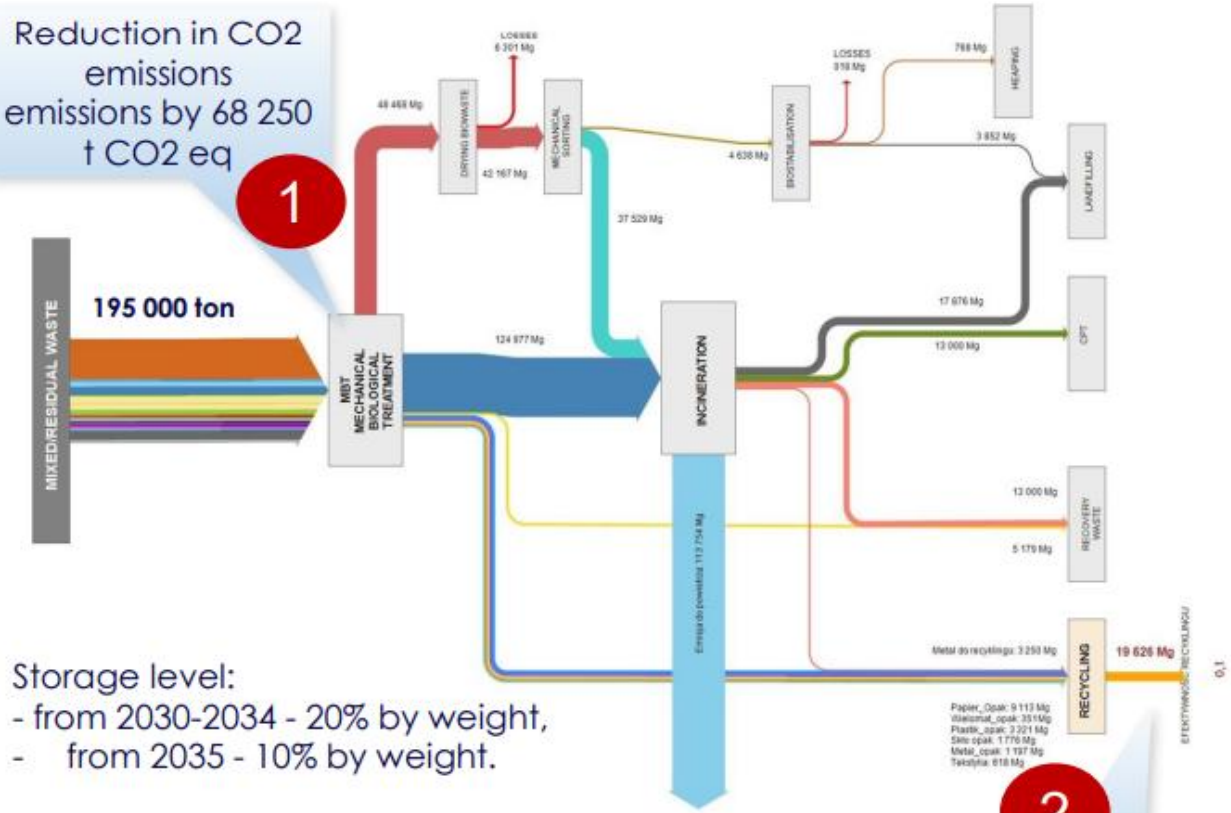
Recycling line

- **Lack of recyclers** - problem with re-granulate sales
- **The price** of European pellets is higher than pellets from non-European countries
- **Decline in production and demand** for granulate

MIX WASTE SORTING

Reduction in CO2 emissions emissions by 68 250 t CO2 eq

1



Storage level:
- from 2030-2034 - 20% by weight,
- from 2035 - 10% by weight.

In Krakow, the storage level in 2024 was 2.2%

2

Improving recycling efficiency by up to 10%

WITHOUT SORTING OF WASTE MIXED WASTE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE ACHIEVE A 65% RECYCLING RATE RECYCLING IN 2035.

