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Clean Industrial Deal: A Major Initiative to Confirm the Commission's Environmental and Climate Ambitions

This initiative is expected to be published on 26 February by the European Commission. It aims to develop a competitive circular economy to support increasingly sustainable industries in terms of decarbonisation, competitiveness, and economic security. FNADE, representing waste management and recycling industries, proposes that the European Commission includes essential levers in the Clean Industrial Deal to achieve circularity objectives in Europe.

Raw materials derived from recycling are local resources. In a context where the European recycling market, particularly for plastics, is facing a crisis marked by insufficient recycling capacities and decreasing investments, it is essential to take strong actions. Better utilisation of these resources will strengthen the independence and competitiveness of the European industry. Circularity must be implemented by respecting environment and human health, taking full account of the specific nature of hazardous waste.

Set mandatory targets for recycled content :

1. Strengthen existing mandatory targets for recycled content and expand them to new sectors to increase the recycled content of plastics and other materials.
2. Harmonise European standards for the traceability and quality of Recycled Raw Materials (RRMs) to ensure the effective implementation of recycled content targets and a level of performance similar to virgin materials.

Define mirror measures in European legislation and clauses in trade agreements :

3. To ensure that imported RRM s comply with European circularity and waste management standards, mirror measures in European legislation and mirror clauses and monitoring mechanisms for their effective application in all international trade agreements are required.
4. Establish differentiated customs codes for virgin and recycled plastics and apply effective controls as a prerequisite for possible differentiated treatment between these two flows in terms of tariffs or market access.

Harmonise 'end-of-waste' criteria at the EU level :

5. Harmonise end-of-waste (EoW) criteria to promote a single market for RRM s and accelerate the development of EoW criteria for materials currently under scrutiny at the European level, namely: paper, plastics, textiles, and construction and demolition waste.

Establish guiding principles of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) :

6. Establish EPR schemes at the European level only for products where collection and recycling objectives are not complied with.
7. The financial dimension of EPR schemes should be the norm whilst operational involvement should only be temporarily possible in cases of major failure or absence of a market.

Recognise Waste-to-Energy as a taxonomy-eligible activity :

8. Recognise Waste-to-Energy as an activity eligible for green financing through its inclusion in the taxonomy, thus supporting the decarbonisation of Europe's energy supply. Waste-to-energy facilities require investments estimated at 15 billion euros for the French market by 2050.

Provide priority access to low-carbon, sustainable products :

9. Revise European public procurement rules to include circularity criteria, prioritising recyclable products and those made from RRM.

Recognise avoided CO₂ emissions :

10. Recycling or energy recovery prevent CO₂ emissions compared to the extraction of virgin materials or of energy from fossil fuels. These avoided emissions must be recognised and valued.

Antoine BOUSSEAU, President of FNADE, said: "Our sector fully supports the objectives of the Clean Industrial Deal, which will lay the foundations for a competitive circular economy in Europe. It is urgent to create a sustainable and high-performing recycling market that respects climate objectives while stimulating innovation and strengthening economic sovereignty. This European competitiveness is essential to face international markets."

FNADE (French Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services) is a business association that represents the entire French waste industry. The waste industry is a key player in the circular economy, producing recycled raw materials (RRM), fertilisers and green energy to replace natural resources and fossil fuels. FNADE in figures: 270 private company members; 46,544 employees throughout France; €11.2 billion turnover; ~€800million in investments. FNADE is a member of FEAD, the European Waste Management Association.

Press contact: Martine SAVARY +33 6 64 25 66 59 martine@geckotom.com