



Participation Report of the French Solid Waste Partnership at the Global Zero Waste Forum

Istanbul, Turkey, 5–7 June 2026

June 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction1**
- 2. Our key messages2**
 - 2.1. It is necessary to invest both in the ‘Reuse Economy’ and in the Environmentally Sound Management of remaining waste.....2
 - 2.2. Reducing waste generation relies on the implementation of circular economy actions2
 - 2.3. Final disposal facilities are necessary to protect human health and the environment2
 - 2.4. As the ‘Implementation’ COP approaches, the waste prevention and management community must put forward a unified message.....2
- 3. Our presence at the Global Zero Waste Forum.....3**
 - 3.1. Our events3
 - 3.1.1. Intervention during the side-event “Waste is a Pricing Problem (PAYT, deposits, incentives)” on 5 June from 5.15 pm to 6.15 pm 3
 - 3.1.2. Organisation of a closed-door meeting, the “Resources and Waste Management Session”, on 7 June from 10.00 to 11.00 3
 - 3.2. Networking and strengthening partnerships5
- 4. Overall assessment7**
- 5. Annex.....8**



1. Introduction

As an elected representative of national members on the Board of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), the French Solid Waste Partnership (FSWP) – one of the few French organisations present at the event – was among those invited to bridge the gap between the waste prevention and waste management communities – two communities that generally remain too fragmented.

In this role as unifier and mediator, the FSWP and ISWA took advantage of this Global Zero Waste Forum – the theme of this second edition being “Road to Antalya: Zero Waste as a Climate Action” – to develop and strengthen links between the various partners present at the event, with the aim of arriving at COP31 prepared, and with messages that are not only coherent but common.

This edition of the Global Zero Waste Forum brought together **3,000 participants from over 140 countries**. It took place against a political backdrop that has never been so focused on the issue, with zero waste as a main theme of COP31, and in preparation for the resumption of negotiations on the international treaty on plastic pollution, the next session of which will take place in Nairobi in March 2027.

The FSWP’s participation in the Global Zero Waste Forum was made possible thanks to the Zero Waste Foundation, our members and the specific support of:





2. Our key messages

Waste generation continues to rise, now exceeding 2.1 billion tonnes, and is expected to increase by 50% by 2050¹. Resources and waste management are issues at the crossroads of a number of key challenges for sustainable development: food security, health, climate mitigation, the preservation of biodiversity and water resources, resilience, economic sovereignty, urbanisation, a just transition, and well-being.

2.1. It is necessary to invest both in the ‘Reuse Economy’ and in the Environmentally Sound Management of remaining waste

The FSWP advocates an integrated approach to resources and waste. Whilst reducing waste generation must be a priority, it cannot, on its own, address current challenges. A significant proportion of waste continues to be produced and will continue to be produced in the coming decades. It is therefore essential to invest simultaneously in prevention, reuse and circular economy models, as well as in the infrastructure and services enabling the Environmentally Sound Management of remaining waste. This complementarity is an essential condition for achieving climate, environmental and health objectives.

2.2. Reducing waste generation relies on the implementation of circular economy actions

The FSWP reiterates that waste reduction begins long before waste management. Reducing waste generation relies on the implementation of circular economy measures (which begins with “Refuse”...). This implies a profound transformation of production, consumption and usage patterns², and the implementation of new business models, which, although underway, face various forms of resistance requiring even closer collaboration between all actors in the value chains.

2.3. Final disposal facilities are necessary to protect human health and the environment

Even in an optimised circular economy, some waste cannot be avoided, reused or recovered. It is therefore essential to provide for safe and controlled final disposal facilities. These facilities play a vital role in protecting health and preventing the leakage of waste into aquatic and natural environments.

