

**INFORMATION GATHERING EXERCISE
TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR THE REVIEW OF
DIRECTIVE 2002/96/EC
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
ON WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE)**

1. A REQUEST TO YOU FOR INFORMATION

The European Commission has launched investigations to gather information for a review of Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). The review will look at future targets for the WEEE Directive and whether certain aspects of the Directive could be changed to further improve the way it works. Details of this review are given at DG Environment's webpage http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/weee_index.htm.

This request is your opportunity to provide information upon which the succeeding steps in the review process can be based. You can, in that sense, contribute to the outcome of the review and, potentially, the future operation of the WEEE Directive.

2. WHAT IS BEING ASKED FOR

In order to assess the environmental, economic and social impacts of the Directive and the various revision options, the Commission services are seeking information on a wide range of issues. The information we are looking for includes, among other, both public and private sector statistics, information on operations, costs and benefits, scientific and technical information on the issues listed below:

1. Waste streams
2. Future resource markets
3. Re-use
4. Collection and collection-scheme operation
5. Impact of producer responsibility provisions of the WEEE Directive and or their implementation
6. Innovation and design
7. Technology to treat, process or dispose of WEEE
8. Environmental impacts from different treatments of WEEE
9. Economic impacts and practicality of different treatments of WEEE
10. Scope
11. Any other subject related to the provisions of the Directive

**NOTE: THIS INFORMATION GATHERING EXERCISE SERVES TO COLLECT
INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECTS SET OUT IN THIS NOTE RATHER THAN OPINIONS ON
THE REVIEW PROCESS OR THE CONTENT OF THE REVIEW.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIST ABOVE SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS A NON-
EXHAUSTIVE LIST**

Section 5 contains a series of more detailed questions on these topics, which indicate more precisely the information needed. Both formal reports that you know of, and less formal information are welcome, though, at this stage we are looking for facts rather than opinions. Please provide information on any of these topics where you have relevant knowledge.

You are invited to send your information by 11 August 2006.

3. HOW TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

You can provide information either electronically or on paper.

- To send information electronically, please send it by email to:
ENV-WEEE@ec.europa.eu
- Written or printed information should be sent to:
European Commission
DG Environment, Unit G4
Info Gathering, Directive 2002/96/EC (WEEE)
B-1049, Brussels, Belgium.

We are also interested to learn what information may become available in the future. If you know of any forthcoming information that may become available or which you could provide after 11 August 2006, please communicate what the information will cover and when it will be available. This information can be provided through the same channels.

For each of the information documents or reports, the following information needs to be provided in case it is not obvious from what you send in.

1. Name of the submitter or submitting organisation
2. Title of the study or information document
3. Confidential/non-confidential
4. Finished/draft
5. Date of publication if appropriate

4. ASSISTANCE AND FURTHER QUESTIONS

The European Commission has contracted BIO Intelligence Service to help you understand the process and provide information. They will respond to any questions you have about the information gathering exercise. They can be contacted through the e-mail and postal addresses above, or by telephone on: +33 (0)1 56 20 28 98 (ask for the WEEE project team).

The information received from you and from other stakeholders – unless requested otherwise – will be made available on the CIRCA web-site: http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/weee_2008/home. This will allow stakeholders to see which pieces of information have already been provided, and to see where you might most usefully provide additional information.

Responses submitted electronically will be posted on this web site as they are received, unless respondents specifically request that their contribution should not be publicised. We are very happy to receive information in confidence. In this case, responses should be clearly and visibly marked with the words "*Not for publication*". If you would like written confirmation of our confidentiality, please ask.

5. ISSUES ON WHICH WE SEEK INFORMATION

1. Waste streams

- Current and future flows of WEEE in each Member State, accession and candidate country
- Material composition of current and future flows of this WEEE

2. Future resource markets

- Likely trends in resource markets for those materials found in WEEE and their corresponding recycle markets.
- Potential future markets for a range of recycled material and energy from waste/recyclates.

3. Re-use

- Current levels of re-use of different WEEE
- Opportunities for greater re-use of products or parts of products
- Barriers to greater re-use of products or parts of products
- Environmental, Economic and Social costs and benefits of greater re-use
- Examples of best and worst practices in re-use schemes for WEEE

4. Collection and collection-scheme operation

- Organisation of national collection schemes
- Costs of the schemes and access fees charged to companies
- Collection mechanisms for different WEEE streams
- Administrative requirements in each Member State
- Capacity to increase or reduce collection targets for different WEEE streams and associated costs
- Funding of different collection schemes, particularly in relation to future waste arising;
- The accuracy of the allocation of charges between producers;
- Administrative costs from compliance with different requirements of various national registration and financing schemes, measured in accordance with the Commission Impact Assessment Guidelines methodology;
- Differences in labelling requirements between nations.

5. Impact of producer responsibility provisions of the WEEE Directive and of their implementation

- Evidence of free-riding and distortions in the internal market for EEE
- Enforcement and monitoring of compliance
- Impact of WEEE Directive on trade between Member States and on the global market
- The impact of the producer definition applying the definition to the national territory of the Member State ("national approach"), the inclusion of distance

selling into the definition of producer, the use of the term “put on the market”, the national producer register, the financing obligations

- The interactions of different national collection and financing schemes when products move across national borders
- Competition issues including supply chain issues and in particular impacts on SMEs
- Impacts and potential for establishment of a European (or regional) Clearing House for WEEE producer responsibility or the establishment of a harmonised framework for information exchange and transfer of obligations.

6. Innovation and design

- Impacts of the WEEE Directive (rather than ROHS) on innovation in EEE products
- Impacts of the WEEE Directive on technology for treatment of WEEE or development of new recycle markets

7. Technology to treat, process or dispose of WEEE

- Capacities and inputs/outputs for existing technologies for sorting, treatment, including recovery, recycling and disposal of WEEE
- Likely and potential capacities and inputs/outputs for future technologies for sorting, treatment, including recovery, recycling and disposal of WEEE.

8. Environmental impacts from different treatments of WEEE

- The environmental impacts of different treatments of different WEEE categories or products in different Member States; in particular the following environmental impact categories: climate change, acidification, tropospheric ozone, eutrophication, toxic substances dispersion and disposal of final solid waste
- The environmental impacts of treatment of different materials (in particular greenhouse gases)
- the knock-on effects of treatment of WEEE or its materials, in particular substitution of other materials or energy sources taking into account the full life-cycle of products
- Quantification and, if possible, monetisation.

9. Economic impacts and practicality of different treatments of WEEE

- Economic costs and benefits of existing and potential future treatments for WEEE
- Costs of Shredding and Post-Shredder Treatments
- Capital costs of process machinery
- Operational costs of treatment processes, including administrative costs
- Possible revenues from the sale of secondary materials (or energy)
- Avoided costs e.g. of municipal waste management as a result of the obligatory separate treatment
- Capacities of the European market for the operations mentioned per category of WEEE bottlenecks for the outputs of these operations, in particular for the recycling of plastics
- Any impact on the competitiveness of EU enterprises, and if so, how significant that is and how the impact is distributed

10. Scope

- References to WEEE above are to be taken broadly and should include WEEE which is not included within the provisions of the current WEEE Directive, so that sufficient data can be gathered to assess whether products with significant environmental impacts could be included in the Directive.

11. Any other subject related to the provisions of the Directive

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the review process and its outcomes will be provided at DG Environments Europa website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/weee_index.htm

Neither the fact that an information gathering exercise is being launched, nor the results of this exercise should be interpreted as a political or legal signal that the Commission intends to take a given action.

