

Revision of the Waste Framework Directive

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Introduction

Eurogypsum represents the manufacturers of plaster and plasterboard in Europe. The European Plaster and Plasterboard Manufacturing Industry covers the whole life-cycle of the product. The companies which extract the mineral "Gypsum" also process it and manufacture the value-added products and systems that are mainly used in construction.

Gypsum products are eternally and fully recyclable as they always keep their natural properties after every cycle. Therefore, the plaster and plasterboard industry is constantly striving to recycle products at the end of their life-cycle (demolition waste) and play its part in fulfilling the ambition of the circular economy.

Eurogypsum and Recycling

A consortium composed of 16 partners, led by Eurogypsum, was selected by the European Commission (EC) in 2012 to conduct a Life + project **LIFE11 ENV/BE/001039** entitled "**GTOG** (from Gypsum to Gypsum) From production to recycling: a circular economy for the European gypsum Industry with the demolition and recycling Industry". The project ended in December 2015. The deliverable are downloadable at the following website address: <http://gypsumtogypsum.org/news/download-the-gtog-reports-now/>

The aim of the project was to close the loop effectively and transform the plasterboard demolition waste market to achieve higher recycling rates of plasterboard waste.

The main results were that it was technically feasible to reach 30% reincorporation rate in the production of the plasterboard if the industry could rely on a constant volume and quality of the recycled gypsum. For that we need support from the European institutions to deconstruct instead of demolishing as this is the only way to obtain the high quality, well-sorted waste stream meeting the requirements of the industrial processes.

In addition, the landfill route often remains the most profitable and thus most attractive waste treatment route, even for recyclable materials. In this respect the European Institutions should reinforce the legal framework in order to discourage the disposal of recyclable gypsum based waste in landfills.

Diverting the waste stream from landfill route allows recyclers and gypsum industry to invest with confidence. Recycled gypsum shall become a trusted resource once having legally obtained the end-of waste status at European or national level in accordance to article 6 of the Waste Framework Directive.

Eurogypsum proposes an amendment to incentivize C&D waste recycling

The Waste Framework Directive (WFD) could be an important tool for driving the recycling of C&D waste. However, the EU authorities set a target for recovery operations including recycling operations. Therefore the current 70% recovery target (by 2020, including backfilling operations) for non-hazardous waste become an ambiguous tool and deserves a strong reorientation by the European authorities.

Article 11 paragraph 5-Commission proposal	Amendment of Eurogypsum New-paragraph 5
Deleted	By 2020, in order to harmonise re-use and recycling targets stated in the article 11, paragraph 2, point b, and in view of promoting the circular economy for construction and demolition waste, the Commission shall evaluate Members States' implementation reports and the amount of construction and demolition waste used for backfilling operations, including reprocessing of waste into materials that are to be used for backfilling, and propose a separate re-use and recycling target for Construction and Demolition Waste which excludes backfilling operations. For recyclable waste, recycling should be the preferred option over backfilling according to article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive (Waste hierarchy).
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Justification</i></p> <p><i>In article 11, there are no provisions to secure a specific re-use and recycling target for construction and demolition waste.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore it is proposed to include a revision clause aiming at setting such a specific target in the future for the following reasons:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Among all targets listed under Article 11 entitled "Re-use and recycling", the 70% target for construction and demolition waste (paragraph 2, point [b]) is the only one to include backfilling, while backfilling is neither re-use, nor recycling;</i> • <i>Latest figures¹ published by the European Commission clearly show that backfilling is unfortunately the dominant recovery operation for most construction and demolition waste;</i> • <i>Backfilling does not belong to the circular economy since it is a permanent placement of the material on particular sites and is not intended to be returned to the economic material cycle (see Eurostat guidance on the interpretation of the term backfilling);</i> <p><i>It creates a confusion on the market between construction materials that are truly recycled like gypsum, and the ones who present themselves as "recyclable" for recycling while being mostly backfilled in practice.</i></p>	

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/studies/pdf/CDW%20Statistics%202011.pdf>

Eurogypsum proposes an amendment to the collection of C&D waste

Article 11, paragraph 1	Eurogypsum amendment
<p>Member States shall take measures to promote sorting systems for construction and demolition waste and for at least the following: wood, aggregates, metal, glass and plaster</p>	<p>'Member States shall take measures to promote sorting systems for construction and demolition waste and for at least the following: wood, aggregates, metal, glass and gypsum</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Justification</i></p> <p><i>We prefer to use the word gypsum instead of plaster. Indeed, The word gypsum covers all gypsum based products, i.e. building plaster, plasterboard, plaster blocks, ceiling tiles, gypsum based self-levelling screed, decorative plaster, fibreboards etc. Gypsum is the generic term used to refer to the mineral Gypsum whose composition is Calcium Sulphate Dihydrate (CaSO₄.2H₂O). When Gypsum (CaSO₄.2H₂O) is ground to a powder and heated at 150° to 165° C, three-quarters of its combined water is removed producing Hemi-hydrate plaster (CaSO₄.1/2H₂O), commonly known as the 'Plaster of Paris'. When this powder is mixed with water the resulting paste sets hard as the water recombines to produce Gypsum again. This process can be repeated almost indefinitely, with important implications for closed-loop recycling.</i></p>	