

Reducing Construction and Plastic Waste Panel

The European Commission will support a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling plastics construction and demolition waste in the Turkish Cypriot community. The campaign aims to encourage individuals to reduce their single use plastics consumption for a cleaner environment as well as reducing, reusing and recycling construction and demolition waste. A “Reducing Construction and Plastic Waste” Panel will take place on Friday, 27 July 2018 from 10:30 – 13:00 at the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce.

The EU waste management policies aim to reduce the environmental and health impacts of waste and improve Europe’s resource efficiency. The long-term goal is to turn Europe into a recycling society, avoiding waste and using unavoidable waste as a resource wherever possible. Proper waste management is a key element in ensuring resource efficiency and the sustainable growth of European economies.

In January this year the European Commission launched the first-ever Europe-wide strategy on plastics as part of the transition towards a more circular economy. The key objectives include:

- All plastic packaging on the EU market will be recyclable by 2030
- Consumption of single-use plastics will be reduced
- The intentional use of micro-plastics will be restricted

In 2006 the European Union allocated €19.5 million for the solid waste sector. The projects covered short-term priority measures foreseen in the solid waste master plan adopted by the Turkish Cypriot community in 2008. These included the construction of a central sanitary non-hazardous landfill in Koutsoventis/Güngör which also includes a small-scale hazardous waste storage facility, the construction of a waste transfer station in Famagusta, the supply of long-haul waste transfer trucks, a small-scale treatment facility for infectious medical waste at the Nicosia public hospital, the restoration of the Dikomo/Dikmen dumpsite near Nicosia, the supply of a semi-mobile construction and demolition waste pre-conditioning equipment and green waste shredding (pre-composting) equipment.

During 2012 to 2017, the European Commission allocated approximately an additional €6 million for the increasing of the TCC's solid waste management capacity, including works for the second phase of the Koutsoventis/Güngör landfill, the upgrade of a medical waste sterilisation facility and the supply of waste trucks.

Background:

Improved waste management helps to reduce health and environmental problems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions (directly by cutting emissions from landfills and indirectly by recycling materials which would otherwise be mined or extracted and processed), and avoid negative impacts at local level such as landscape deterioration (due to landfilling), local water and air pollution, as well as littering.



The European Union's approach to waste management is based on the "waste hierarchy" which sets the following priority order when shaping waste policy and managing waste at the operational level: prevention, (preparing for) reuse, recycling, recovery and, as the least preferred option, disposal (which includes landfilling and incineration without energy recovery).

In line with this, the '7th Environment Action Programme' sets the following priority objectives for waste policy in the EU:

- To reduce the amount of waste generated;
- To maximise recycling and re-use;
- To limit incineration to non-recyclable materials;
- To phase out landfilling to the extent possible;
- To ensure full implementation of the waste policy targets in all Member States.

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