Minutes of the WAREG Task Force on Waste Meeting – 24-10-2024

WAREG Members Represented:

- **ARERA Italy**
- **ERC North Macedonia**
- **ERSAR Portugal**
- **MEKH Hungary**
- **PUC Latvia**
- **RAAEY Greece**
- **VERT Lithuania**
- **WAREG Secretariat**

Representatives:

- **Giovanni Taglialatela** (ARERA Italy)
- **Shamil Redzepi** (ERC North Macedonia)
- **Antal András** (MEKH Hungary)
- **Vörös Tamás** (MEKH Hungary)
- **Petros Nikolarou** (RAAEY Greece)
- **George Loizos** (RAAEY Greece)
- **Andreas Avlonitis** (RAAEY Greece)
- **Aida Anthouli** (RAAEY Greece)
- **Inese Vēvere** (PUC Latvia)
- **Dace Codare Plaude** (PUC Latvia)
- **Ināra Teibe** (PUC Latvia)
- **David Alves** (ERSAR Portugal)
- **Claudia Videira** (ERSAR Portugal)
- **Raimondas Balčiūnas** (VERT Lithuania)
- **Vittorio Graziano** (WAREG Secretariat)

Agenda:

1. **Presentations by new Member of the TF ad update from North Macedonia:**
   - Presentation by Greece on Regulatory Competencies
   - Update by North Macedonia on Sector Development
2. **Scheduling of Next Workshop on Pricing and Financing of Waste Services**
3. **Discussion on the Role of the Waste Task Force within WAREG**
4. **Presentation by Latvia on Deposit-Return System (DRS) Schemes**

Proceedings:

1. **Presentation and update by Members:**

   a. Presentation by Greece:

   - **Regulatory Competencies:** Greece's Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks, and Environment (RAAEY) currently holds an advisory role in the waste sector rather than decisive regulatory authority. Recycling is not yet within their competencies; a separate authority manages this aspect.
   - **Future Evaluation:** An evaluation at the end of the year may lead to changes in their responsibilities.
   - **Participation in the TF Waste:** RAAEY Representatives expressed their interest for the activities of the Task Force and have been welcomed as new Members of it.

   b. Update by North Macedonia:

   - **Sector Status:** ERC North Macedonia reported that they are in the initial phase of developing regulatory competencies in the waste sector, hindered by a political impasse.

- **Future Participation:** While awaiting formal competencies, they are keen to participate in Task Force activities to gain insights into the sector and understand relationships with EU institutions.

2. **Scheduling of Next Workshop on "Financing Municipal Waste Services: costs, tariffs, and the role of Regulators":**
   - **Proposed Dates:** The initial proposed date of November 20th is not feasible, because key stakeholders in DG Env will not be able to participate. New dates have been discussed during the meeting.
   - **Contents of the workshop:** Members of the TF asked to receive from the Secretariat a possible list of topics and data to serve as a guideline for their presentation during the workshop. On proposal of Italy, this blueprint of the presentation will be shared with all the Members of the TF in the next days.
   - **Preparatory meetings:** To assure uniformity among the presentation one or two meetings of the TF Waste will be organised before the workshop to discuss about the data, the structure of the presentations and possible issue.
   - **Decision:**
     - **Workshop Date:** Agreed to hold the workshop in the second week of December, preferably during the General Assembly of WAREG. Exact date to be defined by October 28th, 2024, pending approval of all the Members of the TF.
   - **Next Steps:** WAREG Secretariat will circulate the proposed dates for the workshop, asking for an approval by the Members, and will informally updated DG ENV contacts about the date to assure their participation. At the same time a structure of the presentation will be circulated among Members of the TF and dates for the first preparatory meeting will be proposed by the Secretariat.

3. **Discussion on the Role of the Waste Task Force within WAREG:**
   - **Autonomy Consideration:** Some Members of the TF raised the topic of enhancing the Task Force's role within WAREG.
   - **Points for Discussion:** It was agreed to continue this discussion during the next meetings and to raise this issue during the next General Assembly.

4. **Presentation by Latvia on DRS Schemes:**
   - **Experience Sharing:** PUC Latvia provided a detailed presentation on their country's Deposit-Return System schemes, including data and practical experiences.
   - Discussion: Members engaged in a fruitful discussion following the presentation.
   - **Action Item:** The presentation will be circulated among all Task Force members for further reference.

Decisions and Action Items:

1. **Workshop on Pricing and Financing of Waste Services:**
   - **Date:** In the aftermath of the meeting, upon discussion with WAREG Secretariat, the most probable date for the Waste TF meeting in presence is 11 December 2024, in the afternoon, after the end of the 33rd WAREG General Assembly. Further confirmation of room's availability will come from WAREG Secretariat in the next days.
   - **Location:** Brussels and hybrid, Belgium
   - **Presentation:** to be built on the basis of the proposal from Secretariat for data and topics, one or two preparatory meetings will be held before the workshop.
2. **Circulation of Latvia's Presentation:**
   - **Action:** WAREG Secretariat will distribute their presentation on Deposit-Return System schemes from PUC Latvia to all Task Force members.

Next Steps:

1. **Members to Approve Workshop Date:**
    - Respond to the WAREG Secretariat's proposed dates by **October 28th, 2024**.
2. **Preparation for Workshop:**
    - Review the presentation blueprint upon receipt.
    - Begin preparing presentations aligned with the guidelines.
    - Participate in preparatory meetings when scheduled.