

**Joint Press Statement
of Industry, Consumer and Environmental Organisations
on Producer Responsibility in the
Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive**

This Statement refers to the responsibility of financing the management of WEEE for products sold in the future, and not the organisation of recycling systems. As regards all products sold in the past (historical waste), both the Council and the European Parliament have proposed that producers shall share the cost of recycling.

The European Parliament has concluded its First Reading and the Council has adopted its Common Position on the proposed WEEE directive. The Second Reading of the European Parliament will be completed by April 2002.

One of the objectives of introducing producer responsibility is to create incentives for producers to improve the design of their products with a view to enhancing their environmental performance. We support this ambition.

The European Parliament has made a constructive proposal that would secure this objective by establishing a strong producer responsibility, whereas the Council's Common Position fails to create the necessary incentives.

In addition, through its Article 7.4 the Council has proposed that existing producers should always finance the recycling of products from producers that disappear, or where the producer cannot be identified. Our opinion is that this stands on weak legal grounds. It would also become a dangerous incentive for free-riding, meaning short-sighted actors (producer = importer and/or manufacturer) would be able to place products on the market without addressing how these products should be recycled in the future.

Instead, the Parliament has proposed that each producer would be required to provide appropriate guarantees for the management of WEEE. This establishes the necessary legal instrument for proper enforcement and addresses the issue of free-riders. This is essential to avoid placing unjustified burdens on tax-payers and consumers.

For the second reading, we urge the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission to:

⇒ **Support the proposal of the European Parliament for financing on an individual basis and the need to provide appropriate guarantees for the financing of the management of WEEE (and the section of Article 3 defining individual financing)**

⇒ **Reject the proposal of the Council regarding free-riders (Article 7.4 of Council Common Position)**

AeA (American Electronics Association) Europe	AB Electrolux
Association of Netherlands ICT Sector (ICT Milieu)	Agilent Technologies
Bellona Europa – Environmental NGO	Apple Europe
BEUC – The European Consumers' Organisation	Fujitsu Siemens Computers GmbH
Confederation of Swedish Enterprise	Hewlett-Packard
European Environmental Bureau	ICL plc
Japan Business Council in Europe	IKEA Service Center S.A
SRI – The Swedish Recycling Industries' Association	Intel Corporation
Swiss Association of Information, Communication and Organisation Technology	Länsförsäkringar Insurance Group
VI – Association of Swedish Engineering Industries	Lucent Technologies
WWF-UK (Part of the global environmental network)	Nokia
Zentralverband Elektrotechnik- und Elektronikindustrie e.V (ZVEI) – The German Electrical And Electronic Manufacturers' Association	Oekopol Institute, Hamburg
	Sanyo
	Siemens AG
	Sony
	Sun Microsystems.
	The Gillette Group Europe/ Braun