Minutes of the WAREG Task Force on Waste Meeting – 3-10-2024

WAREG Members Represented:

- RAAEY Greece
- MEKH Hungary
- ARERA Italy
- PUC Latvia
- ERC North Macedonia
- ERSAR Portugal
- ANRSC Romania

Representatives:

- Katerina Genouzi (RAEEY Greece)
- Pal Ságvári (MEKH, Hungary)
- Vörös Tamás (MEKH Hungary)
- Antal András (MEKH Hungary)
- Giovanni Taglialatela (ARERA Italy)
- Dace Codare (PUC Latvia)
- Ināra Teibe (PUC Latvia)
- Lija Makare (PUC Latvia)
- Shamil Redzepi (ERC North Macedonia)
- David Alves (ERSAR Portugal)
- Claudia Videira (ERSAR Portugal)
- Anca Cador (ANRSC Romania)
- Dan Matei (ANRSC Romania)
- Vittorio Graziano (WAREG)

Agenda:

1. Strategies to develop relationships with EU Commission
2. Next Meeting task force and second workshop
3. Request for data on deposit-return system fee

Proceedings:

1. **Developing Relationships with EU Commission**
   - Members discussed strategies to strengthen relationships within WAREG and to develop relevant content for future initiatives with the European Commission.
   - The group considered participating in the forthcoming review of the Waste Directive. Emphasis was placed on contributing regulatory perspectives to the revision process.
   - It was underlined that any Group's external action should properly consider the regulators' mandate, so as not to exceed their powers and responsibilities. There is agreement on the point that the Group's contribution concentrates on regulatory aspects without overstepping the Members' mandate. Moreover, concerns on political exposure are alleviated by the fact that the Group and WAREG itself were established to collectively address issues of common interest, so to shield Members from undue political reaction.
   - However, the approach taken by the President Von der Leyen when drafting the "Mission Letters" addressed to the designate Commissioner for Environment meets, for the first time ever, the Regulators' requests and proposals as for topic relevance. Among the new Commissioner's tasks, there are the ones of encouraging private investments, simplicity and efficiency of legislative action, as well as "creating an internal market for recyclable materials". All these points have been always suggested by the Group as being relevant to building an effective Circular Economy, and thus open new fields of action and collaboration.
   - Members suggested sending an introductory letter to the new European Commission to present the Municipal Waste Regulators and establish relations. The importance of reaching out to high-level officials, including Commissioners, was stressed. It was highlighted that Cabinet members are crucial contacts for advancing WAREG's objectives.
   - Enlarging the dialogue to high-level officers depends on the timing of the reorganisation the Commission will possibly carry out after it takes office in November. Organising the next

workshop by the second half of November means that, by that time, some actions have been taken in terms of reorganisation.

- To conclude, Members agreed to invite Mr. Flackenecker and Ms. Savelli to the next workshop; ARERA is committed to contact these officers to ask them their views on inviting other Colleagues from within the Commission, as well as on what we can expect from the Commissioner Roswall's cabinet composition.

Scheduling of Next Meetings

- 2nd Workshop: It was suggested to focus on pricing and financing of waste services in the next workshops, with investments as a separate topic. Proposed holding the workshop in the second half of November. Dates from November 20th onwards were recommended. Proposal of Topics for the Second Workshop: Financing Municipal Waste Services: costs, tariffs, and the role of Regulators. Such a topic is pending the approval of the TF Members.
- Next TF meeting: It was agreed that the next Task Force meeting will be on October 24th, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM CET.

2. **Request for Data on Deposit-Return System**
   - A request was made for data regarding a deposit system fee from Hungary and Portugal. It was agreed that the requested information would be provided by Latvia. ARERA pointed out that in Italy no such system exists in Italy, since the Country has adopted an EPR system responsible for collecting and recycling package waste. Yet, Italy is expected to adopt a deposit-return system should it be unable to reach the recycling rates the Regulation establishes as an alternative to deposit.
   - This topic will be discussed in detail at the next meeting in an ad hoc session. It is also agreed that anytime the Group meets, a further session of 15-20 minutes will be devoted to examining "technical issues" raised by Colleagues.

Decisions and Action Items

- Next Meeting Scheduled: Date: October 24, 2024 10:00 – 11:00 AM CET.
- Topics for the second workshop: Pricing and financing of waste services, date of the workshop to be defined in the next days, proposed dates are between 18th and 29th of November.