

Newsletter from the President



International Solid Waste Association



NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT NO. 16 - MAY 2008

It has been a very busy Spring with ISWA. Two Board meetings, meetings with the City of Vienna, and the holding of an Extraordinary General Assembly. I am pleased to report that the Extraordinary General Assembly was conducted in good order. The General Secretariat produced and distributed a detailed package containing the motion to relocate the General Secretariat from Copenhagen to Vienna. We received a few detailed questions regarding the package and voting was completed on 30 April. With a nearly unanimous count (55-3), the National Members representatives voted to approve the move to Vienna and the resultant budget adjustments. Later we will report on signing ceremonies, saying our goodbyes to Copenhagen and our hellos to Vienna, but for now, let me thank the National Members for your participation in the electronic voting process.

The ISWA Board and the STC met in Lisbon (11-12 April) with excellent technical tours to a food waste composting plant and the waste-to-energy facility. The meetings and tours were hosted by Valorsul, SA, an ISWA Main Sponsor, and APESB, our Portuguese National Member. In addition, members of the new ad hoc ISWA task force on green house gases also met and continued their planning efforts.

Speaking of ISWA Main Sponsors, allow me to list our six companies for 2008 below. We are welcoming a new sponsor, QED, based in the USA, and very much appreciate the financial and technical support we receive from these organizations:

- Biffa
- MWH
- QED Environmental Systems
- Valorsul
- Veolia
- VonRoll Inova

Numerous conferences and events are filling my diary with networking and presentations on behalf of our Association. Even in this world of the internet, it seems face-to-face meetings continue to be a strong point with participants and businesses in the environmental sector. Events in the near term include:

April 21-23,

IMEX08 and its Association Day, Frankfurt. IMEX is a significant exhibition looking at attracting Congresses and trade shows to various destinations. I had the opportunity to meet with several destinations and congress centres interested in hosting ISWA events, especially our Annual Congress. As part of IMEX, some 200 global associations came together to discuss mutual challenges and programs. It is interesting how most all associations, even those outside the environmental sector, are similar to our. A major theme continues to be how to grow the organizations and memberships.

5-7 May, IFAT, Munich.

Borge Hansen of the General Secretariat joined me in the ISWA booth, in cooperation with our German National Member "VKS im VKU". This continues to be a large event.



ISWA Main sponsors



14-16 May,

4th International PRO EUROPE Congress, Prague. PRO EUROPE is the umbrella organisation for packaging and packaging waste recovery schemes that use the “Green Dot” trademark as a financing symbol.

22-25 May

I will join the Nordic Waste Associations Annual meeting, which this year takes place on Gotland, one of the big Swedish islands in the Baltic Sea.

2-4 June

I have the pleasure of participating in Waste Sweden’s Annual meeting in Falun.

9-11 June

I will join several members of ISWA at the CIWM Conference and Exhibition held in Paignton, Devon, maybe better known as Torbay.



Joint Working Group Meeting in Vienna

The two working groups – Recycling and Waste Minimisation and Collection and Transport Technology – organised a two-day event in Vienna on April 24-25. Hosted by ARA, Argev and MA48, the two groups had individual meetings, a joint meeting and technical visits. The RWM group visited the newly opened bottle-to-bottle recycling facility for PET-bottles in Müllendorf outside of Vienna. The RWM group also visited a sorting plant and an anaerobic digestion plant (Pfaffenau). The CTT group visited a nearby transfer station. I can encourage those of you who are members of Working Groups to take part - the quality of the meetings and tours is good.



Upcoming Beacon Conferences

As I have reported previously, two ISWA Beacon conferences are just about here. Both have strong agendas and programs. ISWA-Italia has organized a biological treatment event for 21-23 May in Perugia, while ARS-Argentina is holding its landfilling and solid waste management event 16-18 June in Buenos Aires. Many of your ISWA colleagues will be in attendance.

Meeting with Romanian National Member

During the RomEnvirotec exhibition in Bucharest, ISWA together with the National Member of Romania (RASWM), ISWA Italia and with the support of SEP, organized a one-day workshop on Compliance with EU regulations. ISWA experts together with local speakers from the Ministry of Environment and Romanian Environmental Protection Agency exchanged experience and views on EU regulation and its implementation at national level.

Waste shipments

ISWA was invited to participate at an IMPEL-TFS conference on waste shipments and the implementation of the EU Waste shipment regulation. IMPEL is a European network for Environmental Authorities. Suzanne Arup Veltzé, our past Managing Director, presented on behalf of ISWA a Danish model for cross-sector cooperation. [Click here to view the presentation.](#)



Landfill Training Course

Derek Greedy, Chair of the Landfill Working Group, reports that they have organized a 1-day training course for 1 November 2008, the Saturday before the ISWA Annual Congress in Singapore. This will be mostly technical material, generally directed in content for landfill managers and operators. Spaces will be limited, so register early. A programme will soon be uploaded on the ISWA website www.iswa.org

Niels Jørn Hahn
President of ISWA

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