

# CHARTER OF THE EUROPEAN WEEE-REGISTERS-NETWORK

Agreed upon and signed in

## PREAMBLE

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have adopted, with regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175 (1) thereof, the European Directive 2002/96/EC (hereinafter referred to as "**WEEE-Directive**") on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003 – last amended by the European Directive 2003/108/EC December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003. According to the WEEE-Directive upon August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 producers of electrical and electronic equipment shall be responsible for their products put on the market before and after August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Therefore producers shall provide at least for the financing of the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of electrical and electronic waste (hereinafter referred to as "**WEEE**") The established or to be established privately-run and/or sovereign institution in each EU-Member State (hereinafter referred to as "**National Register**") receive the reports from the registered producers, such as the input-weight in order to report them to the European Commission. At the time being the WEEE-Directive has to be or was implemented into national law in each of the 27 EU-Member States. Because of that and very different legal backgrounds and principles in the EU-Member State each national approach of enforcement of the law differs as well as the national requirements therefore.

The National Registers of the following EU-Member States:

- Austria
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

therefore decided in a preparation meeting in Dublin, at November, 21<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to create and establish an European WEEE-Registers-Network (hereinafter referred to as "**EWARN**") which will be ruled for the following articles:

## **ARTICLE 1 MEMBERS, EXPANSION AND GUESTS**

1.1 Each institution or organisation of an EU-Member State can be a member of the EWRN if they have been officially assigned by their government to execute producer register activities as it is stated in the national implementation of the WEEE-Directive in their EU-Member State.

1.2. Institutions and organisations that conduct, broker or are related to waste-disposals or waste-disposal-services are excluded from the membership, as well as any kind of associations.

1.3 Appendix Nr. 1 contains an up-to-date membership-list of the National Registers of the EWRN.

1.4 As far possible the EWRN tries that all National Registers of the EU-Member States apply for membership with the EWRN. Consequently the EWRN is open for other official National Registers of other EU-Member States that have not yet applied for membership. A written request of admittance of an official National Register should sent to any member and is subject to the decision of all members and shall in principle be granted.

1.5 Guests can be admitted to individual meetings, provided that none of the members objects. Presence of any Guests in a EWRN meeting would be announced to all members with at least 15 days notice.

## **ARTICLE 2 GOALS**

2.1 The goals of the EWRN, provided that it is legally permissible for the various EU-Member States specific laws and regulations, are to,

- exchanging information and experiences between the members
- strive for a harmonisation within the law enforcement as far as possible
- develop common definitions and understandings (e.g. standard-definitions of type-of-equipment)
- work on principles for cooperation regarding cross-border-cases (such as registration and guarantees in case of cross-border-sales)
- promote harmonization in the national law enforcement – as far as legally possible according to the national laws of the EU-Member States.
- provide technical service assistance or services upon request

2.2. EWRN's main duty and work-focus lies on practice-orientated facts and details gained with the enforcement of the WEEE-Directive and the national laws of the EU-Member States and is neither political nor lobbying.

## **ARTICLE 3 MEETINGS**

3.1 The EWRN shall meet twice a year upon invitation by the National Register of the EU-Member State that inheres the Presidency of the European Council (hereinafter referred to

as “**presiding National Register**”) or by the National Register that voluntary organizes the meeting (in particular if the presiding MS is not member of EWRN).

3.2. Once a member is pointed as the organizer for the next meeting, he will take EWRN responsibility for all management issues accruing in the mean time.(e.g. spread information on request to a national register that wants to join EWRN).

3.3 The invitation shall include the items of the agenda stating the matters to be discussed and any documents required. Although the responsibility to set the agenda, belongs to the presiding national register, members are free to propose any topics of common interest to the agenda

3.4 Minutes of the meetings and its main outcome shall be prepared by the respective presiding National Register and send to all participants within one month.

3.5 Conclusions took in any meeting cannot be considered as binding resolutions, unless stated by the participants, but as guidelines that all members are free to follow

#### **ARTICLE 4 COMMITMENTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

4.1 .All members of the EWRN understand this is a network created to provide mutual help and to work towards harmonization principles. As such, a minimal level of no paid work can be asked to members as well as their commitment for cooperation.

4.2 Members are not allowed to convey fully or partially confidential information and results that they have obtained in connection with the EWRN to other third parties. This does not include the exchange of information inside each register organization. Information or results are considered to be confidential as soon as the representative of a National Register deems them so.

#### **5. ARTICLE MISCELLANEOUS, FINAL CLAUSE**

5.1 Every member of the EWRN will receive a signed copy of this Charter.

5.2 Appendixes are part of this Charter.

Date, October the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Finland

Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre

France

Département Prévention, Recyclage et Organisation des Filières,  
ADEME

Germany

Stiftung Elektro-Altgeräte Register - EAR

Ireland

WEEE-Register Society Limited

Hungary

Environmental Management Department, Waste Prevention and Treatment  
Section

Poland

Chief Inspector for Environmental Protection

Portugal

ANREEE - Assoc. Nac. Registo Equipamentos Eléctricos e Electrónicos

Slovakia

Ministerstvo životného prostredia SR, Odbor odpadového hospodárstva

Slovenia

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Environment Directorate

Spain

Registro Nacional de Productores de Aparatos Eléctricos Y Electrónicos  
(RAEE) - Ministerio de Industria, Turismo y Comercio

Sweden

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Implementation and  
Enforcement Department

United Kingdom

R. Mead. for. Environment Agency.

Denmark

WEEE-System