

The ENEP Bulletin

News from the European Network of Environmental Professionals



A Bright Start for 2011

Dear ENEP Colleagues,

At the start of the year 2011 your European Network bustles with activity. And fortunately this is not just in Brussels: the new Workings Groups that are being instituted start to deliver their work plans. As you will have noticed, the ENEP Newsflash is up and running again, and with good substance – earlier this month, issue no. 3 was distributed with a five-page comprehensive overview of the latest EU regulatory and policy-making news, organized by theme. We expect this service to be useful to many professionals who want to stay informed of what happens in Brussels.

Of course, ENEP also wants to make its own imprint on these policies; a meeting is currently in preparation with the Member of the European Parliament Catherine Bearder. This year, we will further intensify our contacts with the EC and the EP; one of our prime goals is to influence EU policy-making so as to help create better policies. Whether your members run into problems with waste electronics disposal or find energy efficiency policies ineffective, whether your members have suggestions regarding 'green public procurement' or criticize the EC's climate change policies - ideas are welcome for topics to be brought to the table. Our Workings Groups are there to organize, test and

improve those ideas, so do stimulate your members to join or create one!

You will shortly receive a – simple and small – membership survey to determine preferences among the over 40,000 members regarding ENEP's activities. Please be ready to pass it on to all your members when it comes.

And have you marked your calendars for 7 and 8 April next? That is when we will have our next General Assembly. It will be hosted by our German member VNU this time, and take place in Frankfurt. Not many cities in Europe are reached more easily, so please make sure your Association will be represented – we need all members to make the 'Net Work'!

Last but not least, three new potential members are currently in contact with us. A second Belgian member would be welcome; currently the Belgian organization of energy experts 'OVED' enjoys a 6 month "trial" getting ENEP Platform messages. Furthermore, a first potential member from the Balkan region could be the Croatian Sanitary Association (CSA), and finally contacts have been established with a potential second French member, AFIE, an association focused on ecology. Possibly, we will meet one or more of these in Frankfurt. We will see you there!

Jan Karel Mak, President



Green Week 2011

The 11th edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European environment policy, will take place from 24 to 27 May 2011 in Brussels. This year's theme is "Resource Efficiency - Using less, living better".

ENEP intends to be present at the event again this year so if you would

like to be involved please contact the Coordinator (coordinator@efaep.org) or Project Officer (simon.pascoe@efaep.org).

For more information on Green Week see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>.



The Growth Fetish and the Death of Environmentalism

Jonathan Porritt used the platform provided by the Burntwood Lecture 2010 to launch a scathing criticism of the growth fetish of society and slammed government, NGOs and professional bodies for their response to the looming environmental crisis.

He attacked NGO's historic piecemeal approach to small scale environmental problems whilst ignoring the rampant destruction of the biosphere by the capitalist economic system, saying "for every short term win there is a pattern of wider attrition of the environment." He accused NGOs of existing in a "holding reality", revelling in small victories but failing to issue a long overdue planetary warning.

He criticised the Western World's obsession with GDP and their citizens' attachment to the "hedonic treadmill", and highlighting that climate change is

far from the "most serious of the human economy's economic transgression". In addition, he also blamed denialism, seduction and inertia, incumbency, corruption, and the illusion of limitlessness for a series of planetary environmental crises that threaten human society in the 21st century.

He challenged NGOs to stop concentrating on 'meantime work' and begin instead to address societal questions about the political structure, the economic system and population growth that lie behind environmental destruction. He called on Government to create a new body called the Optimum Growth Commission limiting national economic growth to 0.5% per annum.

Watch the video at <http://www.ies-uk.org.uk/resources/eventresources/burntwood2010/burntwood2010.php>



Ategrus organizes 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and Waste Management

5 April 2011, Bilbao, Spain

The climate change phenomenon, its causes and consequences, are now recognized by the international scientific and social community.