KEY CHALLENGES

1. **2035 is too short a timeframe** for investment planning and implementation
2. Lack of manufacturers' contribution to the costs of the system - Need to introduce **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
3. It is necessary to provide **funding capital** expenditure
4. Lack of **protection of the European market** against the introduction of products from non-European countries
5. Lack of waste **recycling infrastructure**
6. Problems with **maintaining job stability employment** - low prestige of the job
7. **Revision of the calculation** of recycling rates (currently calculated in relation to all collected waste)
8. Incineration **slags cannot be counted** towards recycling levels (road base material)
9. Need for **stable** legislation

Multi-criteria analysis

INDICATION CRITERIA	INDIVIDUAL OPERATING SCENARIOS			
	SCEN. 1	SCEN. 2	SCEN. …	SCEN. N
KRYT. 1	r11	R21	…	rN1
KRYT. 2	r12	R22	…	rN2
KRYT. …	…	…	…	…
KRYT. M	r1M	r2M	…	rNM

where: rNM – measure of achievement M-th criterion in N-th scenario

The analysis takes into account the expansion of the waste management system with new installations within the **Municipal Waste Recycling Centre in Krakow (CROK).**

The following new installations are therefore forecast to be in operation:

- Recovery Facility with a capacity (in total) of 150.000 t/year,
- Plastic Recycling Plant with an increased capacity of to a total of 40.000 t/year
- Large Scrap Recycling Facility with a capacity of 25.000 t/year (wood recycling),
- Kitchen waste biogas plant with a capacity of 80.000 t/year

