

CURRENT PROBLEMS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF URBAN WASTE IN BOTOSANI CITY

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Résumé: La gestion des déchets est l'une des priorités actuelles en ce qui concerne la solution des problèmes d'environnement au niveau national mais aussi au niveau local; c'est pourquoi le Ministère d'Environnement et du Développement Durable a élaboré des documents stratégiques dans le domaine de la gestion des déchets, c'est-à-dire La Stratégie Nationale de la Gestion des Déchets et le Plan National de la Gestion des Déchets, qui ont pour but la création du cadre nécessaire pour le développement et l'établissement d'un système intégré de gestion de ceux-ci, auxquels on ajoute l'aquice communautaire transposé dans la législation nationale. Les problèmes avec lesquels se confrontent le Département de Botoșani à ce niveau sont: le manque de la technologie tout aussi comme la technologie ancienne, le manque des personnes qui investissent et des investissement, la faible implication de tous ceux responsables, le manque des anneaux importants du flux de la gestion des déchets (par exemple:des metteurs en valeur, taxe système dépôt). La mise en pratique d'un système durable de gestion des déchets implique des changements majeurs des pratiques actuelles. L'établissement de ces changements va nécessiter la participation de tous les segments de la société: des autorités publiques locales et centrales, des institutions sociaux-économiques, des entreprises, et non dernièrement des personnes individuelles en qualité de consommateurs,et la réussite va dépendre en grande mesure du degré de la culture, de l'histoire et des mœurs de ce pays.

Currently one of the most urgent matters regarding the environmental issues that Botoșani city has to face is represented by urban waste management. By urban waste we understand: municipal waste (household waste and similar waste, from the market and services, recyclable waste, waste resulted from sanitation activities, big size waste), adding special flows of waste (waste provided by constructions and demolitions, sewage sludge from city depuration stations, end of life vehicles, wasted electrical and electronically equipments, medical waste, non-dangerous industrial waste).

Waste management activities consist in all the operations including: collection, transport, treatment, recovery, reuse, elimination and keeping strict

evidence. The responsibility of waste management activities belongs to the ones who generate the waste, based on the principle: “the polluter pays” or after case, to the producers based on: “producer’s responsibility”.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development elaborated strategic documents in waste management domain, including Strategy of National Waste Management and National Plan of Waste Management, which have as main aim the design of necessary guidelines to the development and implementation of an integrated system of waste management, inside the system problems surface.

For these problems to be understood they must be explained in parallel with the objectives Romania has assumed in the process of implementing the environmental communitarian aquis on waste management domain.

Directive 1999/31/EC on landfill aims mainly at establishing measures, procedures and recommendations for the preventions or reduction of negative effects on environment and human health caused by landfill activities.

In Botoşani city 4 municipal waste deposits exist (Botoşani, Dorohoi, Darabani and Săveni), which accept the following for depositing: municipal waste, construction and demolitions waste, even non-dangerous industrial waste. These depositing places do not correspond to European standards and they will stop their activity gradually during 2008-2016 period.

Among these municipal waste deposits there are a series of deficiencies, among which we mention:

- missing depuration and collection installations;
- no fences to prevent wind scattering of light weight waste (plastic, paper);
- the lack of water sources and sewage systems to provide the sanitation for means of transportation and containers;
- the lack of water reserves to prevent and put out fires, especially the ones caused by self-bursting phenomena.
- the lack of weighing systems of waste, the estimation of waste quantities deposited has a high percentage of miscalculation.

To these facts we add a number of 196 deposits situated in the country side, that occupies a surface smaller than 1 ha and are not properly settled. The quantities of waste deposited are not monitored not even approximately. The country side waste deposits have as closing date 16 July 2009.

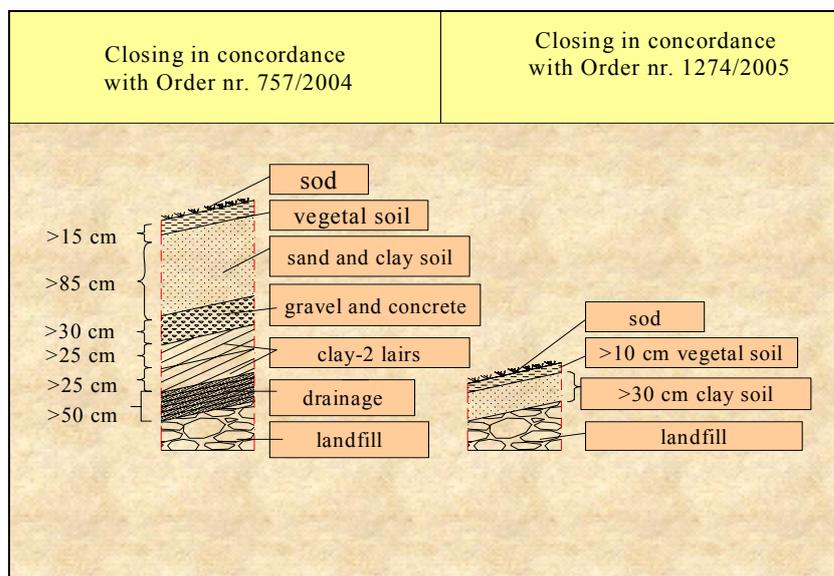
Next to municipal deposits and country side waste deposits there are many uncontrolled depositing, many of them near water courses.

The closing of these deposits will rise a series of financial problems, because the closing must be done respecting valid technical specifications.

If until the date of attending to EU the closing of waste deposits will be done respecting a simplified closing procedure, as Order 1274/2005 requires, after

January first 2007, the warehouses which are going to stop storage, will close respecting requirements of Directive 1999/CE, document to be transposed into national legislation through Order 757/2004 and will be kept under observation a period of minimum 30 years after closing.

