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Press Release

Eurometaux welcomes the EP ENVI Committee 2nd reading vote on “recast proposals for the Waste Electric & Electronic Equipment Directive”

Eurometaux welcomes the EP ENVI Committee's recognition of the importance of WEEE as a secondary source for critical raw materials as expressed through the vote on 4 October in second reading of the report prepared by MEP Florenz on the recast of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive.

Eurometaux believes that the strong incentives for Member States to collect all WEEE separately and the ambitious collection target to be achieved at Member State level will contribute to increased recycling of WEEE in Europe. Eurometaux welcomes the introduction of the 6 product category approach, with a dedicated category for small IT and telecommunication equipment. All parties involved in the collection of WEEE/used EEE are critical to enhancing collection and recycling, including consumers, who need to be better informed about WEEE and used EEE deposit places; and retailers, to increase access to collection points and encourage consumers to return small appliances.

Eurometaux also endorses the requests for the Commission to ask the European standardisation organisations to develop harmonized standards for the collection, storage, transport, treatment, recycling, and repair of WEEE, and the preparation for the re-use of EEE.

We support the ENVI Committee's decision to adopt certain measures that address WEEE entering into parallel (illegal) circuits and illegal shipments of WEEE on the pretext of being used EEE, such as:

- The use of acknowledged collection and treatment facilities, combined with increased reporting requirements for all actors involved in collection and treatment of WEEE and used EEE, which will contribute to a better understanding of material flows; and
- The request for Member States to focus their inspections on used EEE and the imposition of the burden of proof on parties shipping used EEE, in the form of documentation and specific packaging/stacking requirements.

Eurometaux believes that the above measures will improve the valorisation of the raw materials contained in WEEE, thereby contributing to the efficient and sustainable use of these materials, and also to the EU's aim to move towards a recycling society.

Eurometaux believes, however, that two additional points would strengthen the ENVI Committee's ambitious approach, namely:

- The calculation of the collection targets on the basis of EEE placed on the market rather than WEEE generated; and
- The introduction of a combined recycling and re-use target to ensure sustainability arguments (e.g. energy consumption) or the existence of a market for re-usable products can be taken into consideration.

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