2.4. As the ‘Implementation’ COP approaches, the waste prevention and management community must put forward a unified message

At the Zero Waste Forum, the FSWP sought to continue uniting the international waste prevention and management community. The sector appears to agree on the need to reduce methane emissions and to work towards better prevention and management of organic waste for effective climate action and the fight for food security. However, the FSWP is keen to go further, encouraging these consensus messages to be conveyed collectively, so that the sector’s voice is heard more clearly.

¹ See <https://pfd-fswp.fr/what-a-waste-3-0>

² As a result, the PFD was able to promote and share its video on the circular economy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5fVpmoUzfw>





3. Our presence at the Global Zero Waste Forum

3.1. Our events

3.1.1. Intervention during the side-event “Waste is a Pricing Problem (PAYT, deposits, incentives)” on 5 June from 5.15 pm to 6.15 pm

During this side-event [see description in the Annex], Corinne Trommsdorff had the opportunity to explore the challenges of waste management financing mechanisms, emphasising in particular that it is key to choose mechanisms according to each context and local habits. She also highlighted one of the FSWP’s key messages: funding for OPEX is a major challenge, as it is only once this funding plan is secured that opportunities to cover CAPEX will open up. The panellists were:

- Dominic Hogg (moderator)
- Joan Marc Simon (founder of Zero Waste Europe)
- Iain Gulland (member of the Climate Emergency Response Group)
- Martin Krause (Director of the Climate Change Division at UNEP)
- Corinne Trommsdorff



3.1.2. Organisation of a closed-door meeting, the “Resources and Waste Management Session”, on 7 June from 10.00 to 11.00

This session, organised in collaboration with ISWA, took place on Sunday morning [see description in the Annex]. The aim of this session was to identify international partners keen to align their messages with ISWA and the FSWP, in order to have a stronger collective voice that is better heard. The key question was therefore: “How can the resources and waste community strengthen its alignment,





amplify its collective impact, and contribute more effectively to positioning resources and waste on the climate agenda ahead of COP31?” The partners who attended were:

- The COP31 High-Level Climate Champion Team (Carlos Silva Filho – senior advisor, and Marcia Toledo Sotillo – director of adaptation and resilience)
- Zero Waste Foundation (Carlos Silva Filho – senior advisor)
- ISWA (Corinne Trommsdorff – Board member and Chair of the Global Campaigns Advisory Committee and representative of the national member France; Tony Clark – Vice-Chair of the Global Campaigns Advisory Committee and representative of the national member Sweden; Peter Simoes – Chair of the Working Group on Climate Change and Waste Management (WGCCWM), Anja Schwetje – Vice-Chair of the WGCCWM and representative of the national member Germany, Dr Aylin Alagöz and Suna Erses Yay – representatives of the national member Turkey, Aditi Ramola – Technical Director and Coordinator of the WGCCWM and of the Global Campaigns Advisory Committee and organisational member, Jose Uribe – Director of Operations)
- French Solid Waste Partnership (FSWP) (Corinne Trommsdorff – CEO, Paloma Gengoux – Programmes Officer)
- Avfall Sverige (Tony Clark – CEO)
- Global Methane Hub (GMH) (Carolina Umerneta – Director of Circular Economy and Regional Director for the Americas)
- Yunus Environment Hub (YEH) (Christina Jäger – Co-founder and CEO, Kiara Sweeney – Programme Director)
- Turkish National Committee on Solid Waste – Boğaziçi University (Dr Aylin Alagöz – Executive Board Member, Suna Erses Yay – Board Member)
- Integrated Reporting Association Türkiye (ERTA) (Dr Aylin Alagöz – Secretary General)
- Adrian Caduff (independent expert on waste and methane mitigation)
- World Biogas Association (WBA) (Charlotte Morton – CEO)
- Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) (Martina Otto – Head of the Secretariat)



After ISWA presented the broad outlines of its objectives at the COP, we held a round-table discussion with the participating partners to agree on the strategy to be adopted, the potential objectives of our





presence at the COP, and a number of key messages. The messages are as follows, and are fully aligned with those of the FSWP:

- accelerate the transition to circular systems and a ‘reuse economy’ to reduce waste generation at source³;
- improving organic waste management and reducing methane emissions as high-impact climate levers⁴; and
- developing financing mechanisms to support this transition.

