

CSD 18: NORWAY: Waste management

Madame Chair and distinguished delegates

The precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle and the life-cycle perspective are three key principles within Norwegian national waste policy.

Policy instruments should place the financial responsibility on those responsible for producing the waste, thus creating an incentive for more environmentally friendly behavior. Efforts to weaken the link between economic development and the rising volume of waste should be promoted.

We encourage the development of sustainable waste management systems with focus on waste prevention, recycling, energy recovery and environmentally safe disposal facilities. Waste prevention should be based on an overall orientation with a focus on individual waste streams and products life cycle.

Emissions from landfills poses a major problem worldwide. In 2007, methane emissions from landfills in Norway amounted to 2 per cent of our total emissions of greenhouse gases. Since July 2009 we have therefore prohibited the disposal of waste containing more than 10 percent of biodegradable material.

To reduce emissions from land-fills, we also encourage greater energy recovery, recycling and biological waste treatment. Biodegradable waste contains valuable material and energy resources that should be utilized rather than disposed of.

Used goods from industrialised countries have become increasingly sought-after commodities in some developing countries. This has led to a massive flow of obsolete electrical and electronic equipment (e-waste) from developed to developing countries. Some of this equipment contains hazardous substances that can have serious consequences on the environment and human health – especially when it ends up as waste or is improperly managed. Shipments of these items are therefore strictly regulated in Norway and we have recently increased our efforts regarding control and inspection to deal with this problem.

Transboundary movement should take place in line with the requirements of the Basel Convention and increased enforcement is needed to improve detection of illegal shipments of waste.

Thank you Madame Chair