



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Delegations
Subject : Green paper on biowaste management in the European Union

Delegations will find annexed an information note from the Commission on the above subject, which will be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 4 December 2008.

Green paper on biowaste management in the European Union**Information Note from the Commission services**

- On 3 December 2008 the Commission adopted a Green Paper on the management of bio-waste in the European Union.
- This Green Paper is the first step of the Commission's response to the call expressed in the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) for an assessment of the management of bio-waste with a view to submitting a proposal if appropriate.
- The debate around bio-waste to date has revealed highly divergent views about the degree of discretion Member States and regions should maintain in this matter. Different actors have expressed rather different views of what a “Bio-waste Directive” should actually address.
- The principal objective of a Commission Green Paper is to structure the stakeholder debate in preparation for a legislative proposal. The Green Paper will present the environmental, economic and social issues relating to bio-waste management and gather stakeholders' views on possible ways forward. In particular, given that there is a substantial amount of legislation already addressing the issue of bio-waste, the Green Paper will seek views on the potential benefits or disadvantages of a self-standing Bio-waste Directive and on its possible content.
- In follow-up to the Green Paper, the Commission will prepare an Impact Assessment with a view to presenting a legislative proposal, if necessary, in 2010. Work on the Impact Assessment has already started and will continue throughout 2009.
- The Commission looks forward to close cooperation with the Council and the European Parliament in discussing this vital issue and, where necessary, strengthening or drawing up legislation relating to bio-waste management.