



GEIR News

LEGAL CERTAINTY FOR THE WASTE OILS REREFINING INDUSTRY: ADOPTION OF THE REVISED WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

GEIR, the European Re-refining Industry Section, welcomes the final adoption of the [Revised Waste Framework Directive](#) as published in the European Official Journal on 22 November 2008 (*DIRECTIVE 2008/98/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives*).

In 2005, the European Commission proposed to repeal the EU Waste Oils Directive (for simplification purposes rather than because its measures were obsolete, as clearly mentioned in Recital 44 of the revised legislative text), which would have not only undermined the short term economics of oil recycling but also the long term viability of this small but globally leading European industry. The Re Refining Industry therefore led an active European public affairs campaign to ensure that business interests are preserved and that the prerogatives of the repealed Waste Oils Directive remain alive in spirit in the revised legislation. The campaign led to the legal certainty necessary to support the ongoing development of Waste Oils Re refining, with in particular:

- A reference, in the revised Waste Directive, to a **5-step waste hierarchy (called "priority order")** favouring recycling over other methods of waste treatment
- A specific mention to the need to follow the **priority order** for the management of waste oils and to their separate collection, **ensuring that the spirit of the revised Directive is favourable to the industry across Europe** and that waste oils regeneration remains a suitable option
- A perception that GEIR is a credible and knowledgeable European stakeholder, maximising its legitimacy to reach out to EU stakeholders on other policy issues if necessary (REACH, etc.)

At the adoption of the Final Waste Framework Directive, Fabio Dalla Giovanna, GEIR President, said: "Reaffirming the importance of oil recycling in EU law was vital to our industry's future and we made it thanks to a professionally led public affairs campaign- this result was unthinkable three years ago. Today the priority order for waste oil recycling has been re-established, without any constraint such as was imposed in the Directive 75/439/EEC, strengthening the concept of recycling above combustion".

All 27 Member States of the European Union will have to transpose the revised Waste Directive by 12 December 2010.