

EnergoZelena announces New Shareholder Structure

Proper CAT 1 animal byproducts Treatment in Serbia is now possible and should be enforced

Serbia, Indjija -

EnergoZelena doo announces a significant change of ownership of its Belgium based mother company Zelena nv. Its majority shareholder Electrawinds nv divested and has been replaced by Greenworx Holding nv, a Belgium based renewable energy development company and Saffelberg Investments nv, a Belgium based investment fund with significant investments in renewable energy projects. The transaction combines the purchase of Electrawind's shares as well as a significant equity increase.

Since end 2012 EnergoZelena operates the most modern animal byproduct (ABP) treatment plant in Eastern Europe with a capacity of 150,000 tons/year CAT 1 ABP. This € 21.5 million state-of-the-art project is a very significant foreign direct investment (FDI) in Serbia, developed with the support and the approval of Serbian authorities. This investment allows Serbia and the surrounding countries to comply with local and EU existing legislation on ABP treatment, according to the origin of the waste.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:300:0001:0033:EN:PDF>

Three ABP waste categories exist. Those parts of slaughtered animals that may be a threat to human and animal health as well as the fallen stock on farms are considered CAT 1. Its byproducts (liquid fat and meat & bone meal) can only be used for energy production. Manure as well as CAT 3 that has been declared unfit for human consumption due to failure to comply with the veterinary legislation is CAT 2 ABP. The byproducts of CAT 2 can only be used as fertilizer. All other parts of slaughtered animals that do not form a threat to human and animal health are categorized as CAT 3 ABP. Its byproducts may reenter the food chain and are mostly used as ingredient for pet food, fish food, cosmetics...

“Our CAT 1 treatment plant,” said Kurt Derieuw, General Manager at EnergoZelena” is the only plant in the entire Balkan region that is fit to treat CAT 1 waste in accordance with current Serbian and EU legislation. Proper treatment of CAT 1 ABP is crucial as it avoids environmental damage. It avoids health and safety hazards and it enables slaughterhouses and meat processors to sell and export their products. Proper treatment already starts at the collection points where clear distinction between CAT 1, 2 and 3 ABPs should be made by means of visual markers. As EnergoZelena is also servicing the logistics from its customers to its plant, clear marking at the collection points (slaughterhouses, farms...) is very important to prevent contamination of CAT 3 waste by CAT 1 waste”.

“About 30% of slaughterhouse waste is CAT 1 while 70% of slaughterhouse waste is CAT 3”, adds Nebojsa Mistic, Director of Zelena. “Our plant is designed to treat all CAT 1 ABP waste of Serbia and its neighboring countries while there is still enough spare capacity to process - in the shortest timeframe possible - contaminated CAT 1 ABP in case of disease outbreak. Our company is actively cooperating with Serbia’s Ministry of Agriculture, its veterinary department, slaughterhouses and farms to make sure CAT 1 ABP no longer poses a risk to public health and the environment. The cooperation is not always easy because proper treatment of especially CAT 1 ABP requires a mentality change but we are confident proper CAT 1 ABP treatment in Serbia is only a couple of months away.”

Tom Hanson, MD of Greenworx Holding NV, who initiated the project some 5 years ago indicates the key point for the future: “With the EnergoZelena plant strategically located in Indjija in the centre of Vojvodina, Serbia now has Europe’s largest and most integrated treatment plan for hazardous CAT 1 animal waste with a capacity of 150,000 tons/year. As the factory has now obtained its final operational permit as well as several export licenses, it is in the process of receiving permits to import CAT 1 from the neighboring countries.”

The construction of this integrated waste processing plant was fully aligned with Serbian and European authorities. However, after 1 year production, the actual collection of CAT 1 waste proves is still about 10,000 tons/year, less than 20% of the overall waste in Serbia. This means that 80% of hazardous animal waste is still treated in inadequate waste treatment plants such as the old state owned plants in Cuprija and Sombor, where CAT 1 and 3 are mixed or just dumped in nature. We count on the strong support of Serbian authorities and veterinary services to enforce the use of the CAT 1 processing plant. We believe this is the only option for Serbia to apply with European legislation for animal waste treatment and especially to avoid this waste coming back in the food chain (while mixing it simply with CAT 3 animal waste) or dumping it on the land, causing soil pollution. All parties involved will need to take their responsibility to achieve these goals of making Serbia an example of animal waste treatment, a major step forward in its relationship with the EU and its possibility to obtain meat export licenses. We are confident to get the support of all authorities in the coming weeks and months to achieve this goal, by lack of which the plant will not reach the required volumes and Serbia’s waste treatment will remain at the current level”.

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