PANEL 1

Åsa Ågren Wilkström

Regional Councillor, Region of Västerbotten, Sweden

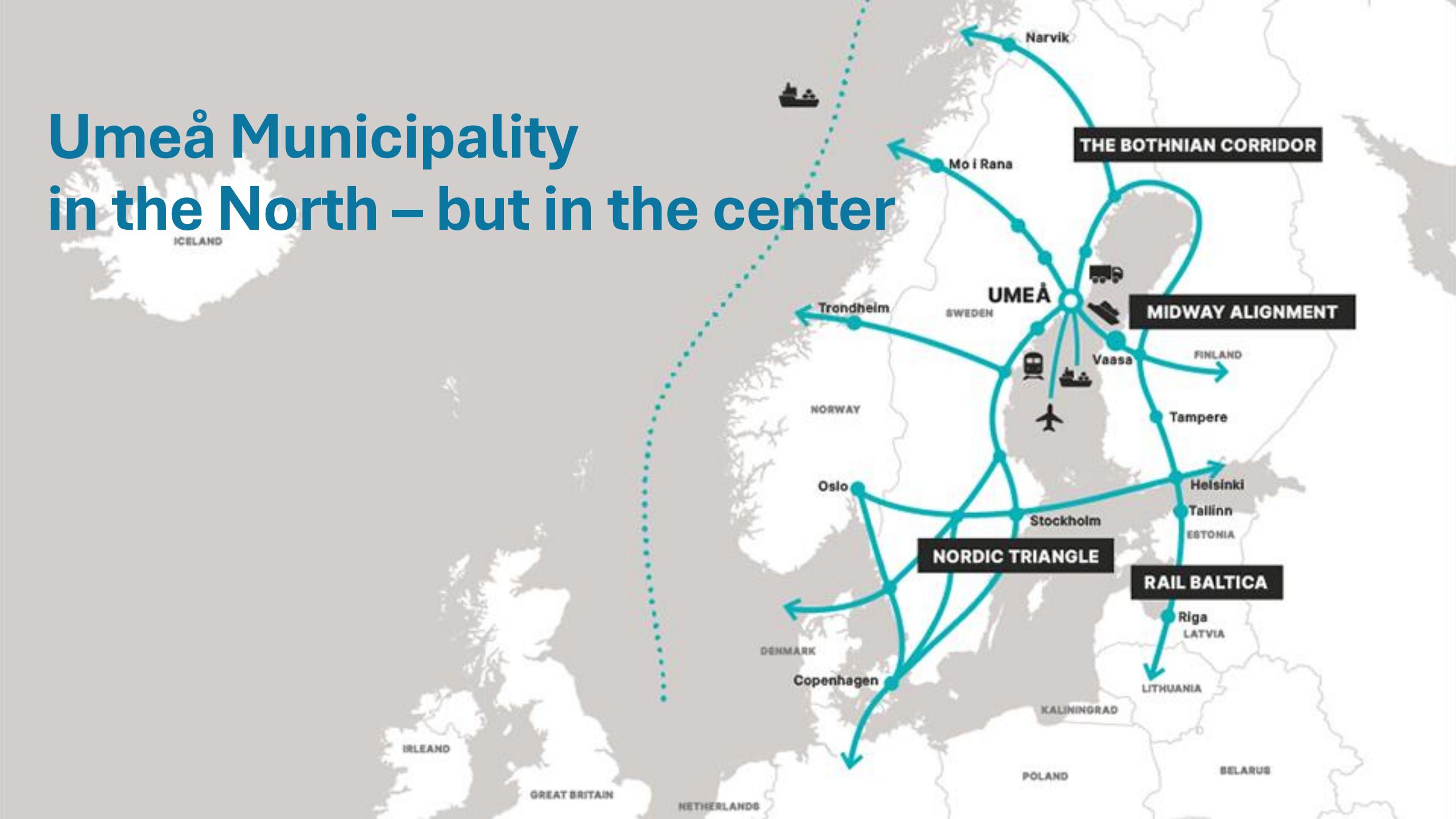
From Vision to Action

Umeå Municipality towards a more circular waste model

Åsa Ågren Wikström (SE/EPP)
Regional Councillor, Region of Västerbotten, Sweden

VAKIN

Umeå Municipality in the North – but in the center



Clear division of responsibilities

MUNICIPALITIES:

- Collection and treatment of municipal waste

PARLIAMENT/ GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

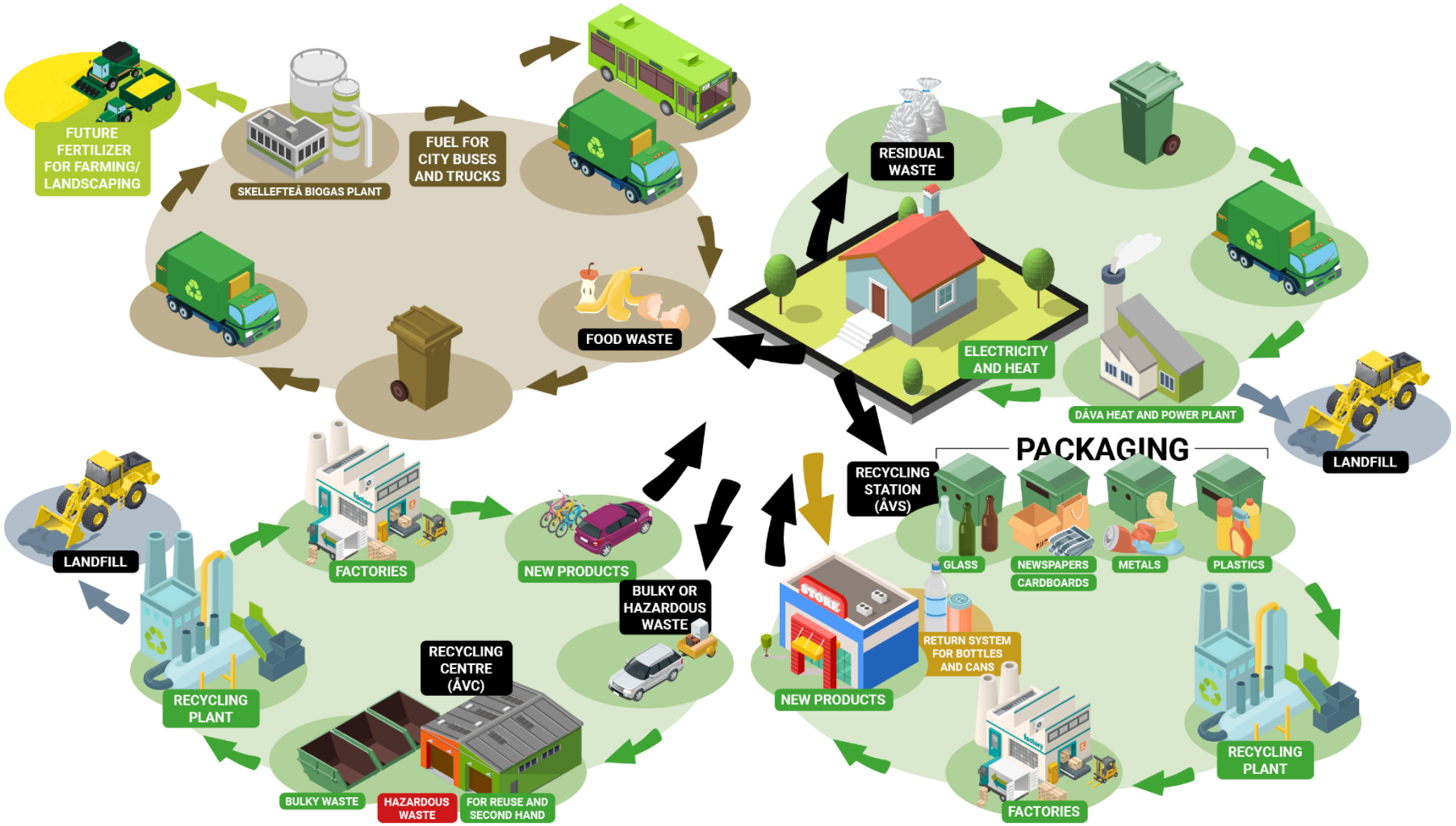
PRODUCERS:

- Collection and treatment of waste with producers responsibility

WASTE GENERATOR:

- **Private persons/households** Sort and leave waste at indicated collection points
- **Companies/Industries:** Handling of own generated waste

Towards more circular models



PANEL 1

Rait Pihelgas

Member of Järva Rural Municipality Council and Deputy Director of the association of Estonian cities and municipalities, Estonia

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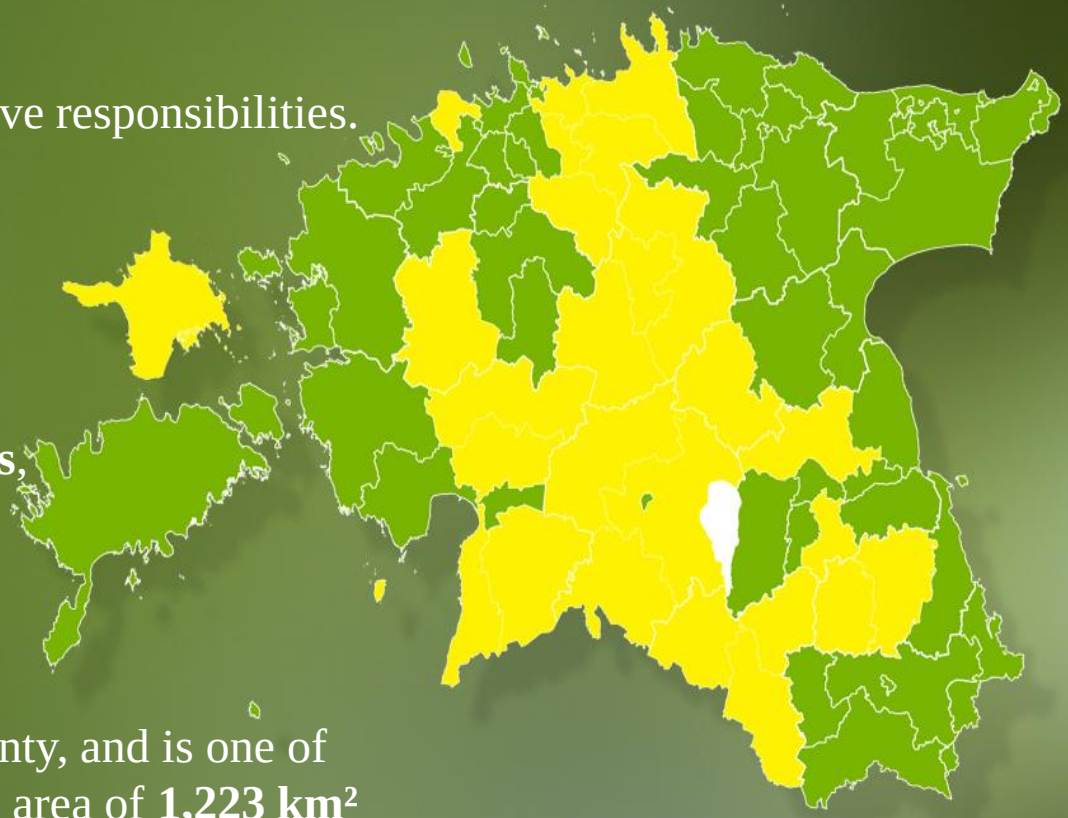
Estonia has a **two-tier administrative structure**, consisting of:
- **State level** governance
- **Local government level** (municipalities and cities)

