

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
FORUM OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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Opinion on the management of biowaste in the EEA

The EEA EFTA Forum of Local and Regional Authorities:

- A. Having regard to the on-going discussion in the European Union on whether there is a need for separate legislation on the management of biowaste in Europe,
- B. Noting the differentiating views between the European Commission and the European Parliament and between Member States on the subject matter,
- C. Sharing the view that the overall goal is to prevent and reduce the production of biowaste,
- D. Taking into account the existing legislation on waste management in the EEA and the experiences with the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive locally in the EEA EFTA states,
- E. Recognising the key role of local authorities in waste management and the need for certainty and clarity on waste regulation in particular to help inform local decisions on investment and policy choices,
- F. Noting the response by Council of European Municipalities and Regions to the green paper on the management of biowaste and the opinion of the European Union Committee of the Regions,
 1. underlines that management of biowaste has a strong local dimension and that it is not possible to identify one European best option for biowaste treatment;
 2. believes the approach to biowaste should primarily be integrated within waste and resource management policy;
 3. emphasises that local authorities, as the competent authorities and in line with the principle of subsidiarity, should be free to choose the most appropriate methods for environmentally friendly and efficient biowaste management adopted to local needs, and therefore;
 4. believes there is no need for separate legislation on European level on the management of biowaste;
 5. asks the EFTA Ministers to take into account the opinion of the Forum in the future discussion on the management of biowaste.