



## CEWEP Birthday Reception, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Brussels

### **Speech of Paul De Bruycker, the Newly-Elected President of CEWEP**

I am very pleased and proud to be the newly elected president of CEWEP for the following three reasons:

First of all, I am honoured to succeed Ferdinand Kleppmann, the man who made CEWEP what it is today: a representative organisation of the Waste-to-Energy sector in Europe and a respected partner in the discussions with all stakeholders involved. Ferdinand has done a great job in bringing operational experts, business people and public and private operators together. The impact and the importance for our Waste-to-Energy sector is obvious.

Ferdinand, thank you for your efforts and I promise that I will do my utmost to take care of your heritage.

Secondly, our members have shown a great confidence in me as their president. I know that quite some people would not understand why I am proud to be the president of a Waste-to-Energy association as they perceive Waste-to-Energy as an old technology (some even dare to call it dirty technology), an old technology that will be phased out by the circular economy and the zero waste society.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Waste-to-Energy is not dirty, old and outdated. More than ever Waste-to-Energy will play an essential role in the realisation of a sustainable integrated waste management approach. Waste-to-Energy will not only deal with the non-recyclable waste and turn it into energy and valuable products but will also play an essential role in making the circular economy happen. Our installations together with those of our colleagues of the hazardous waste incinerators will keep the circles clean and safe. At the same time we contribute to a more sustainable energy production. Europe's Waste-to-Energy plants can potentially produce enough energy to replace 10% of the energy supplied by the coal sector (up to 189 TWh of secure energy from MW and C&I waste), if the policies are set in the right way.

We believe in a system where Waste-to-Energy and quality recycling are going hand-in-hand. Both are important within the circular economy. It is important to point out that the circular economy is not only about recycling targets, but also about value creation from waste. Also within the circular economy we need to produce products, energy and materials people are willing to pay for. Therefore products, materials and energy produced from waste should at least have the same quality as other similar products / output produced from virgin raw materials. That should be our goal and ambition. We already have a few good examples: there is the glass recycling (there is no difference between a bottle produced from recycled glass cullets or from virgin sand), the waste paper recycling for cardboard and newsprint and the iron and non-ferrous metals industry. In order to repeat these successes in other sectors there is still a long way to go and a lot of technological innovation is needed. Therefore ambitious but realistic targets should be set in order to encourage people to invest in high quality recycling and increased energy efficiency.



It is important that supply (of recycled products) meets demand (which requires that the market trusts the quality of recycled products). Source separation is important in order to guarantee a good quality input for the recycling units and to assure that the mixed non-recyclable waste is collected separately and used as a valuable input for our Waste-to-Energy plants where the energy as well as the metals and minerals can be recovered.

Source separation, Waste-to-Energy and high quality recycling are essential if we want to realise the circular economy. Ambitious but realistic quality targets for recycling and energy efficiency and a landfill ban for recyclable or burnable waste will speed up the realisation of the circular economy. Waste that can be recycled or recovered in a sustainable way should not end up on a landfill as this is a waste of resources.

And last, but not least, it will be my pleasure to give guidance and support to an excellent team. Dr. Ella Stengler and her team are very professional, well-informed, open-minded and have the right spirit. I strongly believe that all of you will agree with this statement. Dear Ella, I want to express my respect for you and your team for all the work you are doing and more specifically for the way you are doing this. Dear Ella, you have the full support of our members and please don't be afraid to challenge us with your views based on a good understanding of the drivers in the waste policy and the wishes of the other stakeholders. Stay critical and check our data and information before using them in public as we really want to assure that CEWEP only brings out correct figures and objective information towards the other stakeholders. Our credibility is of the highest value for us. You and our association have the possibility to focus on the longer term and to formulate our vision and messages in that respect to the EU Institutions and all other stakeholders.

Dear members, I look forward to being your president. I will strive to act in our common interest and will not be blind for the specific situation of each member state as well as the distinctive development phases of the different member states. However we must all take a brave position and demonstrate a firm commitment to our role in the circular economy.

Dear stakeholders, dear guests, Waste-to-Energy is an integral part of a sustainable waste management system and plays an important role in making the circular economy real. The resistance against Waste-to-Energy is not based on facts but more on emotions and old stories. To not acknowledge the role of Waste-to-Energy would have a negative impact on the realisation of our sustainability goals as set by the United Nations Environment Programme.

I have full confidence in the future and I want to invite all our partners to engage in a constructive discussion on the path to choose as we all want to contribute to the same goal: a prospering Europe in a more sustainable world. I look forward to continuing our cooperation and thank you all for your support and your presence here today. I hope you will enjoy the evening.

But ladies and gentlemen, my last words are for Ferdinand and Karin Kleppmann, his lovely wife. Thank you so much for what you together have done for CEWEP. This calls for a toast with a good glass of German white wine.

Good health and thank you for being with us today.