



GEIR News, March 2009

The Environment Council reiterates its support to recycling (2nd March 2009)

During the Council of Environment Ministers held under the Czech Presidency of the EU on 2 March, Member States emphasised the need to support recycling markets, following a fall in the demand of recycled materials. They made a strong declaration, urging for short and long term measures to support recycling industries. They also asked the European Commission to accelerate its work on **End of Waste criteria**.

End of waste criteria: JRC guidelines published

The Joint Research Centre (JRC), a Scientific Advisory Body to the European Commission, just published a draft guidance on the methodology to determine when a waste ceases to be considered as a waste.

Under the recently revised EU waste framework directive, the European commission must assess the need for so-called **end-of-waste criteria** for several waste streams. The JRC proposes a general methodology and principles for defining end-of-waste criteria at EU level. It says the criteria should cover:

- the input waste material
- the recovery processes used,
- the quality of the resulting product, and
- its potential applications.

The report recommends quality control procedures to ensure criteria are met and suggests impact assessment guidelines for deciding whether such criteria should be set in the first place. The report includes case studies on setting end-of-waste criteria for compost, scrap metal and recyclable aggregates.

The European Commission is expected to publish its **proposals for possible end-of-waste criteria by the end of 2009** and GEIR is keeping abreast with developments in this area.

For further information:

The final report published in February 2009 is available here:

<http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/activities/waste/documents/Endofwastecriteriafinal.pdf>