

Submission from the EU and its Member States

Decision BC-12/2, Road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration

According to paragraph 2 of the above Decision BC-12/2, Parties are invited to undertake activities to implement the road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration and to provide information on such activities to the Secretariat.

With reference to the above Decision, the EU and its Member States are pleased to submit the following information.

Waste prevention (i.e. reducing the amount of waste generated at source, reducing the adverse impacts of the generated waste and reducing the content of harmful substances in waste) is of the highest priority within the EU as reflected by its legislation and policy. The EU Waste Framework Directive¹ lays down waste prevention as the first option in the waste hierarchy.

According to the Waste Framework Directive, Member States had to develop waste prevention programmes by the end of 2013. The European Commission prepared a guidance document to assist Member States when drafting these programmes:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/prevention/pdf/Waste%20prevention%20guidelines.pdf>. An overview of the programmes is available on <http://scp.eionet.europa.eu/facts/WPP>. The European Environment Agency (EEA) reviews the progress of the completion and implementation of the programmes annually. The first report is available at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe-2014>. The second report is to be published by the end of 2015. The review that will follow will have theme-specific focus on prevention of hazardous waste.

Other relevant legislation at EU level for qualitative prevention include the REACH Regulation dealing with assessing and managing the risks posed by chemicals, as well as specific directives dealing with different waste streams, such as batteries, electrical and electronic equipment, packaging and end-of-life vehicles, see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/index.htm>. The Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive (RoHS) restricts the use of some hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment. There is also some additional legislation at the level of some Member States.

In addition to national strategies, a number of programmes and actions are carried out at regional and local levels, e.g. the European Week for Waste Reduction, which takes place annually to increase awareness and provide examples of successful initiatives: <http://www.ewwr.eu>.

Information on the EU's waste prevention activities is available on the European Commission's web-site, <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/prevention/index.htm>.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008L0098>