Beyond the messages already widely shared within the community, several avenues for further consideration emerged during this discussion. Although they have not yet been formalised or collectively endorsed by the present stakeholders, they reflect a growing desire to strengthen the integration of the waste sector into the climate agenda:

- Promotion of a ‘Protocol on organic waste management’ as a climate action measure, modelled on the Montreal Protocol (on the negotiation side).
- Use of Article 6.2 for bilateral agreements on methane emission reductions in the waste sector (linked to prevention, treatment and landfill improvement measures) and the use of biomethane in the energy sector: a platform for networking, supporting project development and standardising assessments.
- Developing a ‘methane for methane’ exchange framework to enable the oil and gas industry to invest in waste management to reduce overall methane emissions (cross-sector mechanism).

The FSWP was also able to share the other topics it is working on, and discuss the associated work and deliverables that will be highlighted at COP31:

- Circular economy, notably with the new educational video on the subject, which we had planned to finalise for use at the Global Zero Waste Forum: <https://youtu.be/t5fVpmoUzfw?si=aLWYWi8HDyqsNDLK>
- The “Global Push” initiative, sharing the [presentation brochure](#) we had finalised for the forum.

3.2. Networking and strengthening partnerships

The FSWP took advantage of this international event to strengthen its ties with key international partners in advancing sustainable resources and waste management. This was possible not only during the small-group preparatory session for COP31 on 7 June, but also during lunches, dinners and informal discussions in the corridors of the Forum.

The FSWP was also able to meet potential new partners and expand its network. In addition to the visibility gained through participation in the side event on 5 June, this was achieved by attending a wide range of conferences to identify potentially relevant contacts, as well as during dinners and informal discussions in the corridors.

³ Read the PFD’s position paper on the circular economy and the transition to a 2050 future: [Circular Economy – French Waste Partnership](#)

⁴ See the PFD’s briefing note on methane emissions: <https://pfd-fswp.fr/les-dechets-pour-faire-face-a-la-crise-climatique>. The PFD has also produced two publications on the subject of waste and climate change, in 2024 <https://pfd-fswp.fr/les-dechets-pour-faire-face-a-la-crise-climatique> and in 2025: <https://pfd-fswp.fr/atlas-waste-climate-mitigation>.





Above picture of the meeting and discussion with Mrs. Fatma Sahin, mayor of Gaziantep, Turkey.





4. Overall assessment

The Global Zero Waste Forum provided an opportunity for the FSWP to convey its key messages and to identify the messages that need to be further developed and disseminated to foster an integrated vision of the challenges of both reduction and management. In particular, this year there appeared to be only a limited presence of the waste management community – represented mainly by ISWA – at the forum.

The FSWP noted a great deal of enthusiasm for the subject, as confirmed by the forum’s opening address by the First Lady of Turkey (the organiser) and by the closing address – with its holistic approach – by the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The presence of the two High-Level Climate Champions (Samed Agirbas for COP31 and Dan Ioschpe from COP30) and their teams throughout the Forum further demonstrated the high level of political attention being paid to the subject. It was emphasised on several occasions that ‘zero waste’ is a cross-cutting theme that can contribute to all the ‘Activation Groups’ of the Climate Action Agenda. With this in mind, the Zero Waste Foundation announced the launch of the ‘Istanbul Platform: Zero Waste for Climate Action’, developed within the framework of the Marrakech Partnership.

In particular, this platform introduces a ‘Zero Waste Package’, which aims to bring together under a single banner the various solutions championed by the partners of the Climate Action Agenda. This would be structured around the six main pillars of the climate action programme, the thirty “Key Solutions” and a set of acceleration plans (“Plans to Accelerate Solutions”) designed to facilitate the scaling up of existing initiatives. The “Zero Waste Districts” programme has also been announced, with the same aim of accelerating concrete, local implementation with a view to scaling up impactful projects.

