Welcome to the 2nd ELFM Seminar in the European Parliament

November 20, 2018
Group Machiels’ Remo landfill

Location
Houthalen-Helchteren, east of Belgium

Activities of Remo as of today
State-of-the-art landfill for industrial waste from recycling processes (± 300 kton/annum)

Transition towards Closing the Circle
Landfill represents a reserve of materials and energy. The reclaimed land can be redeveloped to create an integrated nature park after mining of the landfill.
The Closing the Circle (CtC) masterplan

Key Figures
- Total area: 230 ha
- 151 ha landfill
- 18+ Mtons waste stored
Upcycling technologies as a leverage to create a sustainable economical model
Status realization CtC project

- **Science & Technology (R&D):**
  - R&D subsidy programmes are readily available: EFRO, VLAIO R&D and MIP ICON projects have generated required technical solutions, as a results first installations are permitted and ready-to-be-built

- **Awareness & buy-in:**
  - Quadruple helix model deployed since 2009: growing awareness and buy-in on all levels (local <-> super local, Belgium <-> Europe), but unfortunately appeals from isolated individuals pose a real threat

- **Planning & permitting:**
  - Long, complex and expensive set of procedures have led to all required permits, which will most likely be destroyed by higher court due to appeals from these isolated individuals

- **Legal appeals:**
  - Higher court assesses permits and all included decisions from a content point of view, going much further than securing that no procedural errors are made
  - Hard protection of nature is at this moment only parameter being considered in this assessment
  - Temporary local removal of nature in order to create a higher total nature value is not allowed
  - Upsides like creation of nature park, recovery of resources & energy and employment are not being considered

- **Financing:**
  - Lack of ELFM legislation jeopardizes financial close of project as framework for ELFM is not available

- **Legislation:**
  - EC poses that ELFM can be performed as long as relevant EU (landfill) directives articles are being adhered to
  - Much better would be to have an unambiguous definition and framework included in EU directives
Opportunities towards a sustainable implementation

- Best possible short term interim use will be explored as soon as final judgments are known
- Continuity of Remo landfill operation is imperative to be able to continue the development of CtC