

Waste statistics - electrical and electronic equipment

Statistics Explained

*Data from: October 2025
Planned update: October 2026*

Highlights

In 2023, 11.6 kg of electrical and electronic equipment waste were collected per inhabitant in the EU. In 2023, Bulgaria, Latvia and Slovakia achieved the target of collecting 65% of waste electrical and electronic equipment, based on the amount of such equipment put on the market in the 3 previous years. In 2023, Poland achieved the target of collecting 85% of waste electrical and electronic equipment, based on the amount of such equipment generated in the same year.

This article provides an overview of processed amounts of [waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\)](#) in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) and in the [EFTA countries](#). It is based on data collected within the framework of [Directive 2012/19/EU](#) on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE Directive).

The objective of the WEEE Directive is to promote collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment and recovery, recycling and preparation for reuse of this waste, in order to reduce the quantity disposed. In 2023, the collection rate of WEEE in the European Union was 37.5% (measured as the weight of WEEE collected relative to the average weight of electronic equipment put on the market in the 3 preceding years, i.e. 2020-2022).

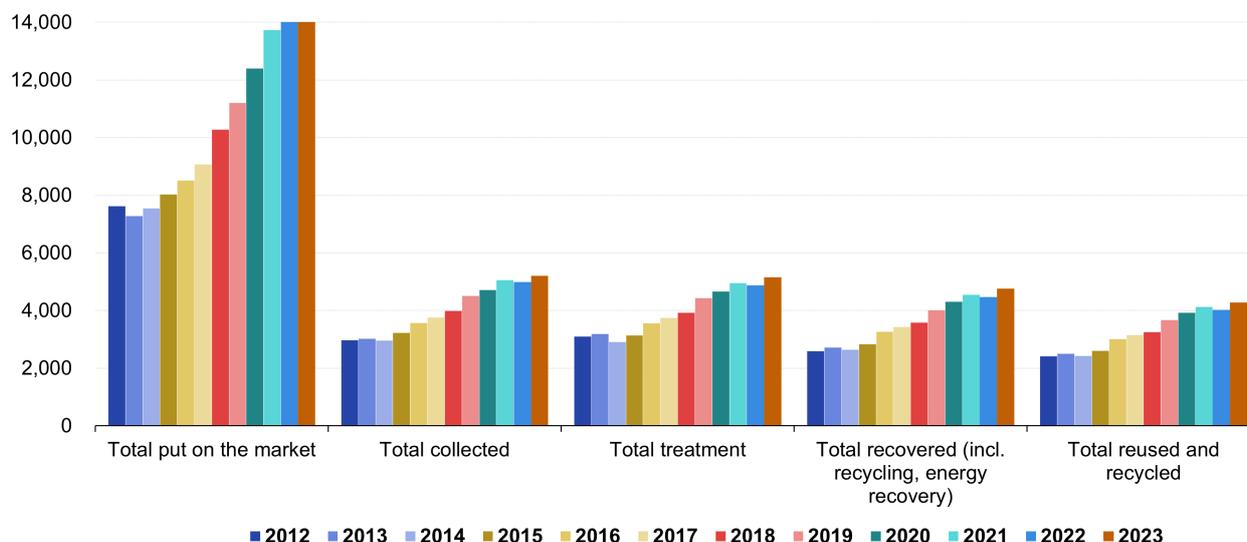
Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) put on the market and WEEE processed in the EU

Figure 1 shows the trends in the amount of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) put on the market and in WEEE collected, treated, recovered, recycled and prepared for reuse in the EU in the years from 2012 to 2023. Missing data for some EU countries have been estimated in order to show the developments for the EU as a whole. Information on the lifespan of EEE products from the year they are put on the market to the year when they become waste is currently not available in the data collected for monitoring the WEEE collection target. This collection target changed in connection with the revised monitoring introduced from the reference year 2016 onwards (see the Context section below for more details).

