

## **EPAGMA UPDATE**

**November 2005**

### **Waste from extractive industries – derogation for peat confirmed in vote of European Parliament**

In September, the European Parliament took its final position in second reading on the proposed Directive on the management of waste from extractive industries supporting the derogation for peat along the lines of the agreement reached in April by Member State governments. Although the European Parliament voted to accept a derogation for peat, it made some other amendments to the text. Therefore a conciliation phase between the EU institutions will now start in view of a final agreement on the whole Directive to be reached by 6 Dec 2005.

### **EU Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection – consultation results**

The Internet consultation on the EU's Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection launched by the European Commission and in which EPAGMA participated was closed on 26 September.

33,8% respondents indicated that the use of organic soil improvers/exogenous organic matter is an appropriate measure to tackle erosion, while as many as 55,3% said that this would be an appropriate measure for preventing organic matter decline and soil biodiversity loss.

Although the consultation showed that the Commission's proposal for a soil framework directive is supported by a majority (80%) of the respondents as the best way to tackle soil protection, some sectors which would be affected have expressed strong opposition towards it, for instance farmers. The information gathered through consultation will feed into the actual thematic strategy which is scheduled for adoption in November 2005

### **Commission Work Programme for 2006**

On 25 October, the European Commission adopted its work programme for 2006, setting out its key priorities for the next year. The 2006 Work Programme focuses on the key strategic objectives which the Commission has set out at the start of its mandate: prosperity, solidarity, security and Europe as a world partner. The work programme includes following items that may be interesting for EPAGMA:

- Communication – Halting the decline of biodiversity by 2010
- Green Paper on adaptation to climate change
- Green Paper on a secure, competitive and sustainable energy policy for Europe

For the full work programme for 2006, please see:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/atwork/programmes/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm)

## **Thematic Strategy on Prevention and Recycling Waste**

The European Commission's Environment Directorate General has circulated at the end of October for internal consultation a plan to overhaul EU's waste management policies.

As regards biowaste, the document indicates that the Commission will develop guidelines on applying life cycle thinking to biowaste management and will communicate them to Member States inviting to revisit their national strategies. The Commission is not proposing a separate Biowaste Directive as had been planned previously.

Compost quality criteria will be adopted under the proposed end-of-waste provision of the Waste Framework Directive and the Commission will propose that biological treatment of waste be brought under the scope of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive when it is revised in 2006.

### **EPAGMA meetings**

- The EPAGMA Executive Board last met in Brussels on 15 September 2005. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 22 November 2005.
- The next meeting of all the EPAGMA members will take place on 22 March 2006 in Brussels.