For the FSWP, particular attention must be paid to the definition of this Zero Waste Package so that it reflects the entire value chain in a balanced manner, from waste prevention and circular models to the Environmentally Sound Management of residual waste. This issue appears essential to avoid a vision limited solely to the prevention aspect and to ensure an integrated approach to resources and waste within the climate agenda.

It is clear that, more than ever, the issue of waste prevention will take centre stage at COP31 in Antalya. The FSWP therefore notes that it will be necessary to mobilise as many partners as possible there in the hope of securing something in the final declaration, and to raise the issue even further up the political agenda.





5. Annex

Concept note for the side event “Waste is a Pricing Problem (PAYT, Deposits, Incentives)”

17:15-18:30
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

ZERO WASTE FORUM

ROAD TO ANTALYA:
ZERO WASTE AS
CLIMATE ACTION

Waste is a Pricing Problem (PAYT, Deposits, Incentives)

Waste systems often send the wrong economic signals. Disposal can be cheap, prevention can be unrewarded, and the true environmental and social costs of waste are rarely reflected in prices.

This session explores how pricing tools can support zero waste outcomes. Pay-as-you-throw systems, deposit return schemes, incentives, fees, procurement rules and producer responsibility can all influence behaviour and investment. The zero waste question is not simply how to raise revenue, but how to design incentives that reduce waste generation, improve material quality, support reuse and make disposal the least attractive option.





Concept note for the discussion session “Resources and Waste Management”





Aligning Priorities and Messages Ahead of COP31

Background

As preparations advance toward COP31 in Antalya in November 2026, there is growing recognition that resources and waste management must be positioned not only as an environmental concern, but as a practical and implementation-oriented climate agenda. Through interventions spanning waste prevention, circular systems, methane mitigation, resource efficiency, and improved data and financing frameworks, the sector has significant potential to contribute to mitigation efforts while supporting broader sustainable development outcomes.

At the same time, actors across the resources and waste management community often arrive at global climate processes advancing similar priorities and messages through parallel pathways. While these efforts demonstrate strong momentum across the sector, they can remain fragmented across institutions, initiatives, and stakeholder groups, limiting opportunities to build stronger collective visibility and influence within the climate agenda.

Against this backdrop, the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) will convene an invitation-only side event on the margins of the Global Zero Waste Forum 2026 in Istanbul, with the support of the Zero Waste Foundation and in alignment with the broader priorities and objectives of the Forum and the COP31 Climate High-Level Champion Team. Designed as a direct precursor to COP31, the session will bring together a selected group of partner organisations active across resources and waste management to exchange priorities, share planned contributions to COP31, and identify opportunities for stronger coordination and collaboration. Through strategic facilitation and discussion, the session will seek to strengthen alignment across the community and support more coherent engagement ahead of Antalya.

Rather than creating new commitments, the discussion aims to strengthen coordination, surface areas of convergence, and explore how the community can collectively contribute to placing resources and waste management more centrally within climate discussions and implementation efforts in the lead-up to COP31.

Purpose

This invitation-only side event aims to convene selected organisations and initiatives active across resources and waste management to align priorities, exchange perspectives, and strengthen collective engagement ahead of COP31 in Antalya.

By creating a focused and action-oriented space for discussion, the session seeks to move beyond parallel conversations and support greater coherence across

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messages, initiatives, and opportunities for collaboration, with the broader objective of elevating resources and waste management within the climate agenda.

Objectives

The event will seek to:

- Provide a dedicated platform for invited organisations to share their priorities, planned contributions, and engagement approaches in the lead-up to COP31;
- Identify areas of convergence across existing initiatives and approaches related to resources and waste management as climate action;
- Explore opportunities for stronger coordination and collective visibility of the sector within climate discussions and implementation pathways;
- Surface practical messages, priorities, and opportunities that may inform engagement and collaboration in the lead-up to COP31;
- Strengthen connections across stakeholders working at the intersection of resources, waste management, circularity, climate mitigation, and implementation.

