



## **PRESS NOTICE**

**31 October 2006**

### **Eurits welcomes the European Parliament's resolution on the dumping of hazardous waste in the Ivory Coast**

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution condemning the dumping of 500 tonnes of chemical waste in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, by a Netherlands-based company. Eight people have died as a result, with a further 85,000 taken to hospital where they have been treated for nosebleeds, diarrhoea, nausea, eye irritation and breathing difficulties. UNICEF estimates that between 9,000 and 23,000 children will need medical assistance.

Eurits, the European Union for the Responsible Incineration and Treatment of Special Wastes, which represents over 90% of the specialist hazardous waste incineration capacity in the EU, strongly welcomes the European Parliament's resolution, which calls on those responsible to be brought to justice, full remediation of the environmental contamination and compensation for the victims.

Jan Kluge, Eurits' President, said: "The European Parliament is absolutely right to condemn those responsible for this terrible incident. There is no justification for transporting any hazardous waste out of the EU. Europe has excellent facilities for dealing with hazardous waste, and we hope that the EU will ensure that its proposals on the revision of the Waste Framework Directive will strengthen the controls of the management and disposal of hazardous waste. This must include provisions to ban the mixing of hazardous and non-hazardous waste to reduce the overall contamination level with the intention of using less environmentally-friendly techniques."

#### **Notes to editors:**

1. Eurits represents more than 90% of the EU's hazardous waste incineration sector, and exists to ensure the safe, legal and environmentally sound incineration of waste.
2. The European Parliament's resolution includes further details of the incident. It is available at:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2006-0457+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

3. The European Commission is not legally obliged to respond to any of the resolution's proposals, but has confirmed that there will be "follow-up". The timetable for this is not yet clear, but it will include consideration of the new legislative proposals suggested in the resolution.
4. The proposed new Waste Framework Directive (COM(2005)667final) is an element of the European Commission's Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste, which is one of the seven thematic strategies under the 6th Environmental Action Plan. The Strategy proposed a substantive revision of the existing Waste Framework Directive, which has been in force since 1975.
5. For further information please contact Eurits on (+44) (0)20 7222 1265 or visit Eurits' website: [www.incineration.info](http://www.incineration.info)