



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Audrey Martin

Email: am@acrplus.org

Tel: +32 2 234 65 07

**COLLECTION OF ELECTRONIC WASTE
European Commission is revising a Directive which has hardly been
implemented**

[Brussels, 31 March 2008] A survey performed by the WEEE Public Interest Network (WEEE-PIN)¹ shows that the 2002/96/EC Directive on WEEE (waste from electrical and electronic equipment) was transposed **late** and **imperfectly** in most of the Member States. There is big variety in interpreting definitions, allocating responsibilities and financial mechanisms.

The WEEE Public Interest Network (WEEE-PIN) met for the fourth time on 26 March. During this meeting, more details were presented concerning the data gathering exercise performed in the past few months by ACR+. Details about the implementation of the WEEE-Directive in **13** Member States show that the transposition of the Directive has been late, inconsistent and very diverse.

Producers are widely using separate collection systems established by municipalities, but in most cases without paying the full price of the service. This creates unfair competition for EEE producers that are taking up their responsibility individually. In many countries, there is insufficient information about the total cost of collection, transportation and treatment of WEEE.

WEEE-PIN also noticed a lack of information on the achievements such as collected, recycled, recovered and disposed amounts of WEEE.

In most countries, local and regional authorities are unsatisfied with the transposition of the WEEE-Directive as they are facing different kinds of problems:

- **regulatory aspects** – lack of clarity in regulation, non-existent or limited reuse market
- **operational** – too many producers' compliance schemes, several logistical problems due to disagreement between producers' organisations and local authorities
- **technical** – lack of space at collection sites
- **financial issues** – unwillingness of producers to accept local authorities' costs

¹ The WEEE-PIN was created within ACR+ (Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management) and represents local and regional public authorities on WEEE issues at European level. It aims to help clarify the WEEE Directive, as the way it has been implemented in Europe is confusing and inconsistent.



- **executive** – lack of transparency in tendering procedures and issues with exports.

Therefore, WEEE-PIN members would like to emphasise:

- the necessity of clear financial responsibility of producers starting from the moment the consumer discards WEEE, as based on the 'polluter pays principle'
- introduction of reuse targets together with developing standard quality criteria for reused WEEE
- the necessity to establish measures to guarantee transparency and accessibility on the operations of producers' compliance schemes – treatment channels, details on fund raising.

WEEE-PIN members would like the above-mentioned proposals to be taken into consideration in the formulation of a new WEEE Directive or in the revision process.

In an upcoming series of press releases, WEEE-PIN members will focus more precisely on 10 recommendations from local and regional authorities for improving WEEE management.

*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, reuse and recycling. ACR+ currently has about 90 members, mainly local and regional authorities as well as national networks of local authorities representing around 750 municipalities. ACR+ also welcomes other key players in the sustainable resource-product-waste management, such as NGOs, academic institutions or private organisations, as partner members.*

For further information:

Audrey Martin - Email: am@acrplus.org - Tel: +32 2 234 65 07 - www.acrplus.org/WEEE-PIN

Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Resource management (ACR+)
Avenue d'Auderghem 63 - 1040 Brussels

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