Guiding Question

The discussion will be guided by the following central question:

How can the resources and waste management community strengthen alignment, amplify collective impact, and contribute more effectively to positioning waste and resource management within the climate agenda ahead of COP31?

Format and Methodology

This invitation-only side event will take place on **7 June 2026**, the third day of the Global Zero Waste Forum 2026 in Istanbul, as a focused one-hour working session **(10:00–11:00)** designed to support alignment and coordination across the resources and waste management community in the lead-up to COP31.

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Positioned as a direct precursor to Antalya, the session will provide a dedicated space for a selected group of partner organisations to exchange priorities, surface emerging opportunities, and strengthen collective readiness for engagement within the broader climate agenda.

The session will open with strategic framing delivered by the Zero Waste Foundation and the COP31 Climate High-Level Champion Team, providing participants with an overview of the vision and priorities for COP31 and outlining opportunities to advance resources and waste management as part of an implementation-oriented climate agenda.

Building on this framing, invited organisations will be invited to deliver brief interventions sharing their key messages, current priorities, and planned engagement toward COP31. These contributions are intended to identify areas of convergence across stakeholders and establish a common basis for discussion.

The session will then move into a facilitated discussion structured around three thematic areas:

- **Prevention of Waste Generation**
- **Methane Mitigation and Potential Emissions Reduction**
- **Reporting and Financing**

Participants will explore opportunities for stronger coordination, reflect on shared challenges and priorities, and identify practical approaches to strengthen the positioning of resources and waste management within climate discussions ahead of COP31.

Consistent with the broader approach of the Global Zero Waste Forum 2026, the session is designed to support voluntary alignment and practical collaboration by connecting stakeholder priorities to delivery pathways rather than negotiating formal outcomes.

Expected Outcomes and Outputs

This side event is designed to generate practical, non-binding outcomes that strengthen coordination and readiness across the resources and waste management community in the lead-up to COP31.

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Rather than developing formal positions or negotiated outcomes, the session will support stronger alignment, increase visibility of shared priorities, and create opportunities for continued collaboration ahead of Antalya.

Expected Outcomes

- Stronger alignment across participating organisations on opportunities to position resources and waste management within the climate agenda ahead of COP31;
- Increased visibility of existing initiatives, priorities, and planned contributions across the resources and waste management community;
- Greater clarity on areas of convergence related to prevention, methane mitigation, reporting, and enabling conditions for implementation;
- Strengthened relationships and opportunities for coordination among stakeholders engaging in COP31-related processes;
- Increased readiness to translate discussion into practical collaboration and delivery-oriented action in the lead-up to Antalya.

Participation

Participation in this side event will be by invitation only.

The session will convene a selected group of organisations and initiatives active across resources and waste management, with participation designed to encourage focused exchange, practical discussion, and opportunities for alignment ahead of COP31.

Participation will be curated to ensure diversity of perspectives while maintaining an interactive and discussion-oriented format that enables meaningful exchange and collaboration.

The session is intended to bring together stakeholders already engaged in, or preparing for engagement toward, COP31-related discussions and implementation pathways, with a focus on identifying opportunities for stronger coordination and collective contribution.

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Closing

As preparations advance toward COP31 in Antalya, stronger coordination across stakeholders will be essential to elevate resources and waste management as part of an implementation-oriented climate agenda.

Convened on the margins of the Global Zero Waste Forum 2026, this side event will provide a focused space for dialogue, exchange, and practical alignment among organisations active across the sector. By bringing together diverse perspectives and identifying areas of convergence, the session aims to strengthen readiness, support collaboration, and contribute to positioning resources and waste management more centrally within climate discussions ahead of COP31.

Rather than creating formal commitments, the discussion seeks to connect priorities to delivery pathways and encourage continued engagement on the road to Antalya.

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