** Brussels Policy Briefing no. 28**

***Addressing Food Waste in Times of Crisis***

*26 June 2012*

*European Commission, Borschette Building, Room 2D*

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

**Transforming Food Waste into a Resource.**

**Last Minute Market – a win-win case study**

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***Executive Summary***

Starting from an analysis of the contemporary food scenario, one marked by rising food prices, growing numbers of hungry people, an emerging politics of food scarcity, water shortage, declining resources, enormous quantity of wasted food and obesity, our presentation aims at providing a framework of the new emerging trends in food waste policies.

Precise global and national data on food waste are still lacking. It is difficult to compare the amount of food waste today with that in the past, because historical data have not been registered. Although figures are notoriously poor and unreliable, they suggest that food waste takes place along the whole supply chain and that it’s a world phenomenon – common to both developed and developing countries (although for different reasons) – compromising the overall food security.

Food waste is a market and policy failure - as well as a matter of education and awareness - that shouldn’t be neglected…but food waste can also become a resource and an opportunity: reuse and recycle should turn into the new key word of the 21st century.

Our presentation focuses on food waste in Europe and in Italy and introduces Last Minute Market- a successful academic spin-off launched in 2000 at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Bologna by Prof Andrea Segrè. Last Minute Market is considered to be a 360° action against waste and a win-win model as all the stakeholders involved in it obtain benefits. Last Minute Market is explained in details and its nutritional, economic and environmental impacts are presented.

We conclude by presenting the Joint Declaration against Food Waste, Last Minute Market’s awareness campaign “A year against food waste” and the European Resolution against Food Waste: aim of these actions is to take position in order to reduce by 50% the global food waste by 2025.

The presentation concludes by stressing the need for a new comprehensive, integrated, multisectoral and multilevel action that focuses on sufficiency , transparency and efficiency to reduce food waste.