

# PRESS-RELEASE

European  
Quality Association  
for Recycling e.V. (EQAR)

8 June 2016



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## The Circular Economy Package should not leave unregulated central aspects for construction and demolition wastes

The European Quality Association for Recycling e.V. (EQAR) is the European roof organization of national quality protection organizations and producers of quality-controlled recycled construction materials from the EU member states.

Promoting the European co-operation and the exchange of experiences between the national quality protection organizations and their members are in the centre of the activity of EQAR. Furthermore the main emphasis of the activity of EQAR is concentrated on know-how transfer and the support of spreading quality protection and quality assurance of recycled construction materials.

EQAR follows also the content and activities relating to the Circular Economy Package adopted by the EU Commission in December 2015 and the action plan forming part of it. In the opinion of EQAR the Circular Economy Package goes in the right direction as regards construction and demolition wastes.

In a comment today presented by EQAR to the EU Commission, Mr. Manfred Wierichs, President of EQAR, however underlines that the following central aspects should be regulated in the Circular Economy Package:

### 1. End of waste status

The targets that recycled materials are newly classified as non-waste (end of waste status), adopting quality standards for secondary raw materials and developing of guidelines for demolition and high-quality recycling are to be welcomed. These measures form the basis for improving distinctly the quality and thus the acceptance and marketing of recycled aggregates. In Austria e. g. already since 01/01/2016 new regulations have been effective which demand a contaminant investigation and a detailed, utilization-oriented demolition (ordinance and technical Austrian standard (ÖNORM)).

## **2. Ecologically friendly public provision**

The target of a more intensive use of measures relating to an ecologically more friendly public provision in future should be embodied in the EU waste legislation by possibly specific regulations.

A regulation as contained in § 45 of the Recycling Economy Act in Germany according to which state authorities are only obliged to check whether products obtained by means of recycling procedures may be used for supply measures would not be sufficient.

In addition there should be regulated that recycled materials which may be equally used as primary raw materials shall be preferably supplied. An exclusion of recycled material formulated in tenders may be permitted only for individual cases which may be especially technologically explained.

In the opinion of EQAR President Wierichs only in this way it will be possible to efficiently come up against the unjustified exclusion of recycled aggregates to be again and again observed in Germany in numerous calls for tenders.

## **3. BREF reference documents**

The preparation of guidelines for the best waste management and resource efficiency in the industrial sectors using the best available technologies (BREF reference documents) should be also appreciated. Yet, in this connection attention should be paid to the fact that they should not only be the best technologies but be also available at reasonable costs. Technologically too ambitious and costly recycling procedures result in overpriced recycled materials which then will be hard or not at all to sell on the market.

## **4. Restriction of dumping**

Basically the target of reducing dumping to maximally 10 % of all wastes up to the year 2030 is to be appreciated. However, sufficient regional filling and dumping capacities for mineral wastes and soils should be always provided. Otherwise there will be the danger of regional disposal and dumping capacities partially lacking - as in Germany. This will then result in a distinct increase of the transport distances and costs and in rising dumping costs due to the limited dumping space. Increase in costs of construction and demolition measures will be the result.

In this respect there should be recommended to establish a regulation as it is envisaged in the spatial planning draft program of the German land Lower Saxony, a program which has been adopted by the Lower Saxon cabinet on 26/04/2016. According to it there is a special need for action if dumps for mineral wastes (dump class I) will be farer away from the place where waste is produced than 35 kilometers. If the dumping capacity of a near dump ( $\leq 35$  kilometers) will amount to only maximally 200,000 tons or the residual service life will be shorter than 5 years there is also need for action according to the spatial planning program of Lower Saxony.