

Zero waste violation at Sochi Winter Olympics

The Associated Press has revealed that Russia's state-owned rail monopoly dumped waste into an illegal landfill north of Sochi. This is in violation of the organizers' pledge of "Zero Waste" for the Winter Olympics. On a visit to the site, the reporters saw lorries dumping concrete lumps into a gigantic railways-operated pit filled with spray cans, tyres and foam sheets. Senior IOC members have urged the Olympic body and Russian authorities to investigate the dumping of construction waste.

USA: Cooking oil thieves siphoning restaurant containers

Washington faces a series of cooking oil thefts. For months, used restaurant oil has been disappearing from containers. According to local authorities, the spoilage contained tens of thousands of gallons a month. Cooking-oil theft is on the rise as the evolving biodiesel market has led to an increase in its value, according to an Arlington police spokeswoman. Companies have been buying used oil and converting it into biodiesel fuel or into animal feed: Firms in that business pay more for the oil.

advancing, further efforts are needed for its implementation and enforcement. The development of an integrated waste management system remains at an early stage, with waste continuing to be disposed of in open sites or in multiple unauthorised dumps. Cooperation among state and local authorities needs to be strengthened. New investments in this area are needed.

They should in particular focus more on waste separation and recycling.

Serbia: Efforts should be redoubled

Looking ahead, Serbia should redouble its efforts to align with the European Union acquis with particular attention to the effective implementation of adopted legis-

lation. In particular, Serbia will need to intensify efforts towards alignment in the fields of water, waste management, air quality and nature protection and towards market opening, unbundling and cost reflective tariffs in the energy sector.

Further efforts are also needed in the areas of state aid control, where the inde-

pendence of the Commission for State Aid Control needs to be further established and the exemption of enterprises under privatisation from state aid rules need to be repealed.

Turkey: Waste management plans required

In the field of waste management, efforts have continued to bring landfill facilities up

to standards of the European Union. Sorting and recycling capacity has increased but significant further progress is needed in this area. Turkey still needs to fulfil the EU Waste Framework Directive requirements on preparing and implementing waste management plans. The studies for the alignment with the Mining Waste Directive are ongoing.

Recovered Paper Market Reports for Europe

Presented by the Paper Division at the BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition in Warsaw, Poland (28-29 October 2013).



Photo: Joujou / pixelio.de

Eastern Europe

In the third quarter of this year, collection volumes generally declined and mills were running with relatively low stocks, but fibre prices were largely stable. Some price increases were seen in Turkey owing to a combination of lower supply resulting from Ramadan and also increased demand, notably from Kipas which purchased approximately 50,000 tonnes of fibre for a test run. This local demand coupled with a shift in exchange rates effectively put a halt to Turkish fibre export activity.

In contrast to Turkey, the Czech Republic has been

focusing to a greater extent on the export channel following the closure of the Duropack Bupak Papirna paper mill. With collections expected to total around 800,000 tonnes this year, Germany is the biggest market for the Czech Republic's surplus of recovered paper, taking upwards of half. Around a quarter is going to Austria, while Poland and Slovakia are also significant buyers.

Northern Europe

This region has been witnessing relatively strong demand for most grades at relatively stable price levels. And a large measure of stability in the market is

also anticipated for the final quarter. Sellers of OCC will have been encouraged by the news that Sweden's kraftliner mills are holding good order files and are looking to operate at full production over the coming months. The country's tissue mills have healthy stocks of recovered fibre and their market is well balanced. And following closures, Sweden's remaining newsprint mills have seen an improvement in their market position; however, consumer demand is continuing to evaporate, prompting predictions of further capacity shuts.

Latest figures show that Swedish collections of recovered fibre fell 4.8 per cent

overall in the first half of this year, despite OCC volumes climbing 6.1 per cent year on year. Finland, meanwhile, suffered a steeper-than-normal seasonal decline in recovered paper collection volumes during the summer months. Although the market is generally stable, there is a clear trend towards a slide in paper consumption and an increase in packaging as a consequence of internet purchasing.

Western Europe

Mills are operating at decent capacity utilisation levels across most of the region and prices paid for fibre have been locked into a relatively narrow price band. The majority view, however, is that collection volumes have failed to recover to their normal extent following the conclusion of the summer holiday period. Indeed, some paper mills in France have offered spot prices to correct what has been described as a dangerous fall in their stock levels.

Volumes heading to the Far East have been reasonably constant despite China's "Green Fence" regime, although there was some evidence of softening prices in early October, attributed in part to mills in some areas of China turning to cheaper domestic fibre supplies.

In Germany, packaging producers have been particularly busy while demand for the deinking grades has exceeded supply in some instances, leading to stable or even rising prices in certain cases. United Kingdom bulk grade demand has declined

very slightly – largely due to the long-term closure of Smurfit's Snodland facility – and stocks remain relatively high. Low availability and high demand have underpinned the strength of the deinking grades market, while orders for the UK's multigrade have improved in recent weeks owing to India's re-entry into the market and to very low domestic arisings.

Southern Europe

Mills have been affected by lower regional consumption as a result of the steep economic downturn, to the extent that the financial situation for mills in Italy continues to be described as tight. Domestic collection tonnages have been falling, partly as a result of the low levels of printing activity and also the lack of advertising carried in newspapers and magazines.

Summer order books in Spain were sufficiently healthy that the period ended with a ten per cent increase in packaging product prices. Demand for the deinking grades has also increased alongside very low collection activity. Meanwhile, the white grades market in Spain has remained stable.

In the first six months of this year, Spain's fibre exports slumped more than 20 per cent whereas imports increased by ten per cent owing to the impact of low domestic consumption on generation levels and high domestic mill production of materials destined for export. In effect, there has been a substantial outflow of fibre that will not be available for recovery domestically.