

## **CEWEP Pays Tribute to Founding President Ferdinand Kleppmann**

Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The Confederation of European Waste-to-Energy Plants (CEWEP) is deeply saddened to announce the passing of its founding president, Ferdinand Kleppmann, who died on 1<sup>st</sup> June at the age of 74.

A true pioneer in the Waste-to-Energy sector, Ferdinand Kleppmann was the visionary behind the creation of CEWEP, serving as its first president for more than 15 years. His work was driven by a steadfast commitment to responsible waste management and sustainability, sparked by being a witness to the environmental challenges posed by landfills in his home town Würzburg.

“Ferdinand was not only instrumental in CEWEP’s creation, but he also united the WtE sector at a critical time,” said Paul De Bruycker, current CEWEP President. “His legacy is not just in the structures he built, but in the vision and integrity he brought to our mission.”

Under his leadership, CEWEP grew to represent over 80% of the European WtE market and became a respected voice in European waste policy.

“Ferdinand was an early believer that the Waste-to-Energy sector needed to unite at the European level and become a reliable source of accurate information and a point of contact for EU institutions and stakeholders,” recalls Ella Stengler, CEWEP’s Managing Director, reflecting on the organisation’s founding in 2002 and her close involvement in his pioneering efforts from the very beginning.

Ferdinand will also be remembered for his warmth, humour, and zest for life. He had a deep appreciation for good food, wine, and meaningful conversations—qualities he brought into every gathering.

CEWEP extends its heartfelt condolences to Ferdinand’s family.