In addition, the waste sector offers a portfolio of proven, practical and cost effective technologies which can contribute to GHG mitigation. When adapted and deployed according to local traditions and needs, they can help secure significant global GHG emission savings.

Solutions might include waste prevention, recycling and reuse, biological treatment with land use

of products, energy recovery, and engineered landfilling. Waste industry expertise lies in applying decades of experience and advanced technology to establish integrated systems around local needs.

As the oldest Spanish association promoting sustainable development in the waste management sector, ATEGRUS is well placed to acknowledge our own responsibility and act accordingly.

Therefore, we organize the 2nd International Conference on Climate Change & Waste Management which will take place on 5 April 2011 in

Bilbao, in collaboration with ENEP, setting forth the technologies and mechanisms which can transform the waste sector into a net global reducer of GHG emissions, and making the necessary commitments to assist this change.

ATEGRUS commitments see us working in close cooperation with other international institutes and organizations, like the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) and the European Network of Environmental Professionals (ENEP), among others, to promote far-reaching and fundamental reduction targets, which recognize the untapped potential for waste related GHG emissions reductions.

Through this conference our aim is to provide information and expertise on the current developments and

facilitate global improvements regarding climate change and waste management strategies, and to bring experts together to exchange knowledge and experience and to enable them to establish new contacts in their network.

The Conference is meant for a wide circle of climate change and waste industry professionals, management and municipal and governmental agencies; scientific, design, educational and public institutions, technology and equipment vendors.

Call for papers: Abstracts should be forwarded to juridico@ategrus.org

Programme and registration form available at http://www.ategrus.org/pdf/11_CCLIMATICO_programa.pdf

More information contact juridico@ategrus.org



Labelab Ravenna 2010: Disposal of Adriatic Offshore Platforms

On 30 September, at the Labelab Ravenna event in 2010 (endorsed by ENEP) a workshop was held on "DISPOSAL OF THE ADRIATIC OFFSHORE PLATFORMS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE AND THE COASTAL TOURISM".

Organized by Dr Luca Vignoli, PADI Instructor, he proposed the idea of using the Adriatic offshore platforms ENI by decommissioning them onto the seabed (sinking) in order to create a series of hot spots of marine biodiversity and coastal tourism sites accessible to divers.

At the workshop were the following speakers:

- Ing Renzo Piantoni, ENI Department of Exploration & Production

- Dr Attilio Rinaldi, ex Director of ICRAM (Italian National Research Center for Marine Environment)
- Dr Giovanni Fucci, President of Paguro Association
- Dr Roberto Raffaelli, for PADI

Like giant metal icebergs emerging from the water, the so-called "islands of iron", offshore platforms are used for the extraction of hydrocarbons at sea. These were an invaluable source of wealth during their period of activity, but since the ferrous cluster deposits have been exhausted, what is their fate now?

Along the Italian Adriatic Sea coast actually there are about 80 active methanifer offshore platforms, including 50 in front of Ravenna and Rimini.

There are different possible solutions

and considerations for disposing of these imposing technological structures, for example:

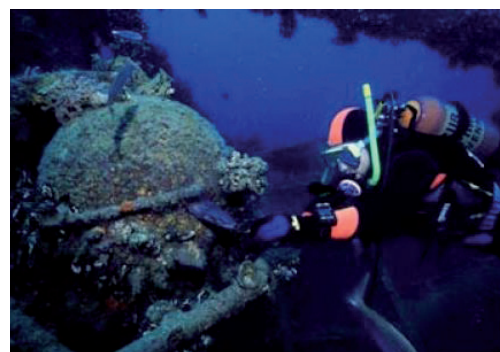
- possible risks to humans or to the environment
- land transportation and dismantlement
- conversion into luxury off-shore marine hotels
- wind-parks
- underwater oasis for marine biology and coastal tourism recovery

But for Dr Vignoli the solution is more cost-effective, but also environmentally better, it is simply: sink them.