The amount of electrical and electronic equipment put on the market in the EU evolved from 7.6 million tonnes in 2012 to a peak of 14.4 million tonnes in 2022 and 2023. Within this period, the lowest level was recorded in 2013, with 7.3 million tonnes. Over the period 2012-2023 as a whole, the amount of EEE put on the market grew by 89%. The total collected WEEE increased from 3.0 million tonnes in 2012 to 5.2 million tonnes in 2023 (+75%), while the total treated WEEE grew from 3.1 to 5.2 million tonnes (+66%) over the same period. Recovered WEEE developed from 2.6 to 4.8 million tonnes (+83%), and WEEE recycled and prepared for reuse grew from 2.4 to 4.3 million tonnes (+77%) from 2012 to 2023.

Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) put on the market and waste EEE collected, treated, recovered, recycled and prepared for reuse, EU (2012-2023)

(thousand tonnes)



Note: 2022 and 2023: Eurostat estimates

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_waseleees and env_waselee)

eurostat

Figure 1: Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) put on the market and waste EEE collected, treated, recovered, recycled and prepared for reuse, EU, 2012-2023 Sources: Eurostat (env_waseleees) and Eurostat (env_waselee)

Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) put on the market and WEEE collected by country

The recast of the [WEEE Directive \(2012/19/EU\)](#), which entered into force on 13 August 2012, introduced an increase in the collection targets step by step, taking effect from reference years 2016 and 2019, respectively. From 2016 onwards, the annual collection target for WEEE is defined as the ratio between the amount of WEEE collected in the reference year and the average weight of EEE put on the market in the 3 preceding years. The collection target was set at 45% from 2016, rising to 65% from 2019 onwards.¹ According to the derogation set out in Article 7 Point 3 of the WEEE Directive, the following EU countries could decide to postpone the achievement of the collection target until 14 August 2021: Bulgaria, Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

In Figure 2a, WEEE collected is shown as the share of the EEE put on the market. The share is calculated as the ratio of the amount of collected WEEE in 2023 in relation to the average amount of EEE put on the market in the 3 preceding years, i.e. 2020-2022. These ratios provide an overview of the EU countries' performance towards the collection targets of 45% and 65%, respectively.

In 2023, 9 EU countries surpassed the 45% WEEE collection target. In addition, 3 EU countries reported a rate close to this target, at 44.2% (France), 43.9% (Croatia), and 43.6% (Ireland).

3 EU countries (Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Latvia) achieved the more ambitious target of a 65% collection rate in 2023.