In the picture below the differences of minimal closure requirements according to the normative acts can be noticed



Picture 1. The differences of minimal requirements to close the landfills

Another issue concerning municipal waste management is represented by sanitation. If in the urban area the sanitation is made with the help of own services belonging to city halls or the sanitation company which works only in the urban area, in the country side there is no organized service for waste management, the transportation of waste being made individually by waste producers.

The percent of population which benefits from sanitation services represent a total of 35,6 from the entire population in city area.

To all of these we add a weak development concerning pre-gathering of household waste: 162 pre-collection points with a total of 2806 containers, euro containers, trashcans, representing 17 pieces per 1000 people served and the transportation systems.

The strategy to manage municipal waste in the city according the active laws supposes the making of a zonal ecological storage, a minimum of 4 maximum 5 transfer stations (Botoșani aria, Dorohoi area, Săveni aria, Ștefănești-Trușești

aria), composting plant, a mechanic-biologic treatment plant, and also, pre-collecting platforms for household wastes. Another problem besides the financial one, is how to chose the zonal storage so that it will be best from an economic and ecological point of view.

Directive 2000/76/EC on the incineration of waste regulates incineration and co-incineration activities and the control and monitoring of the incineration and co-incineration installations with the main aim to prevent or reduce the negative effects on the environment, especially air, soil, surface and groundwater pollution and of any risk for human health.

In this sense, Romania assumed the engagement to close in 2004-2008 medical unities incinerators, therefore at Botoșani level in this period a number of 10 installations will be shut down, the medical waste shall be disposed in incineration installations conforming to the requirements of the Directive.

Among the current problems managing hospital wastes at a city level we mention:

- high cost to insure selective collections, transport and elimination through authorized companies;
- the lack of authorized unities to transport hospital wastes in the city area;
- the lack of spaces especially arranged to temporary deposit hospital wastes;
- the high cost of neutralization installations through thermal sterilization, as to minimize the quantities of hospital wastes incinerated (only the Mavromati municipal hospital owns such an installation).

The objectives which Romania assumed to implement Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste as to re-use, recycling, recovery or incinerate them in incineration installations with energy recovery and according to the case, the recycling of waste reapers are hard to reach.

Taking into consideration the statistical data 70% of packing waste are generated by population (in most part household waste) and 30% from packing waste generated by economical agents.

European examples show us that source sorting is the only valid solution at this moment for Romania. Trough the National Waste Management Plan the public local authorities must implement gradually the selective collection of packaging waste so:

- 2004-2006 – Pilot projects and actions to make the population conscious;
- 2007-2017- the extent of selective collections throughout the administrative territory;
- 2017-2022 – implementing selective collections in difficult areas (collecting deposits largely spread in the country side, mountain area);

Problems which Botoșani city faces dealing with waste management are:

- the lack of pilot projects to selective collect the recyclable waste initiated by local public authorities;
- the lack of warning, education, information campaigns lead by local public authorities;
- the lack of economical agents getting involved in the selective collections of recyclable waste, preferring the payment of penalties;

Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) proposes to ensure the prevention on waste on waste electrical and electronic equipment production as well as the reuse, recycling and other forms of recovery of such waste so as to reduce the disposal of waste and also the improvement of the environmental performance of all operators (producers, distributors and consumers) involved in the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment, and in particular of operators directly involved in the treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

The problems with surface, at city level, in managing waste electrical and electronic equipment are:

- the weak involvement of local public authorities in putting into action the Directive's specifications;
- the lack of involvement of producers in arranging the collective selection spaces of waste electrical and electronic equipment;
- there is no valid collection system to collect waste electrical and electronic equipment from private households to the collection points
- the insignificant ratio of collection;
- the nonexistent treatment systems of waste electrical and electronic equipment in Romania, the waste being treated outside the country increases the price of waste treatment.

Directive 2000/53/EC lays down measures which aim, as a first priority, at the prevention of waste from vehicles and, in addition, at the reuse, recycling and other forms of recovery of end-of life vehicles and their components so as to reduce the disposal of waste, as well as at the improvement in the environmental performance of all of the economic operators involved in the life cycle of vehicles.

In the process of managing this kind of waste the issues that arise are:

- the lack of economic agents to treat end of life vehicles evenly spread throughout the city territory (being focused on Botoșani urban area) and of an installation mobile of depollution.
- the lack of authorized economic agents to transport these kind of vehicles to the collection points;
- great quantities of waste unrecycled (unexisting recycling installations) for textile, glass and plastic materials waste

- a low degree of stimulation of used car owners to take them out of use or to rehabilitate them reducing the impact on the environmental and human health.

Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment and in particular of the soil, when the sewage sludge is used in the agriculture has as an objective the use of agrochemical potential of the depuration sewage sludge, prevention and reduction of the negative effects on soil, waters, vegetation, animals and man, so that it will insure the correct use of sewage sludge.

The agrochemical potential of depuration sewage sludge at Botoșani city level has not been entirely used; on one hand because of the missing interests of the beneficiary and generators, on the other hand because high costs of composition analysis to use sewage sludge in agriculture.

Besides the problems presented at European directives level we can mention:

- the low financial capacity to co-finance the waste management projects;
- the missing link important to manage urban waste (recyclers, taxes in warehouse system);
- the lack of a valid system to handle non-dangerous industrial waste (textile waste).

A durable waste management system involves major changes in actual actions imposing the involvement of all of the societies segments: public local authorities and central ones, social – economic institutions, factories, and last but not least individuals as consumers.

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