

Closing remarks by ENVE Member Andrew Cooper

**Conference**

**"Waste legislation review - regions & cities for a circular economy"**

Organised by the CoR, ENVE Commission, in association with ACR+, CEMR, Eurocities and Municipal Waste Europe

Tuesday 31 January 2017, 14.30 – 17.30, European Committee of the Regions  
Room JDE 51, Rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels

On behalf of the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy, I would like to make some concluding remarks to the conference.

With the conference title "Waste legislation review - regions & cities for a circular economy", we wanted to underline that as the EU institutions negotiate the different aspects of the waste proposals, many regions and cities already look beyond waste management.

Many regions and cities see the ongoing waste legislative review as part of a broader approach to promote their local and regional circular economies, and thus as an important means of creating sustainable local growth and jobs.

I believe that the very interesting examples from front-running cities and regions we have learned about, clearly demonstrate this kind of broader thinking, which looks at the opportunities.

I am currently a Committee of the Region's rapporteur on the new Environmental Implementation Review launched by the European Commission.

While we cannot ignore that the current EU waste legislation is still implemented at different levels throughout Europe, the experiences shared by front-running cities and regions tell us that more ambition is possible.

This high level of ambition should be maintained during further negotiations on the waste legislative review, and when setting out future measures under the Circular Economy Action Plan.

In addition, this should be accompanied by mechanisms which allow those regions and cities that are lagging behind to learn from others, and by instruments that give them the means at hand to catch up more rapidly.

I am pleased that with Municipal Waste Europe, ACR+, and the Eurocities and CEMR expert groups on waste - who all presented their views today - we were able to welcome European associations of local and regional authorities which promote knowledge exchange.

The Committee of the Regions is prepared to support this important exchange with its Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment set up jointly with the European Commission.

I would like to thank you for your very interesting presentations and for the productive debates that have taken place.

I would also like to thank the interpreters for their work.

Thank you.