

2nd ELFM Seminar in the European Parliament (November 20, 2018)

Towards a dynamic landfill management and mining strategy for Europe's 500,000+ landfills

(European Parliament, Brussels, 15-17.45h + Reception (18-20h))



Programme (15 – 18h)

Format: An interactive debate is foreseen in which the (max.) 40+20 participants are actively involved. Apart from some short keynote introductions, a number of key stakeholders in the field have been invited to share their views and to come to a better understanding of the dangers and opportunities posed by Europe's 500,000+ landfills.

Speakers

- Keynote intro by MEP **H. Vautmans** (ALDE)
- Retrospective by **P.T. Jones** (EURELCO Coordinator & EU Horizon 2020 MSCA-ETN NEW-MINE) (ppt)
- Intros by **U. Stock** (LfU Brandenburg, Germany), **E. Wille** (OVAM, Belgium) & **C. Neculau** (SpaQue, Belgium) on lessons learned on landfill management and mining policies/technologies in Europe (resp. COCOON & RAWFILL)
- Intro by **Y. Tielemans** (Group Machiels) on barriers & opportunities for private actors willing to undertake ELFM projects (cf. Closing the Circle case) (ppt)
- **Debate I: Short-term opportunities for landfill management (e.g. interim use) and mining, featuring:**
 - COCOON/RAWFILL partners & stakeholders: **G. Coca** (junta de Andalucia, Spain), **Alexis De Mey** (Ministry of the Environment, Wallonia Region, Belgium), **C. Wolf** (TH Köln, Germany), **U. Stock** (Landesamt für Umwelt des landes Brandenburg, Germany), **J.F. Mars** & **F. van de Sande** (Rijkswaterstaat, Netherlands), **H. Scharff** (Afvalzorg, Netherlands).
- Intro by MEP **M. Demesmaeker** (ECR, Shadow Rapporteur Landfill Directive - [URL](#)) on ELFM & Landfill Directive
- **Debate II: EU legislation/policies (LFD, Soil Directive, CE, climate targets) and landfill management and mining benefits, with interventions from:**
 - EC: **M. Nyberg** (GROW), **S. Nelen** (ENV) (invited), **J. van Veen** (RTD) (invited), **S. Happaerts** (REGIO);
 - EP: **M. Demesmaeker** (Belgium, ECR), **F. Federley** (Sweden, ALDE) (invited), **B. Staes** (Belgium, Greens/EFA), **H. Vautmans** (Belgium, ALDE);
 - Academics: **J. Krook** (EU NEW-MINE, Linköping Univ., Sweden), **S. Wagland** (EU SMARTGROUND, Cranfield Univ., UK).
- **Moderator: V. Dries** (Adviser Flemish Government, Cabinet Liesbeth Homans, Expert on ELFM)

[bold/underscore: confirmed speakers]

Venue

European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels [Room ASP 5G1 (5th floor Altiero Spinelli building) + reception MEP Salon (Floor 0) (18-20h). Participants assemble at 14.15-14.30h in front of the EP (Altiero Spinelli entrance), where they will be picked up and guided through the security area.

Registration

Speakers and interested participants need to complete the on-line registration form by November 6, 2018 through this [URL link](#). Registration is free of charge. However, please note that the venue has a limited capacity of 60 seats (40 + 20 participants). Therefore, in the exceptional case that there would be more than 60 registrations, we are forced – for security reasons – to give priority to the keynote speakers and those registrants who received a formal invitation by MEP Hilde Vautmans on October 16, 2018. In the case your registration would be cancelled, we sincerely apologise.

Organisation

MEP Vautmans & ALDE Group with support from EURELCO, Cleantech Flanders, SIM² KU Leuven, NEW-MINE, COCOON and RAWFILL.

Rationale

On October 20, 2015, two Flemish MEPs (Vautmans & Demesmaeker) organised the first ever Seminar on Enhanced Landfill Mining (ELFM) in the European Parliament. The event was organised together with EURELCO, i.e. European Enhanced Landfill Mining Consortium. The Seminar featured speakers of four EC DGs (ENV, ENERGY, GROW and RTD) along with leading actors representing industry, academia and public bodies. The seminar was attended by almost 100 people who actively debated the landfill (mining) situation in Europe. It was agreed that the EU-28 urgently requires thorough inventories of its landfills and needs to develop a clear vision on the management and mining of its landfills. You can download the event report here: [URL](#).



Figure: 1st ELFM Seminar in the EP, 20-10-2015

EU landfill management/mining projects

Following the EP Seminar, three EU-funded projects were initiated:

1. The EU Horizon 2020 [MSCA-ETN NEW-MINE](#) project trains 15 early-stage researchers (ESRs) in terms of technological innovation along the entire ELFM value chain (advanced exploration, waste separation, thermal valorisation & upcycling) and multi-criteria assessments.
2. [COCOON](#) (Interreg Europe) deals with the policy of Landfill Management (LfM). The COCOON partners target 6 policy instruments incl. the Soil Remediation Decree in Flanders (Belgium), the Environmental Protection Act (Netherlands) and funding of LfM projects through OPs in Andalucía (Spain), Brandenburg (Germany), Cyprus and Malta.
3. [RAWFILL](#) (Interreg North West Europe), with partners in France, Belgium, UK, Germany) provides knowledge and tools to screen landfills and demonstrates under real conditions an evidence-based, standardised methodology to select profitable landfill mining projects, recovering dormant raw materials, energy carriers & land resources.

ELFM integration into the Landfill Directive?

As an extra consequence of the EP Seminar, the EP adopted its Waste Package on March 14, 2017, which included "Article 5": *"The Commission shall further examine the feasibility of proposing a regulatory framework for enhanced landfill mining so as to permit the retrieval of secondary raw materials that are present in existing landfills. By 31 December 2025 Member States shall map existing landfills and indicate their potential for enhanced landfill mining and share information."*

Unfortunately, this ELFM Amendment to the Landfill Directive was later blocked by the Council during the trilateral meeting.

European Commission and ELFM

On June 29, 2018, MEP Vautmans asked a Parliamentary Question to the Commission ([E-003580/2018](#)) to clarify its position with respect to ELFM. The European Commission replied "... the [Landfill] directive does not specifically regulate landfill mining and the Commission does not currently envisage proposing to amend the directive in this regard. Landfill mining is, however, not prohibited, if carried out in line with EU legislation on waste (...)" (full answer: [URL](#)). This is the first time the EC endorses the use of ELFM, as long as a number of criteria are respected.

From eternal landfill monitoring to dynamic landfill management and mining

The paradigm shift from a classic concept of eternal (landfill) monitoring of the status quo towards a dynamic, long-term landfill management and mining strategy becomes more and more relevant. Climate adaptation is gaining policy attention and there is no indication that landfills would escape as climate change will impact landfills (e.g. flooding of landfills in coastal and alluvial areas). Introducing an active approach in view of creating sustainable assets, allows to develop novel approaches such as the interim use and integrated revitalisation of landfills and their surfaces, which can generate revenues for subsequent remediation and/or mining activities in the longer term.



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Why should we be interested in (old) landfills? Europe has more than 500,000 landfills, most of which predate the Landfill Directive. In most cases there is no comprehensive view on the future impact of these landfills: in the context of climate change "eternity" seems to last for only decades. The key challenge is to turn the environmental threats into resource and land recovery opportunities. In order to discuss the regulatory framework for landfill management and mining in the context of the [Circular Economy](#) challenges and to develop a potential roadmap, a 2nd ELFM Seminar is scheduled in the EP on **November 20, 2018** (15-18h).

Contact

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