



IERC Salzburg 2017 Interactive EERA session 19 January 2017

EERA organised an interactive EERA session during the 16th IERC International Electronics recycling Congress 2017.

Does the present WEEE business model work? What needs to be changed.

The presenters, all experts in WEEE, gave short presentations and all finished their presentations with one important question to the audience. The audience was divided in groups and were asked to discuss and prepare answers for the presenters. All answers written down during this session were collected and this document gives insight in the shared views.

The presentations can be found at the EERA website.

<http://www.eera-recyclers.com/highlights/eera-interactive-session-ierc-salzburg-thursday-19th-january>

Presenters EERA session:

- Mr. Niall McLoughlin, Ministry of Ireland – Legislator
- Mrs. Stefanie Enders, 1cc – Legal compliance expert
- Mrs. Sabine Krattiger, Immark – Recycler
- Mr. Jaco Huisman, UNU – Scientist
- Mr. Jan Vlak, WEEEFORUM Pro Expert

Expert:	Question:	Answers from the audience:
Niall Mc Loughlin, Ministry of Ireland, legislator	The countering <u>WEEE Illegal Trade Report</u> highlights a very significant challenge facing all of us who care about the environment. The report has found that only 35% of all WEEE arising ended up with officially approved collection recycling systems in Europe in 2012 and that notwithstanding the enhancements made to the WEEE Directive, 1.3M tonnes of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visible fee (VF) is good:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ creates awareness to consumer➤ creates funds to pay retailer & take back➤ creates awareness of the consumers• VF for all EEE

Expert:	Question:	Answers from the audience:
	<p>WEEE departed the Union in undocumented exports. Ireland has attempted to introduce measures to control WEEE flows nationally but what further initiatives can Member States take to better control the flows of WEEE?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make VF transparent • VF stops leakage - helps to achieve targets • VF administration is complicated • If VF the percentage of the price has to be transparent • VF has to be flexible to the prices of recycling costs • Introduce the VF also for packaging and batteries • Producers should be more involved. • Create a level playing field in EU and Switzerland • VF can be a burden for producers • VF, but make a distinction between valuable - non valuable • VF can smooth out the market fluctuations • VF should be left to the market to manage • Controlling of the VF is necessary. • VF is not the solution for recyclability enhancement
<p>Mrs. Stefanie Enders, 1cc – Legal compliance expert</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How can cooperation within supply chain be optimized in order to achieve goals of circular economy approach? ➤ More regulation required or will market self-regulate (e.g. due to decreasing access to critical raw materials)? ➤ Can data requirements be better harmonized or is detail of data actually required (e.g. introducing universal nomenclature system for WEEE reporting)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sustainable direction from EU should be asked • Compliance is an important key • One Take Back System – TBS in Europe? • It is a task of the TBS to give better transparency • Big producers dominate compliance systems and pay less (proportionally) than small producers • Depends if Producers Responsibility Organisation -PRO is profit or non profit • A large PAN producers organisation will not include the small producers • Better involvement of producers: how? • Producers should be forced to work on recyclability
<p>Mrs. Sabine Krattiger, Immark – Recycler</p>	<p>What can a recycler do to keep his business profitable?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do we need a mandatory system? - Do we need financial support from the government? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory standards and more enforcement • The market will solve the problem • Too many recyclers at the moment

Expert:	Question:	Answers from the audience:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do we need to raise the Advanced Recycling Contribution – ARC (= VF)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More transparency in the system • Illegal recycling is still (more) competitive • EPEAT in Europe: force them to buy recycled materials • Money should be used for recycling (and consumers should pay) • Recycling fee should as well include in the costs for the recycling of critical metals • Look for volumes beyond your national borders • Raise the VF • Maybe recyclers should cooperate in an association for recyclers in order to have better chances (prices) • Make quality • Invest in services: packaging, security, innovation, reporting • Higher volumes • Get value out of plastics
Mr. Jaco Huisman, UNU – Scientist	<p>Should we revive an EU wide discussion on alternative WEEE financing mechanisms?</p> <p>Pro's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the crux of present market failure and of future market success! • Leave the market where it functions/ intervene only where needed • There are more facts available than ever before • Lot of improvement potential based on current best practices in few countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to take the discussion to a level higher to agree on the system. • Municipalities and retailers should be more engaged • Governance is needed (incl. a solid financial system) • The effectiveness of the systems is the most important impact • Financing should be organised by country • More involvement in each country to facilitate the financing system • Independent monitoring authority and register is needed in each country (Dutch model) • New role for consumers • Cooperation model is better than a conflict model

Expert:	Question:	Answers from the audience:
	<p>Con's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussion is by definition polarised and possibly destructive • Little experience with more radical alternatives • Risk of more non-harmonisation 	
<p>Mr. Jan Vlak, WEEEFORUM Pro Expert</p>	<p>How do all stakeholders get- together, in a way that: all actors cooperate know their responsibilities, and are able and willing to take their responsibility ?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lack of legislation to pull stakeholders together • A steering committee may be helpful - agreement from stakeholders. The government should provide an independent chairman and a secretary • The Dutch model Monitoring council is recommended • The right involvement from the consumer needs to be gained • Increase of convenience and knowledge.