

# **The European WEEE Directive**

**- Origin, status and outlook -**

**Thorsten Brunzema**

**Tokyo, 12 November 2015**

**Symposium on waste electrical and  
electronic equipment (WEEE)**

## **PRESENTING TO YOU:**

**Thorsten Brunzema**

- Background in economics and industrial engineering**
- International work experience in environmental policy, including in Chile, Tunisia, Benin**
- Official of the European Commission since 2004**
- Negotiator on the new European WEEE Directive**
- Currently on a sabbatical leave from the Commission**
- Statements made are based on personal expertise, not representing the Commission, or speaking on its behalf**



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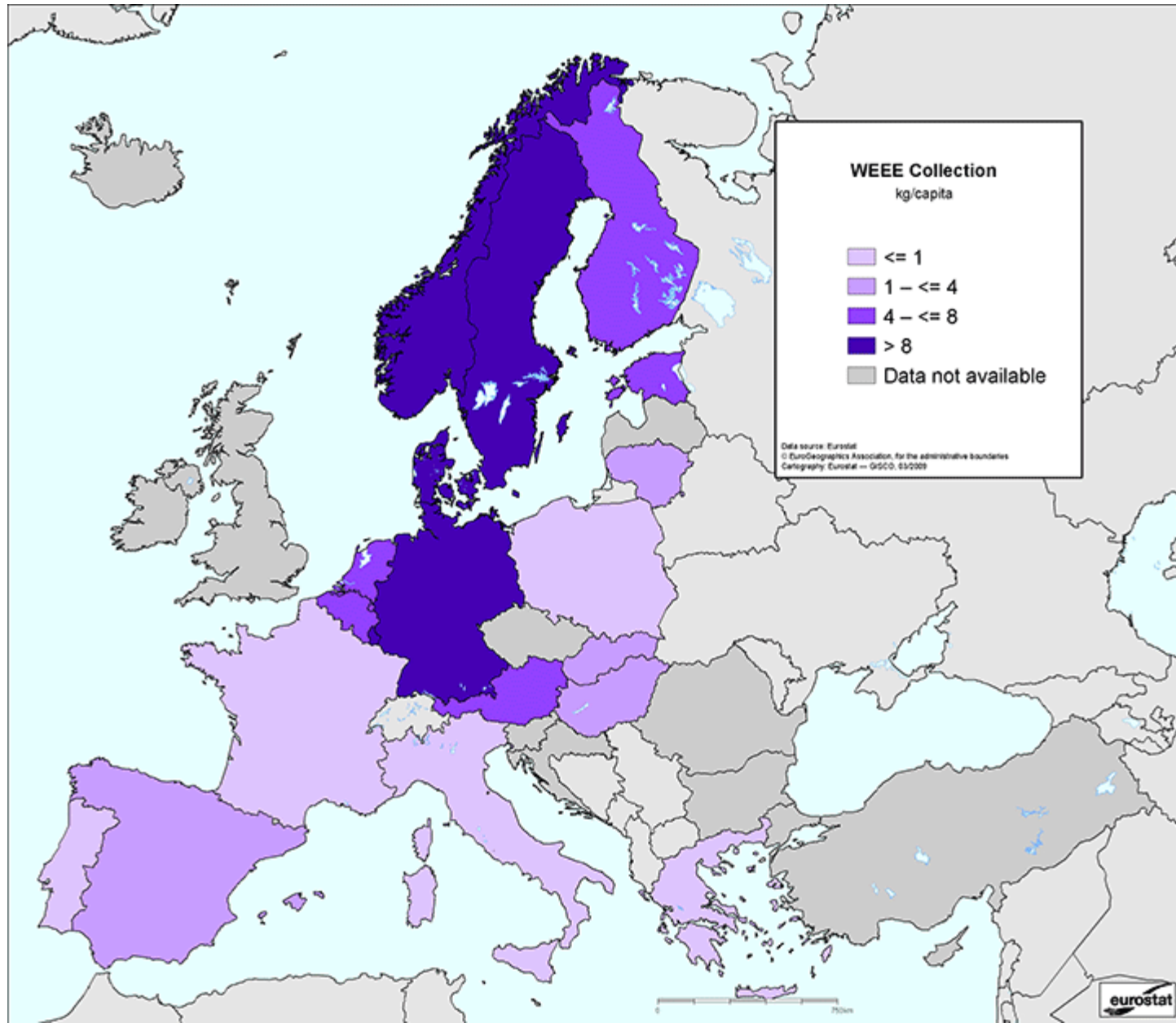
From WEEE 1 to WEEE 2

