1ST MEETING OF THE EU PLATFORM ON MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE REGULATION & GOVERNANCE

PROCEEDINGS

The Florence School of Regulation (FSR) has launched and developed since July 2020 a work stream which focusses on the regulation and governance of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Europe. Following an online kick-off conference, the FSR produced a proceeding paper highlighting MSW key data and challenges in terms of institutional setting, market characteristics, funding arrangements and current situation against MSW EU targets, underlining recent waste generation and treatment trends, and looking at future capital and operational expenditure required to reach MSW EU targets and the associated financing options. A second conference organized in November 2020 focused on municipal waste services financing models throughout Europe and recycling potential of biowaste.

In the perspective to consolidate this dialogue and work stream, the FSR organized on November 16th the 1st meeting of the "European Platform on MSW Regulation and Governance" that will address key regulatory and governance issues, and thus contribute to pave the road for the necessary reforms and changes to successfully implement the EU Circular Economy Package.

To contribute and ensure a high-level and independent debate and research on economically and socially sound regulation and governance, the EU Platform on MSW Regulation and Governance will build upon a community of practice gathering a variety of stakeholders including regulators, operators, local authorities, the European Commission, academics and researchers, EU financial Institutions, etc.

The core objectives of the EU Platform include peer-to-peer collaboration, analysis and research, capacity building, and networking.

	Peer-to-peer learning	To share knowledge, experience and best practices on municipal solid waste management, governance and regulation
	Analysis & research	To produce analytical and empirical research compiling economic, regulatory and governance data and knowledge on municipal solid waste management in EU countries
	Capacity building	To provide state-of-the-art training and capacity building for practitioners, and facilitate the uptake of best governance and regulatory practices on municipal solid waste management
	Networking	To foster inclusive dialogue and exchange of views between relevant stakeholders through policy events

The 1st meeting of the EU Platform on MSW Regulation and Governance was structured firstly around an open mic session where stakeholders triggered the discussion by sharing their views on the current and forthcoming challenges of the sector. The work of the EU Platform can help better describe and understand the reality, complexity and challenges of waste management at local level in the EU, thus paving the way to take informed and outcome-oriented policy decisions. The importance of the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities was recalled. Data production and collection was mentioned as a crucial need for the sector to guide, assess and improve waste policies. The need to produce, update and share timely, consistent, comparable and policy-relevant municipal waste data was thus underlined; as well as the need for a regular monitoring and evaluation. Digitalisation was quoted as a possible mean to bridge the data gap and to optimize operational practices. The necessity to improve and/or harmonize separate waste collection across the EU was discussed, while the need to share best practices on those grounds was recognized. Some discussions were held around the cost-effectiveness of waste technologies and their cost-recovery consequences for operators and citizens, and associated regulatory implications; the implementation of the polluter pays principle which is applied to the industrial and commercial sectors but not to municipal solid waste; the need to possibly concentrate the market to build large operators able to face the important investment efforts thus overcoming the financial impact of fragmentation. Furthermore, public private partnerships were quoted as a possibility to support market development.

The 2nd session focused on governance arrangements with 5 presentations given by researchers and by the Italian regulator. These contributions highlighted some key governance issues encountered in the MSW sector throughout Europe, including:

- the necessity to encourage cross-sectoral policy coherence through effective co-ordination mechanisms, especially between policies for municipal waste and the environment, health, energy, agriculture, industry, water, spatial planning and land use;
- the need to identify and address gaps, overlaps and conflicting objectives and interests between levels of government in charge of waste management, due to territorial/administrative mismatch and sector fragmentation;
- the need to foster coordination and promote multi-level cooperation among stakeholders and levels of government to improve the efficiency of waste management;
- the necessity to promote stakeholder engagement to build trust, and raise citizen awareness and buy-in to improve separate recycling rates;
- the possibility of generalizing the extended producer responsibility.

The 3rd session was dedicated to cost analysis and the market structure of the MSW sector in Europe with contributions from European researchers. The financial impacts of the sector fragmentation were highlighted. Furthermore, an upcoming research work launched by the FSR was briefly mentioned. This work will encompass an analysis of the various costs that waste municipal companies are facing for municipal waste collection and treatment. Using econometric methods, key economic structural differences between municipal waste collection and treatment according to streams, processes and

technologies will be identified. Highlighting potential (dis)economies of scale and scope both for collection and treatment, the efficient structural organisation for the market (bundling or unbundling of collection and treatment) will be described.

All presentations of speakers are available on the webpage of the event.

The activity programme of the EU Platform on MSW Regulation and Governance for 2022 is currently being developed and will be shared soon with the EU Platform participating stakeholders.

PROGRAMME of the 1st meeting of the "European Platform on MSW Regulation and Governance"

Tuesday 16th November 2021, from 10:00am to 12:30pm, hosted by the Florence School of Regulation

10:00	**Welcoming words:** Maria Salvetti, Florence School of Regulation Fabio Tambone, ARERA, Waste-Reg	
10:10	**Open mic session**	
10:45	**Governance Arrangements for Circular Economy** – Urban Regions Shifting to Circular Economy: Understanding Challenges for New Ways of Governance – From management to stewardship: A comparative case study of waste governance in New York City and Seoul metropolitan city – Governance for system optimization and system change: The case of urban waste – The Concept of Generalised Extended Producer Responsibility (GEPR) – New regulation in Italy to close the waste cycle **Q&A Discussion**	A. Obersteg, Hamburg University S. Lee-Geiller, Rutgers University M. Bugge, Oslo University I. Puig Ventosa, Fundació ENT L. Bardelli, ARERA
11:50	**Market Structure for Municipal Solid Waste** – Introducing and enhancing competition to improve delivery of local services of solid waste collection – Trade-off between competition and value chain integration in waste management industry – Forthcoming research work: Cost Analysis & Market Structure **Q&A Discussion**	M. Sebo, University of Barcelona A. Marangoni, Althesys D. Pfeffer, Paris School of Economics
12:20	**Concluding words:** Francesca Mazzarella, Utilitatis/Utilitalia Maria Salvetti, Florence School of Regulation	
12:30	***End of the meeting***	