



APSE Environment Seminar – 9th November 2016

Brexit – The impact on the Waste and Recycling Sector

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Overview

- An uncertain future?
- Circular Economy and Government priority
- Retaining and developing new markets

Current waste regulation

Landfill Directive 1999

- Sets demanding targets for the UK
- UK has met interim targets in 2010 / 2015

Waste Framework Directive

- Key definitions of waste
- Hierarchy for waste recovery and disposal

An uncertain future?

- Brexit means Brexit?
- Position if the UK remains in the EEA
 - loss of influence?
- Position if the UK exits the EU / EEA
 - UK has the power to amend and repeal EU Law
- EU Law has been a key driver behind UK's rapid progress on sustainable resource and waste management

Circular Economy and Government Priority

Circular Economy (CE)

- Concept gained momentum in 2015
- Focus on reuse and circulation
- Government must lend its support towards CE
- Estimated 1 trillion (Euro) economic benefits by 2020

Government Priority

- Waste management economic/environmental benefits
- Indication that Government is not concerned with waste and recycling sector

Retaining and Developing New Markets

- Circular Economy is one which depends on the development of new infrastructure
- Crucial time for progress
- Minimum requirements
- Brexit could undermine economically efficient decision-making

Conclusions

- Unavoidable uncertainty and disruption in short-term
- Long-term impacts could be significant
- Positive aspects?

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