The idea, explained in detail in ENI - freely downloadable from the site www.lucavignoli.it - starts with the following consideration: properly reclaimed, sunken platforms do not pollute, but instead become "hot spots of biological diversity"; true oases of biological marine repopulating, auto-protected from fishing nets and an underwater paradise for diving tourists.

By law, ENI, once the mining ended, is required to reclaim the mining sites and to dispose of disused platforms. At the moment this means only one thing: returning the platform to solid ground to be dismantled. A complex and very costly operation.

However, there are a lot of different proposed alternatives of various kinds: from installation of wind turbines or even to build luxury hotels... but sinking them would instead make available a permanent solid substrate that will permit to take root colonization, and the biological marine life would evolve quickly into a real marine biological oasis. This has already been tried successfully in the United States, Australia and many other tourism oriented nations. And in Italy it is not even a novelty...



But now, returning to the Adriatic, it is good to know that in reality, despite its few colours, the Adriatic basin is extremely biologically fertile, much more so than the Tyrrhenian Sea. And this is thanks to both the nutrients carried by the Po river and to its geomorphological conformation.

The "problem", from the point of view of biodiversity, is the sandy bottom. This does not allow organisms to take root and fix themselves, and then to create stable biological communities that were geographically fixed, and that evolve over time. Any solid surface, however, becomes a biological "hot spot" in which biodiversity can flourish and, at an exponential rate, proliferate.

It is at this point that would come into play the disused platforms, reclaimed and then sunk. Various materials, at different depths and variable degrees of light exposure: an ideal habitat for flora and fauna, and species of all kinds... from microalgae, to anemones, crabs... up to the raven, lobster, sea bream, etc.... a perfect place for sea creatures to hide, hunt, feed, spawn...

And as we have just said, in Italy it would not even be new. In other Italian coastal towns, following the sinking of ships local people were often mobilized in order to prevent their recovery to the ground by the authorities. A few years after the sinking, catches increase and divers and tourists as well.

Just think of the wreck of the Haven, in front of Arenzano (La Spezia, Italy).

The petroleum tanker burned and sank in front of the coast, initially bringing with it a lot of petroleum pollution. But after a few years, the wreck has come back to life through colonisation by sea creatures of all kinds. The site now attracts experienced diver tourists from all over Europe. A single dive can cost up to €100. And yet restaurants and hotels do not cry for this.

The best known example in the Adriatic Sea has always been under our eyes: the "Paguro" ("Hermit crab"), an Agip/ENI methanifer platform that in the 1965, following an explosion, sank into the sea in front of Ravenna, 12 miles from the coast. Thirty-five years later, the wreck, as the Haven, has become a favorite destination for scuba divers and has been officially designated as a "Site of Community Interest" in the EU Natura 2000 network and classified as a official nature reserve area of the Italian State (www.associazionepaguro.org). In 10 years we have reached 40 thousand dives. And to think that the wreck is an hour's sailing from the port of Ravenna and reaches the maximum depth of 32 meters, with each dive costing from €35-50 per person and it is easy to imagine the economic boom in tourism that we would create with an underwater parks network that connects all the platforms decommissioned and sunk in the Adriatic.

An "Adriatic Reef", an artificial underwater ecological network of the Adriatic, accessible to diving activities, to nature and sports tourism would be a unique park in its own right, offering the Adriatic Coast an extremely fascinating and attractive activity to add to others like the disco-nightlife and beach umbrellas.

Once sunken and stabilized, diving could begin immediately, and 10 years after the sinking, we will be able to



enjoy an environment extremely similar to that of the "Hermit crab" platform wreck.

The proposal was been very enthusiastically received by ENI (the owner of the Adriatic methanifer platforms), and by the authorities of the Emilia Romagna region and by Environment and Productivity Ministry Offices, but, unfortunately there are two big problems to resolve in Italy: 1) Italian laws do not actually permit anyone to sink (or leave) anything on the seabed; and 2) it will be a minimum of another seven years before the first offshore platform is due to be decommissioned.