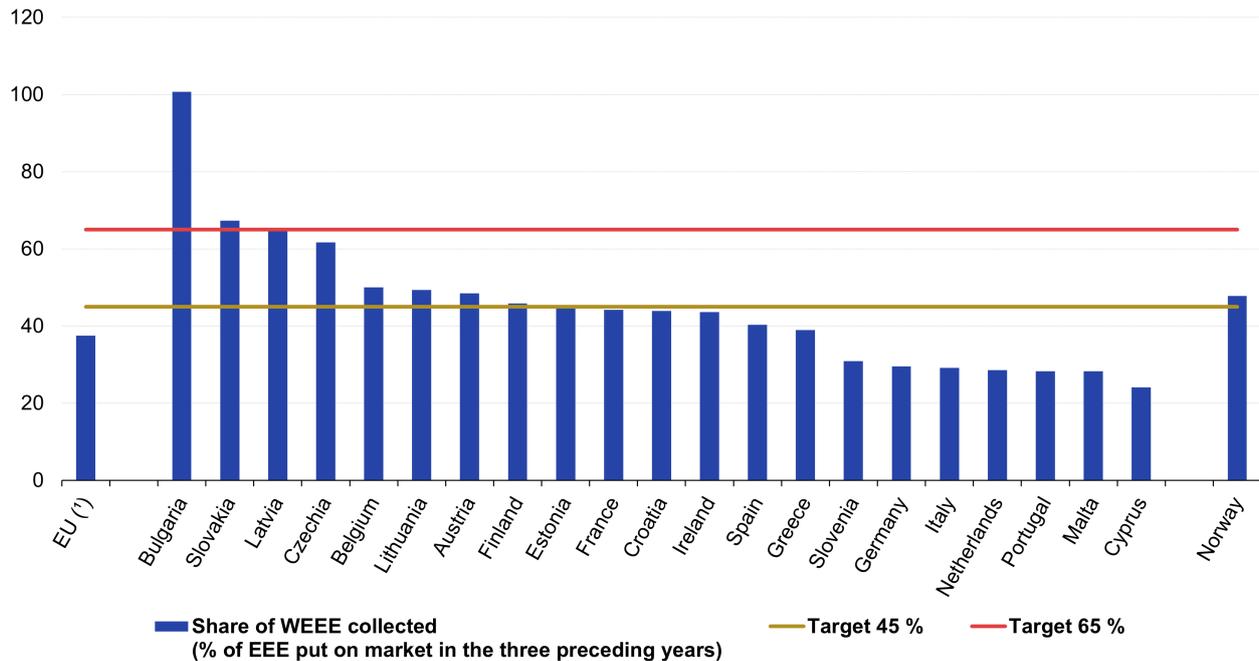
¹ From reference year 2019 onwards, the collection rate may also be calculated on the basis of WEEE generated in the same year, instead of on the basis of the average weight of EEE put on the market in the 3 preceding years. The EU countries choose which of these two methods shall be applied for assessing progress towards and achievement of the collection rate target. For 2023, Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland and Hungary have chosen to calculate the collection rate on the basis of WEEE generated in the same year. This calculation methodology is defined in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/699 as the sum, for each EEE product category, of the amount of EEE placed on the market and the estimation of the lifespan of the corresponding products. For countries applying this methodology, the collection target is set at 85% from 2019 onwards. In addition to these 4 EU countries, several other countries voluntarily provide data on WEEE generated and WEEE collection rate calculated on this basis.

Czechia reported a rate close to this more ambitious target in 2023, reporting a WEEE collection rate of 61.7%.

Figure 2b shows the collection rate calculated as the amount of collected WEEE in relation to the amount of WEEE generated in the same year. 4 EU countries (Denmark, Hungary, Luxembourg, and Poland) have chosen this methodology to calculate the collection rate. For this calculation method, the WEEE Directive sets a collection target of 85% from reference year 2019 onwards. Only Poland, achieved this target.

Total collection rate for waste electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), 2023

(% of average weight of EEE put on the market in the three preceding years)



(1) Eurostat estimate.

(2) 65 % target not applicable: Denmark, Luxembourg, Hungary, Poland.

Country applies calculation methodology based on WEEE generated: see Figure 2b.

