



## Press release

### A warm Belgian welcome

At the beginning of the Belgian EU Presidency, CEWEP (Confederation of European Waste-to-Energy Plants) is proud to announce that **Belgian Waste-to-Energy (BW2E)** becomes a member of CEWEP from today (1<sup>st</sup> July 2010).

Ferdinand Kleppmann, CEWEP President, welcomed the association's newest member during the 5<sup>th</sup> CEWEP Congress on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Antwerp.

*"It is good to see Belgian Waste-to-Energy facilities joining forces to highlight the positive role Waste-to-Energy can play in state of the art waste management"*

BW2E was officially founded on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 during its first general assembly meeting. Until then there was no single association in Belgium representing the Waste-to-Energy sector. Belgian Waste-to-Energy was created as the sector saw the need to join forces to provide a stronger voice to highlight the role it plays in sustainable waste management.

It is worth noting that Belgium has one of the highest recycling rates in Europe - over 60% - and this is achieved in collaboration with Waste-to-Energy, treating the remaining waste and generating energy from it, and so avoiding landfilling. Furthermore, a landfill ban has been introduced in progressive stages, banning organic, remaining municipal waste and commercial waste from being landfilled, with a complete ban coming into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

BW2E includes 15 member plants from the whole of Belgium: 10 from Flanders, 4 from Wallonia and 1 from Brussels. In 2009 they treated some 2.48 million tonnes of waste.

With BW2E's membership, CEWEP now represents **390 plants across Europe** with a capacity of **59 million tonnes** of municipal and similar waste generating **17,6 billion kWh of electricity** (supplying 11 million people) and **51,8 billion kWh of heat** (supplying 10 million people).

For further information, please contact

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Brussels, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

CEWEP represents about 390 Waste-to-Energy Plants across Europe. They thermally treat household and similar waste that remains after waste prevention, reuse and recycling by generating energy from it. This is how they replace fossil fuels, such as coal, gas and oil, used by conventional power plants. At the same time Waste-to-Energy plants help to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions by diverting waste from landfills.