Currently in the Adriatic Sea there are about 80 active offshore methane extraction platforms. If at the time of their disposal, they are transported to the shore and then dismantled, in 20 years time instead of platforms there will be 80 residual underwater holes in the sand; if instead this proposal is followed, in 20 years we will be able to enjoy 80 marine biological recovery oases so close together that they will create a real and valuable marine ecological network.

Luca Vignoli



Working for the public benefit for a clean, green and sustainable world, CIWEM (The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management) is the only independent, chartered professional body and registered charity with an integrated approach to environmental, social and cultural issues.

CIWEM believes that better environmental education is the key to a sustainable future and a vital charitable aim of the institution. To this end the institution organises a number of events each year where CIWEM acts as an 'honest broker' to bring diverse sectors together to make progress on key environment sector issues. Examples include Integrated Urban Drainage Management, Sustainable Regulation, Water Framework Directive, land use and water, wetlands, sustainability and environmental management.

The technical panels are: Natural Capital (formerly Conservation and Recreation); Water Resources; Water Supply and Quality; Air; Wastewater Management; Waste Management; and, Sustainability and Environmental Management.

Networks: Faiths and Environment;
Climate Change; Contaminated Land;
and, Arts and Environment.

The institution runs a series of awards such as the Environmental Parliamentarian of the Year award and competitions, for example, Tomorrow's Water, which has an international focus, the winner going to Stockholm during World Water Week to represent the UK in an international competition – see www.tomorrowswater.co.uk

The institution also runs the Environmental Photographer of the Year event. This year beat all records with over 4,500 entries from 98 countries and if you look at the following link (<http://www.ciwem.org/competition-and-awards/environmental-photographer.aspx>) you will find more details plus links to the newspapers and publications that featured the winning pictures. For the first time in the event's history, a book was also produced.

www.ciwem.org

Upcoming Events

Page 6

7 - 8 April 2011	ENEP Spring General Assembly	Frankfurt, Germany	www.efaep.org
13 - 15 April 2011	Water Sofia 2011	Sofia, Bulgaria	www.iec.bg
24 - 27 May 2011	Green Week 2011	Brussels, Belgium	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/
24 - 26 May 2011	Sustainabilitylive! 2011	Birmingham, UK	www.sustainabilitylive.com
29 - 30 September 2011	ENEP Autumn General Assembly	Brussels, Belgium	www.efaep.org
4 - 6 October 2011	European Future Energy Forum 2011	Geneva, Switzerland	www.europeanfutureenergyforum.com
24 - 27 October 2011	Joint Contaminated Land Conferences (SARCLE-2011; CSM-2011; and ECOR-7)	Ghent, Belgium	www.redoxtech.com
2 - 3 November 2011	IEEM Autumn Conference – Rebuilding Biodiversity	Liverpool, UK	www.ieem.net



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About ENEP

ENEP is the European Network of Environmental Professionals, which seeks to promote and coordinate the professional status, level and content of environmental work and of those working in this field.

Its objectives are:

- to be the representative organisation for all Environmental Professionals across Europe;
- to promote and co-ordinate environmental work and environmental professionals while recognizing the separate identities of its member organisations;
- to promote adherence to environmental professional standards as one of the essential prerequisites for achieving sustainability;
- to influence and implement the environmental policy, science and education agenda throughout Europe.

It will do so by being respected for its adherence to sound science rather than political lobbying but will be proactive where supported by scientific or technical evidence. Where possible it will also use its influence within the global context, beyond the European boundaries.

For full statutes and how to become a member association of ENEP, please consult the website: www.efaep.org.

The European Network of Environmental Professionals (ENEP) is the trading name of the European Federation of Associations of Environmental Professionals (EFAEP).

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