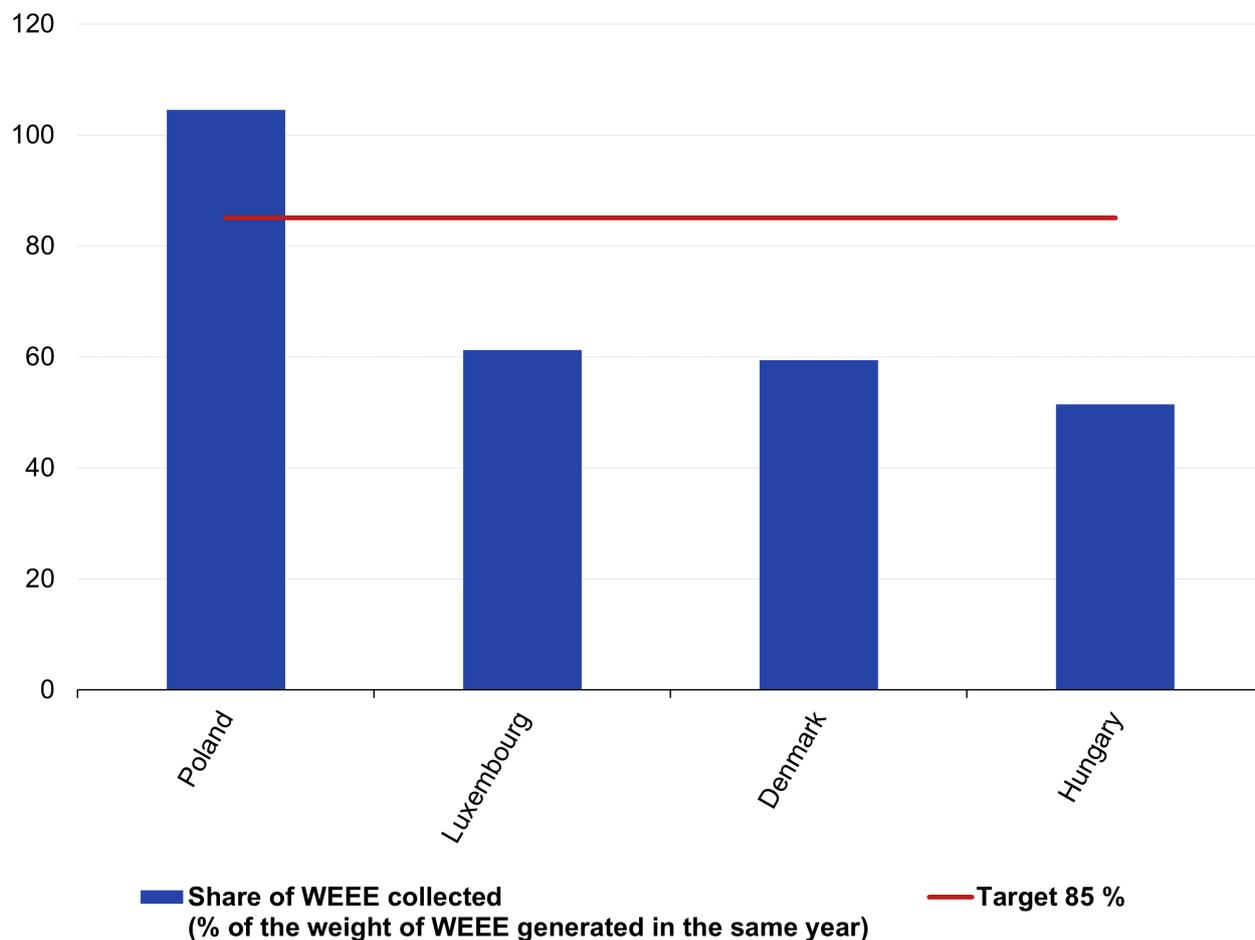
(3) No data available for Romania and Sweden

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_waseleeos)

Figure 2a: Total collection rate for waste electrical and electronic equipment, 2023 Source: Eurostat (env_waseleeos)

Total collection rate for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) as share of generated WEEE, 2023

(% of the weight of WEEE generated in the same year)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_waseleeos)