Local governments have **autonomy** in managing their administrative responsibilities.

- There are **79 municipalities** in Estonia:
  - **15 cities** and **64 rural municipalities**

I, **Rait Pihelgas**, have served as **Mayor of Järva Municipality for 12 years** and **Chairman of the Municipal Council for 6 years**.



Järva Municipality is located in **central Estonia**, within Järva County, and is one of the largest municipalities in the region. The municipality covers an area of **1,223 km²** and has a population of approximately **8,725**

I currently work as the **Deputy Director** at the **Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities** and serve as a **Board Member** of the **Estonian Waste Management Centre**, a municipal cooperation organization.

1. In Estonia, **100% of household waste collection is organized**. We have a clear understanding of **where waste is generated**, and it is systematically collected and transported. There are **no issues with illegal dumping**, and waste collection services are fully available across the country.

2. Municipalities have developed a **network of waste collection stations and environmental points** to ensure that citizens can sort and dispose of different types of waste.

•**Waste Collection Centers** – Large stations where residents can dispose of hazardous waste, electronic waste, scrap metal, construction debris, bulky waste, and biodegradable materials.

•**Environmental Points and Collection Bins** – Smaller drop-off points for packaging waste, paper, batteries, and small electronic devices.

•**Mobile Collection Stations and Waste Collection Rounds** – In some areas, mobile waste stations or scheduled collection rounds provide waste disposal options for residents in rural and remote areas.

3. Estonian municipalities **collaborate through the Estonian Waste Management Centre (EJHK)** to ensure a **uniform approach to waste management** and implement joint projects. This cooperation allows municipalities to **share resources, optimize waste management systems, and develop sustainable solutions** more effectively.

•**Harmonized Waste Legislation** – Ensures a consistent legal framework for all municipalities.
✓ **Cost Efficiency** – Joint procurement and shared infrastructure reduce costs.
✓ **Improved Waste Management Infrastructure** – Supports the development of modern collection and recycling facilities.
✓ **Knowledge Sharing & Best Practices** – Municipalities can learn from each other and adopt innovative waste management solutions.
✓ **Stronger Voice in Policy-making** – A collective approach enhances municipalities' influence in shaping national and EU waste regulations.

