

## **2-Day FICCI Environment Conclave Under Way**

### **EU expertise to help frame waste management policy FRAMEWORK**

#### **Head of EU Delegation in India Calls for Research & Innovation by Indian Business**

**NEW DELHI, July 1, 2010.** The European Union (EU) is providing technical expertise to India's Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) with a view to helping the Government in drafting a policy framework for waste management based on international best practices and enhancing India's capacity to deal with waste issues.

This was stated here today by **Ms. Daniele Smadja, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union in India**, while addressing the *FICCI Environment Conclave 2010*.

Ms. Smadja said that the cooperation in waste management project has a key component on e-waste management for policy development and remedial measures for contaminated sites. This would be done through suitable adaptation of EU policy and regulations to the Indian situation. In this connection, a study tour by officials to Europe is proposed.

Emphasising the need to bring about efficiency in resource use both for generation of employment and reducing the pressure on the balance of payments, Ms. Smadja said that there was an imperative need for public private partnerships. Business in India needed to step up their efforts in research and innovation in building sustainable waste management technologies.

**Mr. Harsh Pati Singhania, immediate past President, FICCI & Managing Director, JK Paper Ltd.** pointed out that an evolving policy to tackle the issue of waste management is a necessity. FICCI, he said, feels it is time that the government revisits and amends the municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, in consultation with all stakeholders.

Apart from the policy and regulatory framework, there are also several bottlenecks in waste management, especially with the implementation of Public Private Partnership (PPP). Mr. Singhania said that there is a necessity to streamline and evolve separate guidelines for PPP project in waste management. FICCI has set up a Sub Group on Policy Interventions for Municipal Solid Waste management PPPs and is already working on these issues of enhancing PPP projects in waste management with the Industry and Government of India,

especially with ministry of Urban Development, which finances the implementation of waste management projects under JNNURM.

He said that there are number of issues that need to be sorted out including for example the issue of tipping fee for solid waste management services for encouraging private sector participation. There is also a need to propagate education to bring about greater awareness on the benefits of segregation and waste management especially in schools. It is possible to find ways and means of achieving this through regular dialogue and engagement by all the stakeholders in this sector and the MSW Public Private Partnership Forum is precisely aimed at this.

**Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, former Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Honorary,** said that a number of municipalities in India were under the impression that management of waste streams would be taken up by the private sector. In practice, to make that happen, a tipping fee would have to be paid out, he said.

The inaugural session was also addressed by **Mr. Ashwin Shroff, Chairman, FICCI Environment Committee & Chairman and Managing Director, Excel Industries Ltd., and Mr. Raman Nanda, Co-Chairman, FICCI Environment Committee & Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd.**

The 2-day conclave will deliberate on the new developments in Policy, Regulatory Reforms and Implementation Status; PPP in Waste Management; State Government Initiatives in Municipal Solid Waste Management; Hazardous Waste Management in Industrial Clusters; Clean Technologies for Sustainable Waste Management; Financing Waste Management Projects; and Identifying Waste to Energy Opportunities in Industrial Sectors.

**MEDIA DIVISION**