

***Minutes of the second meeting of the  
WEEE-Public Interest Network  
held on 25<sup>th</sup> April in Brussels***

**Introduction of the Meeting by Christof Delatter (INTERAFVAL)**

Everybody introduces him/herself. No comments are done about the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. **Chr. Delatter** reminds that 3 decisions were taken at this first meeting:

- to create an internet discussion forum for the members of WEEE-PIN
- to create a questionnaire to gather information
- to take initiatives to develop the WEEE-PIN.

These points shall be further discussed in the afternoon.

**Chr. Delatter** then welcomes **Kurt van der Herten** of the EU Commission, who has accepted an invitation to come and present the preparatory work already done and the revision process of the WEEE Directive.

**Presentation of Kurt van der Herten, EU Commission, DG Unit G.4.**

Mr Van der Herten gives a presentation on the review process of the Directive and answers to the questions of attendants.

(The presentation will be communicated in due course to the participants as a separate pdf document.)

All events or initiatives related to the consultation process can be found at :

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/events\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/events_en.htm)

All studies mentioned are or will be published at :

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/studies\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/studies_en.htm)

On behalf of WEEE-Pin, Chr. Delatter thanks K. Van der Herten for this interesting exchange of information

**Next WEEE-PIN meeting**

Next WEEE-PIN meeting will be on **28<sup>th</sup> September in Amsterdam**, in the scope of the ISWA World congress

**C. Saintmard** will be in touch with M. Goorhuis for the practical organization and keep participants informed.

### Roundtable on the morning discussion

The following comments are made :

- the initial ambition and principles of the Directive (i.e. drive Eco-design, prevention, reuse) are being lost within technical discussions – this is the main risk in the following months indeed. Notably, the Directive is currently based on article 175 of the EC Treaty which allows Member States to go further than the Directive in order to ensure better environmental protection and to create tailor-made legislation for the specifics of each national situation. The reassessment of the juridical basis of the Directive is concerning.
- need to clarify the relations between WEEE-PIN and other bodies inside the consultation and to organize a clear lobby
- the revision seems to take very much into account up to now the producer's point of view in order to make EPR easier for them; LRAs need to make their voice heard
- treatment requirements are not ambitious; they should be further defined instead of eliminated
- WEEE-PIN appears to be a key data provider for informing the revision process
- WEEE-PIN shall seek a better representation from more EU countries
- common views on PR definition and on key issues shall be outlined in order to present a common understanding from LRAs

### Report of the technical working group on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007 (Chr. Delatter)

(See PPT in annex)

Main points of conclusions :

- interesting discussions and first-hand information (ex : DG Enterprise also ordered a study on PR in the field of WEEE) but :
- unbalanced representation and one-sided debate
- risk of lowering environmental standards and having basic principles like creating a low threshold collection system out of the Directive
- whole discussion on costs and benefits / eco-efficiency (too expensive might be put out of the scope of the directive, which looks like cherry-picking for the producers)
- communication = tasks of governments

### Results of press release from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007

**C. Saintmard** comments that 4 articles were published by the EU environmental press on the basis of the previous press release :

- ENDS Daily
- Greensupplyline  
<http://greensupplyline.com/howto/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=FJRDHQZZPWATUQSN-DLRCKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=198700209>
- ICLEI newsletter (issue n°8)  
[http://www.iclei-europe.org/fileadmin/template/iclei/ICLEI\\_IS/files/Newsletter/ICLEI\\_in\\_Europe\\_News\\_March\\_2007.pdf](http://www.iclei-europe.org/fileadmin/template/iclei/ICLEI_IS/files/Newsletter/ICLEI_in_Europe_News_March_2007.pdf)

- Waste management World March-April  
(see links or documents sent together with these minutes)

2 demands of participation from ACR+ members were expressed (LAVU, A and Milton Keynes, UK).

For the next press release, direct contacts with people from EP or press could be sought.

### News from the WEEE-sector

\*Solving The E-Waste Problem (STEP) Initiative ([www.step-initiative.org](http://www.step-initiative.org))

\*Partnership between ERP & 1WEEE Services Association ; contact will be taken by Chr. Delatter and N. Garnier with the ERP European Direction in order to seek their views on the Directive's revision process

\*Press release of RAL (will be put on ACR+ website)

\*Joint statement on Individual Producer Responsibility by Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, EEB, and a range of various producers

\*CECED press release against the reuse of WEEE (Sept 06)

\*Orgalime paper (Feb 07)

(see links or documents sent with these minutes)

**M. Goorhuis** reports that the Dutch government recently looked at PR systems. The main conclusion of its investigations were :

- PR systems do not contribute to eco-design
- PR systems lack transparency
- PR systems collect a huge amount of money
- there is no ideal solution between individual and collective systems or competition between systems; first ones require clear assignments to eco-organisms; second ones transparency, in the last case clear agreements on responsibilities are necessary (e.g.: clear and equal rules for financing the efforts of LRA's).

### The way forward

#### ***Data collection exercise***

The questionnaire communicated to members is reviewed.

Some corrections are being brought.

Additional info will be included, like who we are, why this questionnaire, how it will be used and which feedback will be given to respondents.

