

Views of Turkey on Waste Management
05 May 2010

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

Rapid economic growth and increase in production and consumption brings together increased amount and changed composition of solid and liquid waste.

Turkey attaches high priority to waste management within the context of its national sustainable development policies, international commitments through the UN system and national programme for the EU accession process.

Solid waste management strategies should introduce healthy and economic solutions to protect the environment and provide higher living standards without jeopardizing development.

The Environmental Law of Turkey entails prevention and/or minimization of waste production, collection and recovery of waste at source and reduction of harms caused by waste.

In view of having a sound and integrated waste management in Turkey, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has been authorized to prepare our national framework plan. The principal components of the plan are:

- a) Legislation and technical requirements relating to waste management,*
- b) Regulations for the wastes requiring specific attention and treatment,*
- c) Authorized legal entities on waste management,*
- d) Estimated investment and operating costs of disposal, treatment and recovery facilities*
- e) Appropriate treatment, recycling, interim storage and disposal facilities,*
- f) Facilities producing and treating wastes that are exempt from licensing*
- g) Evaluation of type, quantity and sources of waste at planning stage*

Furthermore, local waste management plans will be prepared according to our framework national plan by the local authorities and municipalities at the provincial scale.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to highlight some steps taken by Turkey regarding waste management.

Municipalities, to a great extent one the public bodies in charge of collecting, transporting and treating the solid waste. However, a significant number of them can not show the required level of activity due to financial and technical constrains. In view of overcoming this difficulty, various local administrative units in the same province or region are encouraged and in some cases obliged by the Law on Municipal Service Unions to coordinate and cooperate to provide adequate solid waste services and establish necessary infrastructure. It is observed that the number of integrated solid waste projects implemented by local administrative unions are increasing with this approach.

Waste markets are established under the chamber of commerce with the support of Ministry of Environment and Forestry, in order to reduce the amount of industrial waste and allow their reuse.

The disposal of the hazardous waste is under the responsibility of producer. There are 3 disposal facilities in Turkey for hazardous waste through incineration. We are working on increasing our capacity with new facilities and alternative technologies and applications.

Currently, works on establishment of a system for collecting and processing waste oils are ongoing.

The responsibility of separate collection, transportation, recycling and disposal of waste batteries and accumulators lies with the producers.

Necessary legal and technical arrangements are established in order to reduce the pollution caused by the packaging waste which is an important economical asset.

Last but not least, the Medical Waste Control Regulation paved the path for implementation of alternative disposal technologies. Wastes produced in medical institutions are classified as medical wastes, hazardous wastes, domestic-type and packaging waste. These are separated at the source and collected with special bags and boxes.

Thank you for your attention.