



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Association of Cities & Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) and the Reuse and Recycling EU Social Enterprises Network (RREUSE) call upon MEPs to consider the following key issues on the Commission's proposal of 3.12.2008 Directive 2002/96/EC on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

[Brussels, 22nd of February 2010]

The original WEEE Directive was drafted to impose producer responsibility for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). Producer responsibility is not a goal in itself; it is a policy instrument that aims at delivering a number of policy goals¹:

1. To encourage eco-design: the basic idea behind producer responsibility is that producers, once they are confronted with the treatment of the waste of their own products, will start creating better products that contain less hazardous materials and are easier to re-use or recycle.
2. To enhance re-use and recycling: by setting targets for re-use and recycling, producer responsibility will lead to more re-use and recycling, especially for those products for which the recycling market has not developed because of the high cost of recycling.
3. To include environmental costs in the product price: producer responsibility should lead to the inclusion of the environmental costs into the product price, which ensures that product prices reflect the hidden costs of waste management and which contributes to the polluter-pays-principle.

ACR+ and RREUSE believe that achieving these goals are a necessity in setting further steps on the road to a recycling society. The current WEEE Directive did however only partially deliver on these objectives. The recast of the WEEE Directive is an opportunity to set things straight and to make sure the Directive delivers on all goals.

We therefore strongly advocate for the following:

- Incorporate rules in the Directive on fees and financing in order to:
 - **Relate fees to product reusability or recyclability** which contributes to eco-design.
 - Encourage producers' compliance schemes to set up completely **transparent** and accountable financing schemes in order to improve acceptance by the public and to prevent misuse.
 - Make producers responsible for **all WEEE management costs** from the moment EEE becomes WEEE, so that the tax payer is no longer co-financing the producer's responsibility.

¹ Directive 2002/96/EC, preamble (nrs 1, 12, 15, 19), art. 1, art. 5, 1, (a), art. 8, 1, art. 7.



- Set a **separate target** in the Directive for **re-use**, in order to prevent re-use from becoming overlooked by compliance schemes.
- Ensure the improved **collection rates** apply to at least each product category individually, to prevent a focus on the collection of only heavy equipment.
- To tackle illegal trade:
 - **Improve monitoring and reporting** of WEEE to increase traceability.
 - **Enforce** rules on trade of second hand EEE.
 - Give priority to repair and re-use of WEEE inside the EU and establish simple and clear criteria to ensure adequate monitoring and inspection mechanisms for export of reusable items

ACR+ and RREUSE strongly believe that, if the above-mentioned proposals are taken into account, better regulation and better environmental results can be achieved.

More information:

POSITION PAPER - ACR+ WEEE-PIN / RREUSE views on WEEE-recast:

<http://www.acrplus.org/weee-pin>

<http://www.rreuse.org/t3/fileadmin/documents/00247-Position-paper-WEEE-PIN-wrt-revised-WEEE-directive-2010-02-22.pdf>

*The **Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+)** is an international network of members who share the common aim of promoting the sustainable consumption of resources and management of waste through prevention at source, re-use and recycling. ACR+ currently has close to 100 members, mainly local and regional authorities as well as national networks of local authorities representing around 750 municipalities. ACR+ also welcomes other key layers in the sustainable resource-product-waste management, such as NGO's, academic institutions or private organisations, as partner members.*

*The **Reuse and Recycling EU Social Enterprises (RREUSE) network** is the European federation of social enterprises with re-use, repair and recycling activities. RREUSE members are national and regional networks which combine social, economic and environmental objectives and give them equal emphasis. Approximately 42,000 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees and over 150,000 volunteers work throughout our 19 member organisations across 10 EU Member States. Although structures and national contexts are diverse, RREUSE members share common elements such as the protection of the environment, the fight against poverty and, especially, the progress of disadvantaged people back into the labour market. RREUSE's main goal is to put sustainable development into practice by encouraging job creation and social inclusion in the field of waste prevention and sustainable waste management activities.*

For further information

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