- Sometimes being **"slow"** can be positive. In Estonia, there is lack of waste treatment technologies with necessary and significant impact to increase the volume and quality of waste recycling. Neither is there **cooperation between municipalities and private sector**. At the same time, expectations are more precise and **technologies have advanced**, and there are now more **efficient solutions** compared to 10+ years ago.
- **No Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects have been implemented** as municipalities have had **limited authority over waste management.**
- The waste reports have so far not been accessible in real time and have been of low reliability. In 2025/2026, Estonia will experience a significant leap in the quality of waste data as a requirement for the digital reporting of waste shipments is implemented. All waste reports will be prepared monthly, and municipalities will take on the task of managing residents' waste collection services, including overseeing waste collection contracts and billing.

- The **Estonian Waste Management Centre (EJHK)** is driving municipal cooperation in the digitalization of the waste sector. In collaboration with the private sector, a completely innovative software solution is being developed. This platform will centralize communication between municipalities, residents, and waste collection companies. As a result, all information and data related to waste management will be easily and systematically managed. Most importantly, residents will receive all the necessary services through a single channel.

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Benedita Chaves

Director of innovation and Development, LIPOR association for Sustainable Waster Management of Greater Porto, Member of Municipal Waste Europe, Portugal

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1 million citizens

Mission:

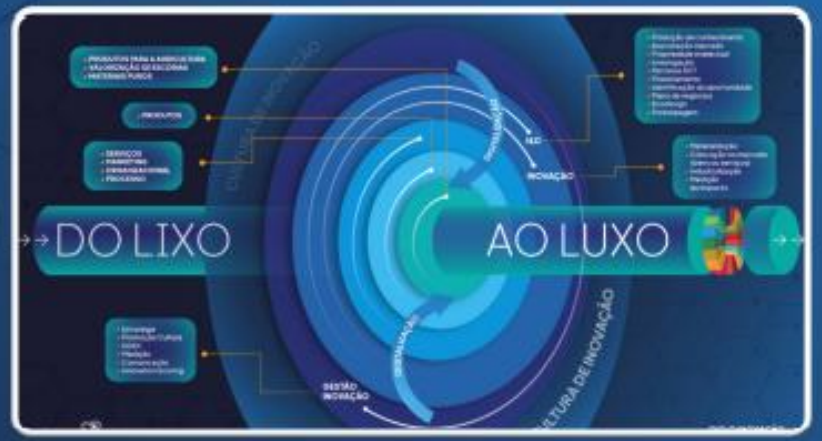
From waste to resource

through innovation and circularity,

creating and sharing added value.

50% GHG reduction by 2030
-38.6% in 2023

Services to Products



Circularity made real!

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Innovation KPI

5
AWARDS

97 M€
TANGIBLE AND UNTANGIBLE VALUE

9
NEW PRODUCTS

10+1+2
BRANDS + PATENT + DESIGN

- Waste prevention unit
- Unit for municipalities support
- WAYSTE – data centre

PANEL 1

Herwart Wilms

Managing Director REMONDIS Sustainable Services and FEAD Vice-President

Unlocking the opportunities of the implementation of the EU waste management legislation at the local level.

Herwart Wilms

REMONDIS®
IM AUFTRAG DER ZUKUNFT

Levels of German Government

EU-uniform law

German federal law

16 Federal states with independet state-laws

400 Municipal districts and independent cities

Legal basis for municipal biowaste collection and treatment in Germany

*„Member States shall ensure that, by **31 December 2023** and subject to Article 10(2) and (3), bio-waste is either separated and recycled at source, or is collected separately and is not mixed with other types of waste.“*

Waste Framework Directive Art. 22 (1)

