



*European Union of Women
Union Européenne Feminine
Europäische Frauen - Union*



1 General - overall Politics

1.1- EU's 7th Environment Handling Programme

Memo

Title

European Union of Women, EUW
Food, Agriculture and Consumer Commission;
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To

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From

Commission of Environment, Local Government
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As of 19th June, 2013 negotiations between the European Parliament, the Commission and EU's ministers have agreed upon the content of the new Environment Handling Programme. The 7th Environment Handling Programme is expected to come into force by the turn of the year 2013/2014.

Europe is facing great challenges. The European nature, ocean and freshwater areas are exposed to pressure and the resource consumption and amounts of refuse is increasing.

The Programme focuses i.e. on bio-diversity, resource effectiveness, chemicals as well as sustainable consumption and production. Furthermore, focus is put on implementing the existing environmental legislation and development of sustainable cities within Europe.

1.2 Danish Strategy for Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is about finding ways to develop environmental, financial, and social resources that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Danish National Strategy for Sustainable Development was published in Marts 2009 and centres around 3 core principles:

- commit and motivate all actors to take responsibility for a sustainable development
- develop innovative and environmentally friendly solutions
- take long-term global consequences into account

The Strategy for Sustainable Development brings forward goals and specific initiatives for the following 9 areas:

- Globalization as a benefit for all
- Climate change

- Nature for the future
- Green innovation in production and consumption
- Well functioning urban areas
- Better health for all
- Knowledge, research and education in an innovative society
- Man as a resource
- Responsible, long-term and sustainable economic policy

1.3 Green Nordic Retail

The Nordic retailers have taken initiatives regarding sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Below, you can find proposals on how Nordic authorities can facilitate that retailers take the utmost responsibility and contribute directly and indirectly to increased sustainability.

Retailers have the potential to play a critical role in stimulating sustainable production and influencing consumers towards greener consumption and lifestyles. The project is financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers as part of the Danish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2010.

The role of retailers

Occupying a unique position in the lifecycle chain of products as a 'gatekeeper' between producers and consumers, retailers play a big role in furthering the sustainability of consumption and production.

What the retailers can do

Retailers can undertake possible environmentally focused change initiatives by examining their Upstream Activities, In-Shop Activities, and Downstream Activities in the product chain.

Driving forces and barriers for retail sustainability initiatives

Driving forces are various factors that encourage and enable retailers to initiate their sustainable capabilities through all levels of the supply chain. Additionally, a number of barriers exist that make this a difficult prospect in reality.

What the policymakers can do

Constraints of competitive markets often make it difficult for companies to act alone. Government has an important enabling role to play in using policy levers to support the development of more sustainable products.

About the project

The objective of the project is and how Nordic authorities facilitate that retailers take the utmost responsibility and contributes directly and indirectly to increased sustainability.

2 Questionnaire

2.1 Farming & Fisheries

Environment damaging materials do not respect country borders. Thus, the international cooperation and common legislation within the EU and globally play a major role within the international fora.

2.1.1 Liquid Manure Tanks

The Danish Environment Management works on minimizing the effects from the agriculture/farming industry on environment and nature; i.e. ammonia and odour from liquid manure tanks in order to avoid reduction of the bio-diversity and limit the inconveniences for the stock breeders' neighbours.

2.1.2 Technology List

In Denmark a technology list, updated as of 4th August 2013, has been prepared. The list focuses on environmental technology which has a documented effect and is reliable. The technology list can be used by municipalities in handling applications on environment approvals and farmers and consultants applying for environmental approval.

2.1.3 Quicksilver

In January 2013 in Geneva a new global convention on quicksilver was agreed upon. Quicksilver is very dangerous and can be spread over long distances by means of air and water. Quicksilver cannot be decomposed and thus it will be accumulated in animals and human beings.

2.2 Manufacture & Processing

According to EU's Package Directive there is a request for reuse of at least 55% of package refuse. Separate objectives have been set-up for each package material. According to the latest statements, based on figures from 2008, Denmark has fulfilled the stated objectives.

The municipalities have the responsibility to ensure, that important part of the source-separated re-useable package refuse from households and enterprises are collected and re-used by means of collection arrangements.

2.3 Retailing & Catering

2.3.1 Retailing

Reference is made to the above mentioned Green Nordic Retail.

2.3.2 Catering

A new report from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency suggests that a typical Danish family, living in a detached house, throws out around 42 kg of good food every year. The study shows that fruit and vegetables in particular are being thrown out.

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency is re-launching the campaign 'Use more – waste less'. The campaign focuses primarily on food waste and gives five tips on how people can reduce their own food waste:

- Only buy the food you need
- Store the food correctly
- Only prepare the food that will be eaten
- Save leftovers and use them later
- Be aware of use-by labels

In 2012, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency is continuing to investigate the amount of food waste and other waste produced by people living in multi-storey dwellings. The agency also wants to survey food waste from a number of companies in the retail, restaurant and catering sectors.

In the autumn, the focus of the 'Use more – waste less' campaign will switch to exchanging and repairing items such as clothing and furniture.

2.4 Consumer

2.4.1 Pesticides

Pesticides in fruits and vegetables provide an overwhelming threat for consumers, especially children. A recent spot-check (2012) in Copenhagen Airports has

proved, that 22% of fruits and vegetables exceeded the EU-limits for pesticide-remains distinctively; in some spot-checks the limited values were exceeded by 80 times the permitted level, and in several checks 10 various pesticide leftovers were found.

According to EU's restriction list, a large number of pesticides are found in products from the below mentioned countries, such as:

- Afghanistan and Uzbekistan: dried grapes (fruit for wine)
- Azerbaijan: hazel nuts
- Brazil: peanuts, peanut butter, water melon
- China: strawberries, pomelo, broccoli
- Dominican Republic: aubergines, beans, peppers
- Egypt: oranges, strawberries, peppers
- India: peppers, carry
- Indonesia: nutmeg, turmeric
- Kenya: pea shells, beans in shells
- Nigeria: dried beans
- Morocco: mint
- Sierra Leone: water melon
- Thailand: peppers, coriander, basilie, mint, beans, aubergine
- Turkey: sweet peppers and tomatoes
- Vietnam: coriander, mint, parsley, peppers, ocra

2.4.2 Chemicals

The Danish Chemical Action Plan 2010-2013 includes a significant and stronger prioritization of chemicals. The major focus of the Danish Chemical Action Plan is a strong effort in the chemical field in Denmark and an active international effort.

All consumer products like toys, cosmetics, clothes, electronics and furniture contain chemicals. By making surveys and information campaigns the Danish EPA makes an effort to ensure that the products and their use do not harm our health or the environment.

2.5 Waste management

The overall aim of the Danish waste strategy is to recycle at least 65 % of the total waste and to landfill at the most 6 % of the total waste amounts in 2012.

Separation of waste is mandatory in waste handling in Denmark. The idea is to separate directly at the source, i.e. the producer, who shall separate the waste before taking it to the reception plant/dumping ground.

The objective is to increase the re-use and protect the environment for the results of mishandled refuse.

In most places i.e. batteries, paper and glass will be separated by the scavenging from households, and in many places into several more categories for private. For the commercial enterprises the requirements have been further restricted and the authorities request and directly require that cardboard, paper, plastic, brick, gypsum, metal, neon tubes, chemicals and additional waste should be separated into fractions, which will be collected separately and reused or treated in an environment friendly way.