First the questionnaire is going to be tested by :

- LIPOR
- AMORCE
- INTERAFVAL
- NVRD

**By 16<sup>th</sup> May.**

Then it will be sent **by 21<sup>st</sup> May** :

- to each WEEE-PIN member (which are asked to fill it in individually)
- and to targeted people in EU countries (ACR+ members and other contacts, especially in Eastern Countries). Everybody is asked to build on his / her personal contacts.

C. Saintmard and Chr. Delatter will gather information from WEEE-PIN members and produce a clear comparative report showing especially what is taken into charge by producers or not. This report will be submitted to all contributors before being communicated to the EU Commission and its subcontractors

### ***Timetable***

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHO</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> May 07	Fill-in test	Amorce, Interafval, Lipor; NVRD
18 <sup>th</sup> May 07	Corrections	C. Saintmard
21 <sup>st</sup> May 07	Sending of the questionnaire at a large scale	C. Saintmard
1 <sup>st</sup> June 07	Reminder	C. Saintmard
15 <sup>th</sup> June 07	Deadline for sending back the questionnaires	WEEE PIN participants
June 07	Completion of information	C. Saintmard / Chr. Delatter
July 07	Work on report	C. Saintmard / Chr. Delatter
August/ Sept 07	Communication of a draft report and feedback	WEEE PIN participants
28 <sup>th</sup> September 07	Third meeting of WEEE-PIN	WEEE PIN participants

Chr. Becker mentions interesting reports on the US EPA website; M. Goorhuis and O. Meeuws the UK DTI reports (Perchards). These documents could be used as a basis and completed by the collected information. JP Hannequart mentions a comparative study requested by IBGE and insists on the fact that this collection exercise should not prevent WEEE-PIN members from working on a common understanding of principles like :

- “public interest”
  - “producer responsibility”
- ... as it appears essential to develop a lobbying strategy.

### ***WEEE-PIN positions on various point of views***

Chr. Delatter proposes some WEEE-PIN members to develop their ideas on the 6 main topics of work identified on 16<sup>th</sup> February + 2 topics which have come forward since then (1-page document to be communicated **by 31<sup>st</sup> May**).

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHO</b>
1) Reuse issue	K. Thomas

2) Financial aspects	N. Garnier
3) One or several PR compliance schemes ?	J. Allard
4) Transparency of organizations	M. Jadot
5) collection, recycling, treatment (markets, choice of operators, standards)	Chr. Becker
6) B2B – B2C	J. Allard
7) targets in general	C. Saintmard
8) Principle of Producer Responsibility	JP Hannequart

The documents shall be circulated among WEEE-PIN members during the month of June.

Chr. Delatter and C. Saintmard shall then build on these to develop a draft position paper to be discussed in Amsterdam, next September.

### ***Introduction by N Garnier of the current situation in France***

(see detailed PPT attached)

2 main problems :

- as soon as the system reaches the targets, it stops developing further
- the presence of several eco-organisms and the complexity of rules leads to a “fossilized” and weak system, which at the end does not foster competition at all.

### ***RREUSE and CEMR***

Both organizations were invited to participate in this second meeting. Their feedback is positive :

**S. Chevassus (CEMR)** thinks that his organization could usefully cooperate with the WEEE-PIN and develop synergies.

**K. Thomas (RREUSE)** wants to cooperate with the initiative, as social economy enterprises are dependant on LRAs to solve the reuse aspects.

**JP Hannequart** proposes that the previous positions of CEMR, RREUSE and also Eurocities are communicated to WEEE-PIN, and that they support officially the WEEE-PIN. This would allow to strengthen the initiative.

He adds that as ACR+ is a thematic platform focused on waste, which can invite LRAs on a larger basis to take part in the platform.

### ***Forum & website***

A discussion page seems to be an easier system than a forum. Although the option has been investigated by ACR+ secretariat, no simple way of creating it has been found up to now. Some further research will be made by C. Saintmard (not. via www.yahoo.com)

It is also proposed to develop a specific website for the WEEE-PIN over time, as this would raise its visibility. **C. Saintmard** will investigate the opportunity as well and inform participants **by 20<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Workshops & Seminars on WEEE**

- \*Workshop organized by the German presidency on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May (Brussels)
- \*Seminar on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May (Brussels)
- \*Eco-x Conference (KERP, Vienna) on 9-11 May <http://www.eco-x.at/index.php?id=85>
- \*Belgium-China closed workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> – 22 May
- \*TAC meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June
- \*AGRA Europe 18-19 September (Brussels)

(See links or documents attached)

**Letter to Commissioner Dimas**

It is agreed that a letter should be prepared in order to draw his attention on the fact that LRA's are not involved enough in the revision process, ask that in the running studies the impact on LRA's is more investigated, and propose the setting up of a specific workshop, only for representatives from LRA's

**Elaboration of a draft press release from representatives of participating Cities and Regions (see attached)**

**Message :**

- not to step back and not revise rules before they are implemented
    - o to keep first the basic principles of the WEEE Directive and implement them by giving more precisions, not by deregulating the matter
    - o need to strengthen the PR aspects and the environmental issues
  - the revision process is too "market-oriented" at the moment; LRAs want their voice to be heard
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