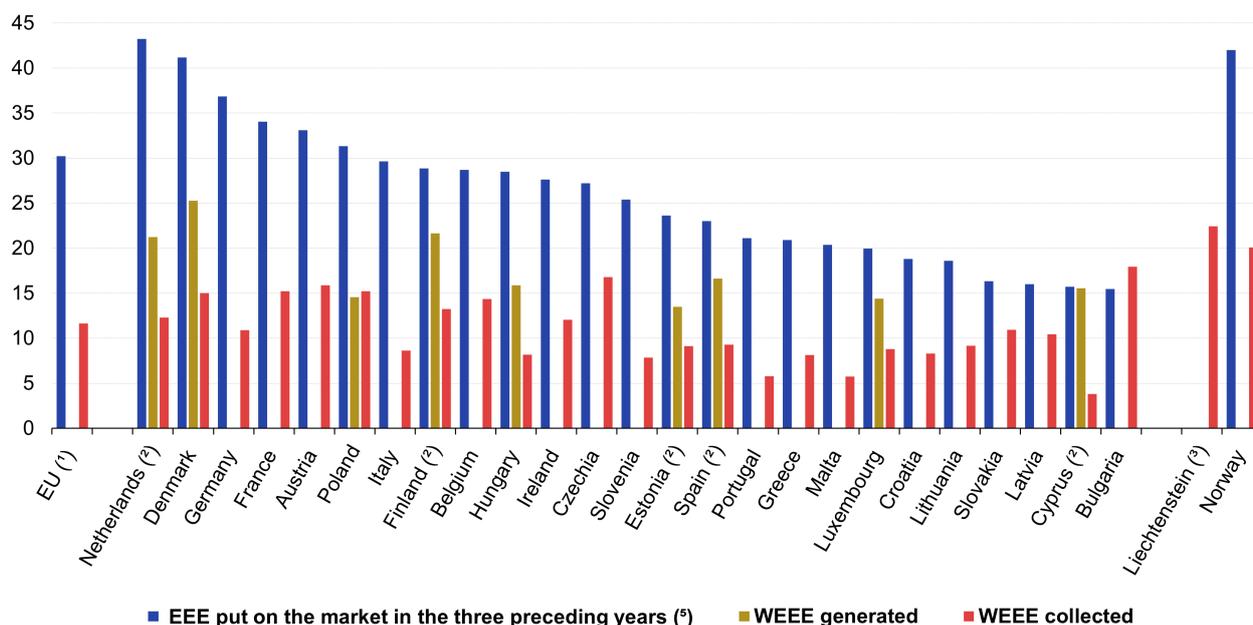
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Figure 2b: Total collection rate for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) as a share of generated WEEE, 2023 Source: Eurostat (env_waseleeos)

Figure 3 shows the amount of WEEE collected in 2023, in comparison with the EEE put on the market in the 3 preceding years (2020-2022) and the WEEE generated in 2023, respectively. These are all expressed in kilograms per inhabitant (based on the average number of inhabitants in 2023). In the EU, the WEEE collected in 2023 was estimated at 11.6 kilograms per inhabitant, while the average EEE put on the market over the period 2020-2022 was estimated at 30.2 kilograms per inhabitant. The variation in the collected amounts reflects differences in EEE consumption level between countries, as well as differences in the performance of their respective waste collection schemes.

Due to the transition from the previous methodology that used 10 product categories for EEE to the new methodology using 6 product categories, taking effect from reference year 2019, countries have calculated the collection rate based on the average weight of EEE placed on the market in the three preceding years by estimating the amounts for 2020-2022 according to this methodology (these amounts are not published). The average of the three preceding years according to the 6 categories methodology has been calculated as WEEE collected divided by WEEE collection rate. (See the 'Context' section for more details on the EEE product categories.)

Electrical and electronic equipment put on the market in the three preceding years, waste EEE generated and collected, 2023 (kilograms per inhabitant)



Note: Countries are ranked based on data on EEE put on the market in the three preceding years.

(¹) Eurostat estimate.

(²) Data on WEEE generated is provided on a voluntary basis.

(³) 'Put on market' not applicable.

(⁴) No data available for Sweden and Romania

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_waseleeos)

Figure 3: Electrical and electronic equipment put on the market in the three preceding years, waste EEE generated and collected, 2023 Source: Eurostat (env_waseleeos)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\) - Excel file – October 2025](#)

Data sources

Data on WEEE are reported by the EU countries according to [Decision 2005/396/EC](#) laying down rules for monitoring compliance of EU countries and establishing data formats for the purposes of [Directive 2012/19/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE Directive).

EU countries have the obligation to report to the Commission within 18 months of the end of the reference year on the achievement of the targets for WEEE collection, reuse, recycling and / or recovery on the basis of [Decision 2005/369/EC](#). This Commission Decision remained valid after [Directive 2002/96/EC](#) was repealed and replaced by [Directive 2012/19/EU](#) (article 25).

The reported data become available in the Eurostat database approximately 3 months after the reporting deadline. Data are available from reference year 2005 onwards.

Context

Unless properly managed, materials and components arising from waste electrical and electronic equipment can cause major environmental and health problems due to hazardous content. Moreover, production of modern electrical and electronic equipment requires the use of rare and expensive resources. The amelioration of collection, treatment and recycling of WEEE is essential to improve its environmental management, its contribution to a circular economy and enhance resource recycling efficiency.