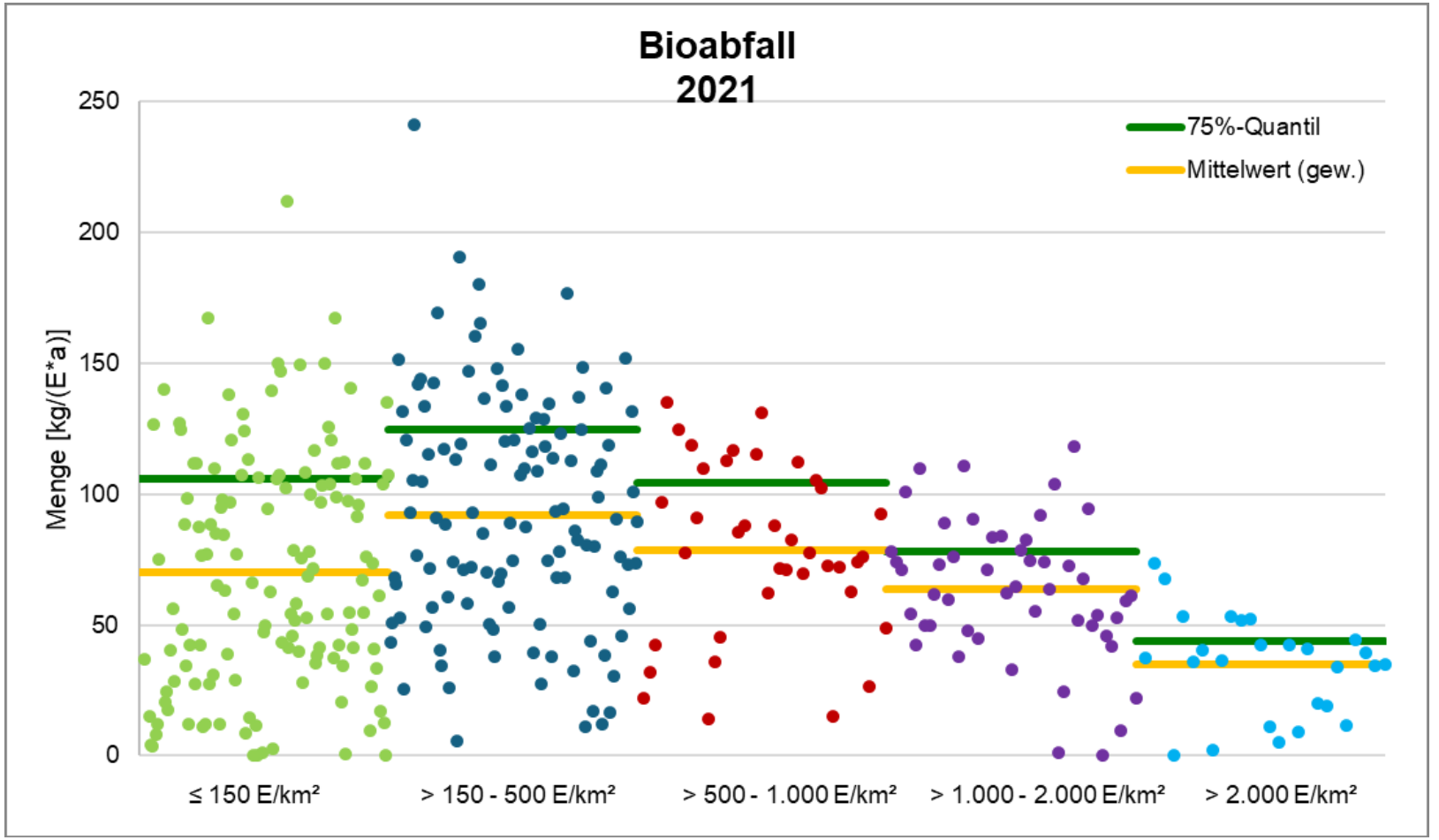
Germany implemented this rule in its national circular economy law already **in 2015**:

„The public waste management authorities are obliged to separately collect the following waste generated and disposed of in private households in their area:

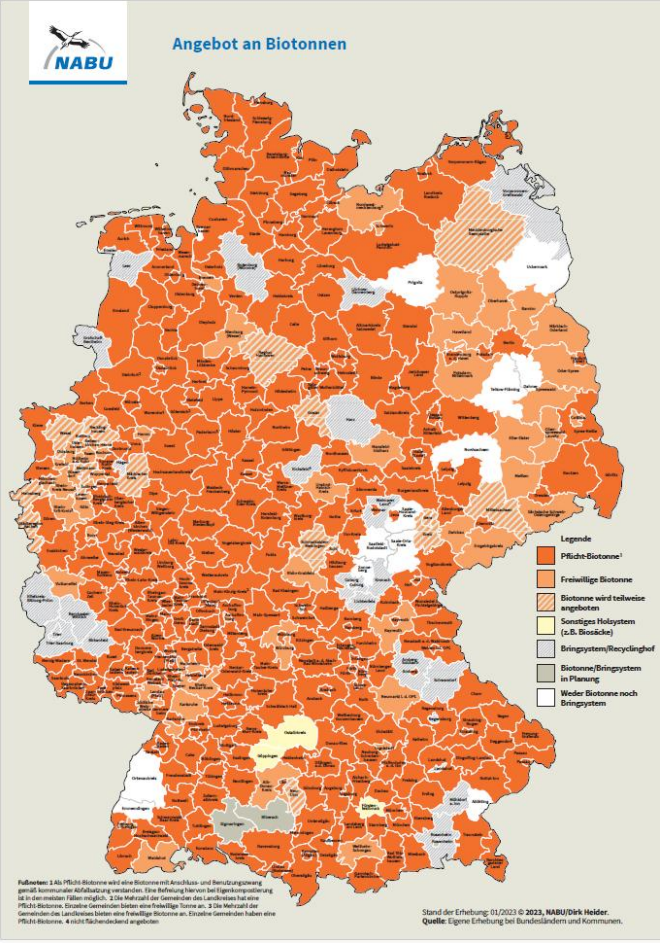
1. *Biowaste*
2. *[…] “*

Kreislaufwirtschaftsgesetz (KrWG) Art. 20 (2)

Separately collected quantities of biowaste in different municipalities



Implementation of separate collection of biowaste in Germany



- In **61 out of 400** German municipalities (15 %), there is no organic waste bin service at all.
- In a **further 54** municipalities (14 %), only a voluntary organic waste bin is offered.

- On average, municipalities with a mandatory organic waste bin have significantly lower quantities of residual waste per capita (140 kg) than those with a voluntary organic waste bin (175 kg).

Every year, around **four million tonnes of organic waste** still end up in the residual waste instead of the organic waste and thus in incineration instead of a high quality treatment.

Advantages of an effectively separated collection

- **Separately collected biowaste** can be processed to the **highest possible quality** by first utilising the energy content in the form of biogas and then using the nutrient content in the form of compost in a **cascade utilisation** process.
- Biomass is used to produce compost, among other things, which not only serves as a nutrient supplier in agriculture, but also **promotes the build-up of humus in the soil**. And humus, in turn, is a perfect CO^2 reservoir.
- In addition to natural areas such as moors and fallow land, cultivated soils such as agricultural or forest areas also serve as CO^2 depots. **The higher the humus content in these areas, the more CO^2 can be bound.**

German implementation deficit in separate collection of biowaste

Neither we as a company nor private citizens in Germany can appeal to the municipal supervisory authority and legally demand separate collection, although the law has been in force throughout the EU since 2023 and in germany since 2015.

EU legislation is only as good as its local implementation and must be monitored and penalised in the event of violations so severely that there is real economic pressure on the implementation.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Mathias Bach Kirkegaard

Environment Attaché, Denmark Permanent Representation

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SETTING THE SCENE

Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea
Director, EU Commission, Circular Economy Unit

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PANEL 2

Achieving energy and material autonomy through circular economy policies

Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea
Director, EU Commission, Circular Economy Unit

Mathias Bach Kirkegaard
Environment Attaché, Denmark Permanent Representation

Paul de Bruycker
CEWEP President

Olivier François
EuRIC President

Claudia Mensi
FEAD President

CLOSING

Zsolt Kükedi

Rapporteur of the EESC opinion on Revision of the EU waste framework Directive

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THANK YOU

We now invite you to join us for a networking drink.

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