

# Solving an environmental conflict related to waste management in Italy

## Tavolo di Garanzia della Provincia di Modena

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### Abstract

The case described in these notes is one of the few and most innovative examples of environmental disputes resolution processes experimented in Italy. In the face of a number of environmental and local conflicts, concerning waste management as well as other controversial public policy issues, there are very few cases in our country of decision making processes explicitly aimed at preventing or solving such conflicts.

The case concerns the set up of an *Advisory Committee* for the implementation of the Provincial Waste Management Plan (PPGR) of the Province of Modena (660.000 inhabitants, situated in Emilia Romagna).

The aim of the Advisory Committee, composed by a number of different actors, representatives of all the stakeholders, is to follow the implementation of the PPGR ensuring that the plan is respected in its different strategies (waste reduction, separate collection, re-use and recycling, energy recovery from waste, disposal) and that it attains its objectives. The idea of setting up an Advisory Committee, proposed by the research institute Avanzi, was accepted by the Provincial administration in the face of strong local opposition when the draft PPGR was issued in 2004.

The process for the Set Up of the Committee is divided in three phases:

- a *Conflict Assessment*
- a series of *Preparatory Workshops*
- the start up of the *Advisory Committee* itself

The first phase took place in June 2005 and aimed at better understanding the objectives, the interests and the points of view about the Plan of all the relevant actors involved in waste management at provincial level.

After the conflict assessment phase, which produced report, used as a basis for subsequent work, there were a number of *Preparatory Workshops*, aimed at setting up the ideal conditions for the Advisory Committee itself. In particular, the topics discussed during the Preparatory Workshops concerned the composition of the table and the balance between different kind of actors, the basic rules, frequency of meetings, voting rights, publicity and transparency. This phase ended up in November 2005 with the approval of a Statute for the Advisory Committee.

The meetings of the Advisory Committee itself started in December 2005. The committee is composed by 11 members, that are distributed among different actors:

- Province of Modena 1 (president)
- Municipalities 3
- ATO (Local Agency for Public Services) 1
- Environmental NGOs and citizens' groups 3
- Consumer organisations 1
- Trade organisations 2 (one for industry and one for commerce)
- Other subjects (controlling agencies, technical experts, waste management companies), can take part, if invited, but they can not vote

The Advisory Committee is still working, and therefore it is not easy to evaluate its performance, with regard to the declared objectives of its activity. Nevertheless, it is important to underline some first important results in terms of process: the main result up to now is the endorsement of the Advisory Committee by all the participants, that recognise the importance of the work done together, even in the diversity of opinions. This is especially true speaking of the main opposers to the Draft Waste Management Plan issued in 2004, that acknowledge the importance and the innovative approach of the joint effort undertaken by the Province and the other stakeholders and that take part actively in the works of the committee itself.

## Reference

R.Nicolini, M.Bartolomeo, *Il Tavolo Permanente di Garanzia del Piano Provinciale dei Rifiuti di Modena. Alcune considerazioni su un'esperienza innovativa*, unpublished paper, December 2005

[www.provincia.modena.it](http://www.provincia.modena.it)