The management of WEEE is regulated by [Directive 2012/19/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE Directive).

The first WEEE Directive ([Directive 2002/96/EC](#)) entered into force in February 2003. The Directive provided for the creation of collection schemes where consumers return their WEEE free of charge. These schemes aim to increase the recycling and / or re-use of WEEE.

Directive 2002/96/EC was repealed on 15 February 2014 and replaced by Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment, which introduced a stepped increase in collection targets with effect from reference years 2016 and 2019, respectively. Furthermore, from 15 August 2018 onwards, the scope of the WEEE Directive was extended to all categories of EEE (excluding EEE described in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 2 of Directive 2012/19/EU). Consequently, the definition and number of the categories is different and the reporting obligation applies as described here below:

(a) until reference year 2018, to EEE falling within the 10 product categories set out in Annex I to Directive 2012/19/EU :

1. Large household appliances
2. Small household appliances
3. IT and telecommunications equipment
4. Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
5. Lighting equipment
6. Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment
8. Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products)
9. Monitoring and control instruments
10. Automatic dispensers

Annex II contains an indicative list of products falling under the categories in Annex I.

(b) from reference year 2019 onwards, all EEE shall be classified within 6 product categories set out in Annex III as classified here below, with exclusion of the EEE described in paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 2 of Directive 2012/19/EU

1. Temperature exchange equipment
2. Screens, monitors and equipment containing screens having a surface greater than 100 cm²
3. Lamps
4. Large equipment (any external dimension more than 50 cm) including, but not limited to: Household appliances; IT and telecommunication equipment; consumer equipment; luminaires; equipment reproducing sound or images, musical equipment; electrical and electronic tools; toys, leisure and sports equipment; medical devices; monitoring and control instruments; automatic dispensers; equipment for the generation of electric currents. This category does not include equipment included in categories 1 to 3.
5. Small equipment (no external dimension more than 50 cm) including, but not limited to: Household appliances; consumer equipment; luminaires; equipment reproducing sound or images, musical equipment; electrical and electronic tools; toys, leisure and sports equipment; medical devices; monitoring and control instruments; automatic dispensers; equipment for the generation of electric currents. This category does not include equipment included in categories 1 to 3 and 6.

6. Small IT and telecommunication equipment (no external dimension more than 50 cm)

Annex IV contains a non-exhaustive list of EEE which falls within the categories set out in Annex III (open scope).

Footnotes

Explore further

Other articles

- [Waste statistics](#)
- [End-of-life vehicle statistics](#)
- [Food waste and food waste prevention - estimates](#)
- [Municipal waste statistics](#)
- [Packaging waste statistics](#)
- [Recycling – secondary material price indicator](#)
- [Waste management indicators](#)
- [Waste shipment statistics](#)
- [Waste statistics - recycling of batteries and accumulators](#)

Database

- [Waste](#) , see:

Waste streams (env_wasst)

[Waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\) by waste management operations - open scope, 6 product categories \(from 2018 onwards\) \(env_waseleeos\)](#)

[Waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\) by waste management operations \(env_waselee\)](#)

Thematic section

- [Waste](#)

Publications

- [All publications on waste](#) issued by Eurostat.
- [Energy, transport and environment indicators — 2020 edition](#)

Selected datasets

- [Waste](#) , see:

Waste streams (t_env_wasst)

Methodology

- [Waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\) by waste management operations](#) (ESMS metadata file — env_waselee_esms)
- [Country-specific notes on waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\)](#)

External links

- [European Commission — DG Environment: Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(WEEE\)](#)

Legislation

- [Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\)](#)
- [Amended by Directive \(EU\) 2018/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directives 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment](#)
- [Commission Decision 2005/369/EC](#)
- [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2019/2193 of 17 December 2019](#)
- [Corrigendum to Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2019/2193](#)
- [Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 2003 on waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\) \(repealed\)](#)
- [Summaries of EU legislation: Making the most of waste electrical and electronic equipment](#)