



PETITION

Call on European Commission to adopt an implementing act making compliance with EN 50625 WEEE treatment standards mandatory

The playing fields in Europe, as regards treatment of WEEE are not level, both among and within member states. Depollution performance, the extent to which raw materials are recycled, safety measures and monitoring and control procedures differ substantially. **Recent international research shows that 65 % of WEEE discarded is exported, recycled under non-compliant conditions in Europe, scavenged for valuable parts or simply thrown in waste bins¹** This means that most WEEE in Europe is mismanaged or not recycled up to standards, resulting in significant environmental damage and loss of resources.

Pursuant to Article 8(5) of Directive 2012/19/EU on WEEE and mandate M/518 of the European Commission, CENELEC, one of the EU's official standards bodies, has nearly completed a suite of European standards for the state of the art treatment, recovery, recycling and preparing for reuse, of WEEE. Art. 8(5) also states that the Commission may adopt implementing acts by laying down minimum quality standards based in particular on the standards developed by the European standards organisations. **This petition calls on the European Commission to take advantage of this clause and adopt an implementing act making compliance with EN 50625 WEEE treatment standards mandatory.**

Encouragingly, certain member states, such as the Netherlands, Ireland and France, have already legislation in place that legally requires WEEE treatment facilities to comply with the EN 50625 standards. Some other member states are considering this too, while the majority of member states prefer not to take any action in this regard as long as it is not an obligation at EU level. The trouble is that, when a member state decides to make compliance to the EN 50625 series of standards mandatory, certain quantities of WEEE will 'leak' to other member states, where compliance with the standards is not legally required. The situation creates a distortion in the recycling market in the EU and consequently results in a lower, sub-standard recycling quality and loss of resources throughout Europe. In other words, if compliance with the EN 50625 treatment standards remains voluntary, or mandatory in only a couple of member states, a significant part of the WEEE stream will continue to be treated sub-optimally within and outside Europe.

In order to level the WEEE playing field in Europe, the EN 50625 treatment series of standards should be made mandatory for all treatment facilities of WEEE in the EU. Treatment of WEEE outside² the EU should take place in conditions that are equivalent to those applicable in the EU. This will significantly increase the quality level in the recycling of WEEE and will have a positive impact on the EU's ambitious goals of a circular economy.

PLEASE SIGN AT THE EERA STAND, EXHIBITION AREA

¹ See Huisman, J., Botezatu, I., Herreras, L., Liddane, M., Hintsu, J., Luda di Cortemiglia, V., Leroy, P., Vermeersch, E., Mohanty, S., van den Brink, S., Ghenciu, B., Dimitrova, D., Nash, E., Shryane, T., Wieting, M., Kehoe, J., Baldé, C.P., Magalini, F., Zanasì, A., Ruini, F., and Bonzio, A., Countering WEEE Illegal Trade (CWIT) Summary Report, Market Assessment, Legal Analysis, Crime Analysis and Recommendations Roadmap, August 30, 2015, Lyon, France. See www.cwitproject.eu

² See upcoming Commission Regulation on Article 10 of Directive 2012/19/EU regarding equivalent conditions for treatment of WEEE outside the Union.