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**Press release**  
**Immediate**

**Tory MEP says UK can learn from Europe - on waste**

In a pamphlet she publishes today Caroline Jackson MEP sets out the crucial lessons Britain's policymakers on waste should learn from the best practices in Europe. The key one is that using waste as a fuel in energy from waste incinerators need not crowd out recycling. She points out that the cleanest continental countries, Denmark and Holland, have very high rates of incineration and recycling with low dependence on landfill and demonstrate how such a dual system can be made to work very successfully.

As she says: " The trouble is that Britain's national politicians, of all parties, lack courage on this issue. They know recycling alone won't do the trick in diverting the amount of waste from landfill that we are committed to. But they have allowed Green fundamentalists to demonise incineration and spread misinformation about it. EU laws now enforce very high emission standards. The EU energy crisis means that it is madness to pass up the chance to use our waste as a safe fuel. And financially if we don't divert more waste from landfill we will end up paying a fine to the European court."

Among the lessons she believes Britain can learn from the best in Europe are:

- Well-designed and energy efficient incinerators can be the necessary and useful companions of recycling schemes
- Getting recycling schemes established takes time. We are trying to do in 2 years what has taken the Germans 20 years.
- We need to make it much easier for people to recycle, with more information on what can be recycled, more boxes for recycling collection in public spaces - as on the continent - and universal national rules on what is collected, to end the current confusion.
- Fees for waste collection should be separated from the general council tax so that we can see what we are paying for
- Waste management must be taken into account by planners, architects and developers of all new buildings.

Caroline is available on 07785 938102 or 00 322 284 5255. She is Conservative MEP for South west England, and was Chairman of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004