The new WEEE Directive of 2012

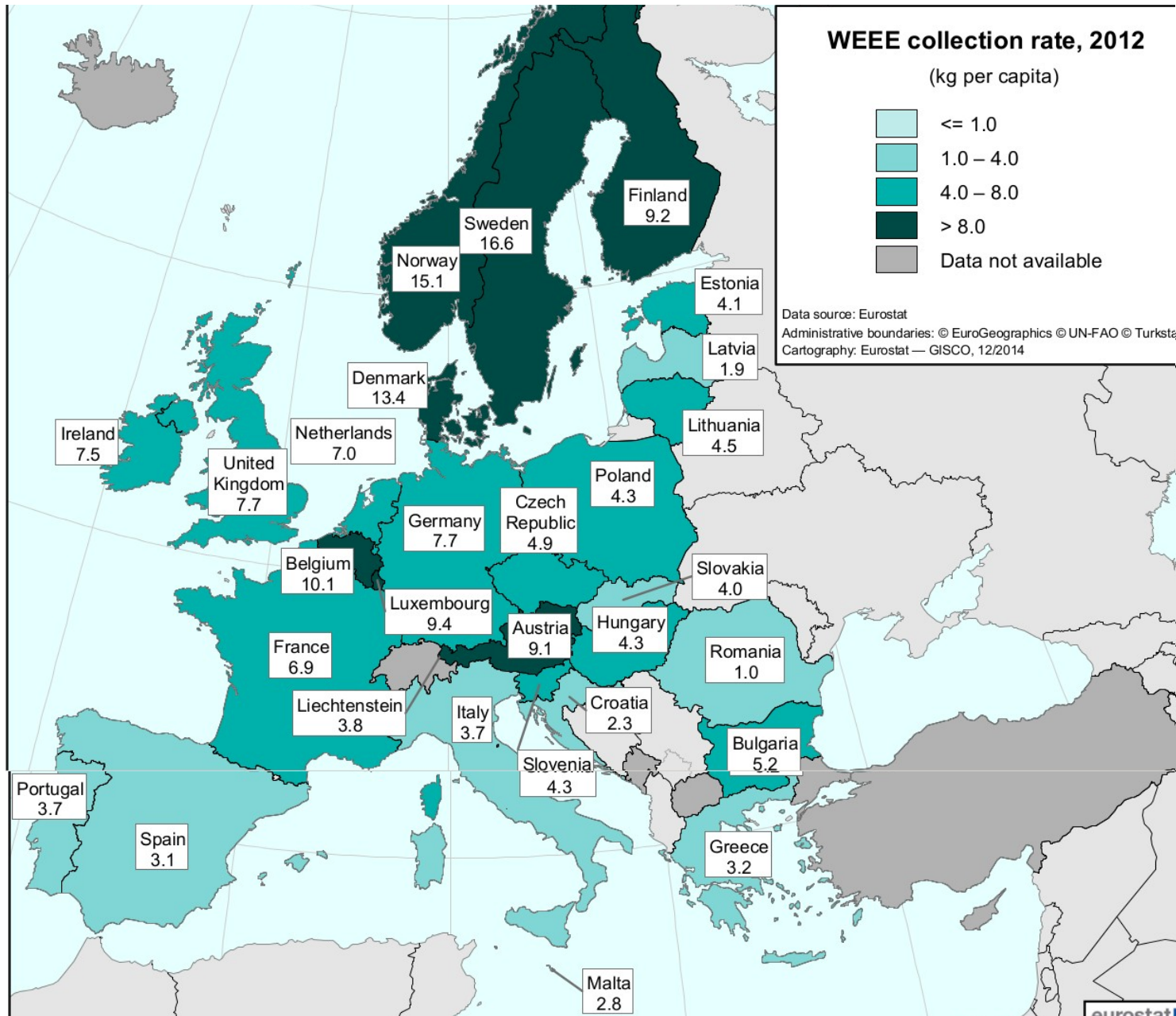
Status of implementation

Current developments and outlook

# WEEE COLLECTION REPORTED FOR 2006



# WEEE COLLECTION REPORTED FOR 2012



# OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WHEN REVISING THE OLD WEEE1 „DIRECTIVE 2002/96/EC”

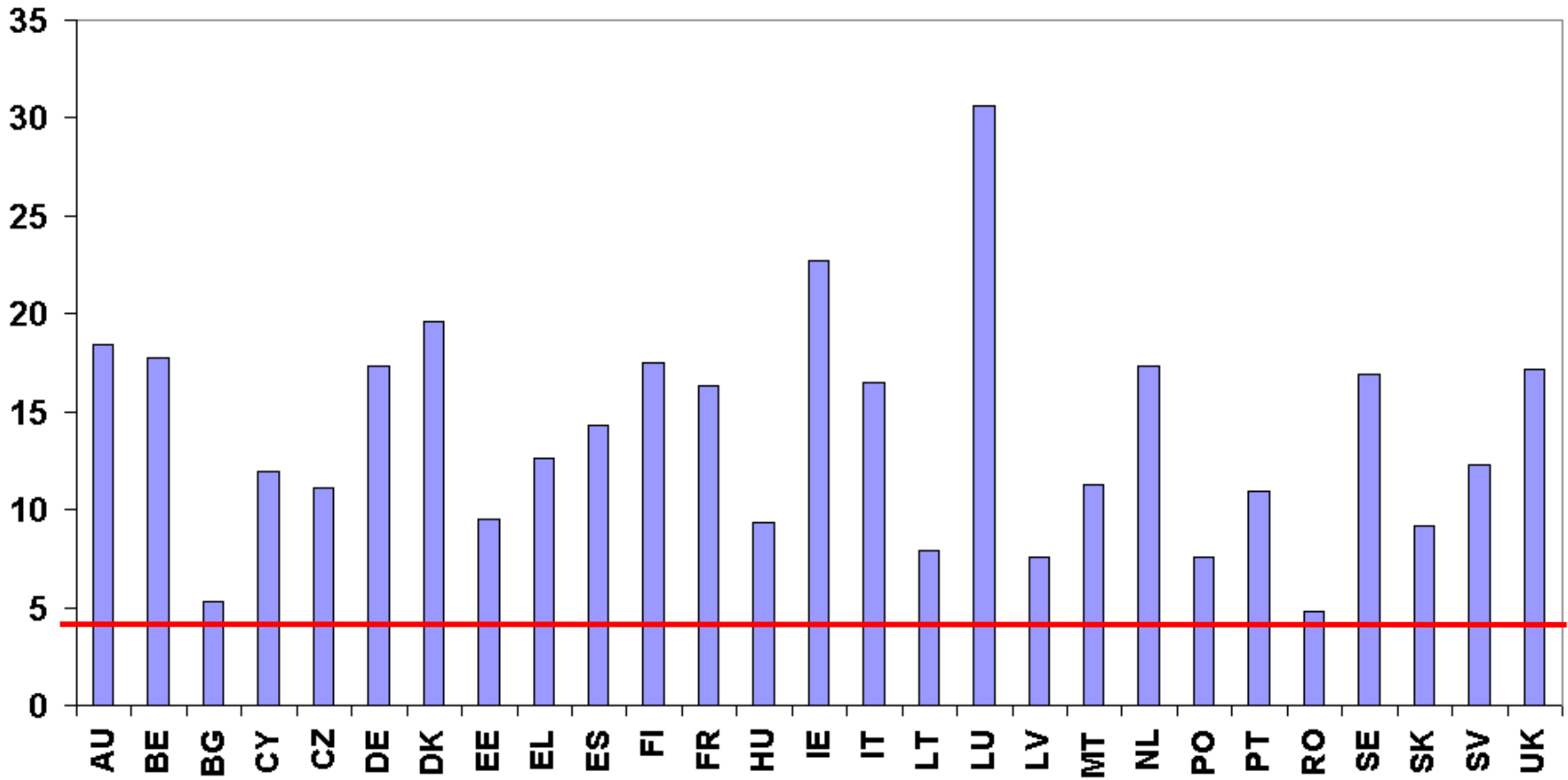
- **New collection rates to reduce impacts on the environment and ensure recovery of valuable raw materials**
- **Reduced administrative costs through the removal of all unnecessary administrative burdens**
- **Improved effectiveness and implementation of the Directive through increased compliance and reduced free-riding**

**More infos on the webpage of the EU Commission:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/index_en.htm)

# WEEE1 COLLECTION TARGET OF 4 KG IMPLIED VERY DIFFERENT AMBITIONS FOR EU MEMBER STATES

Estimated WEEE arising per year per capita in each MS versus 4 kg target  
(Data source: UNU study table 40 method 1, MS reports to Eurostat)



Definition of the target needed to be adjusted to WEEE arising

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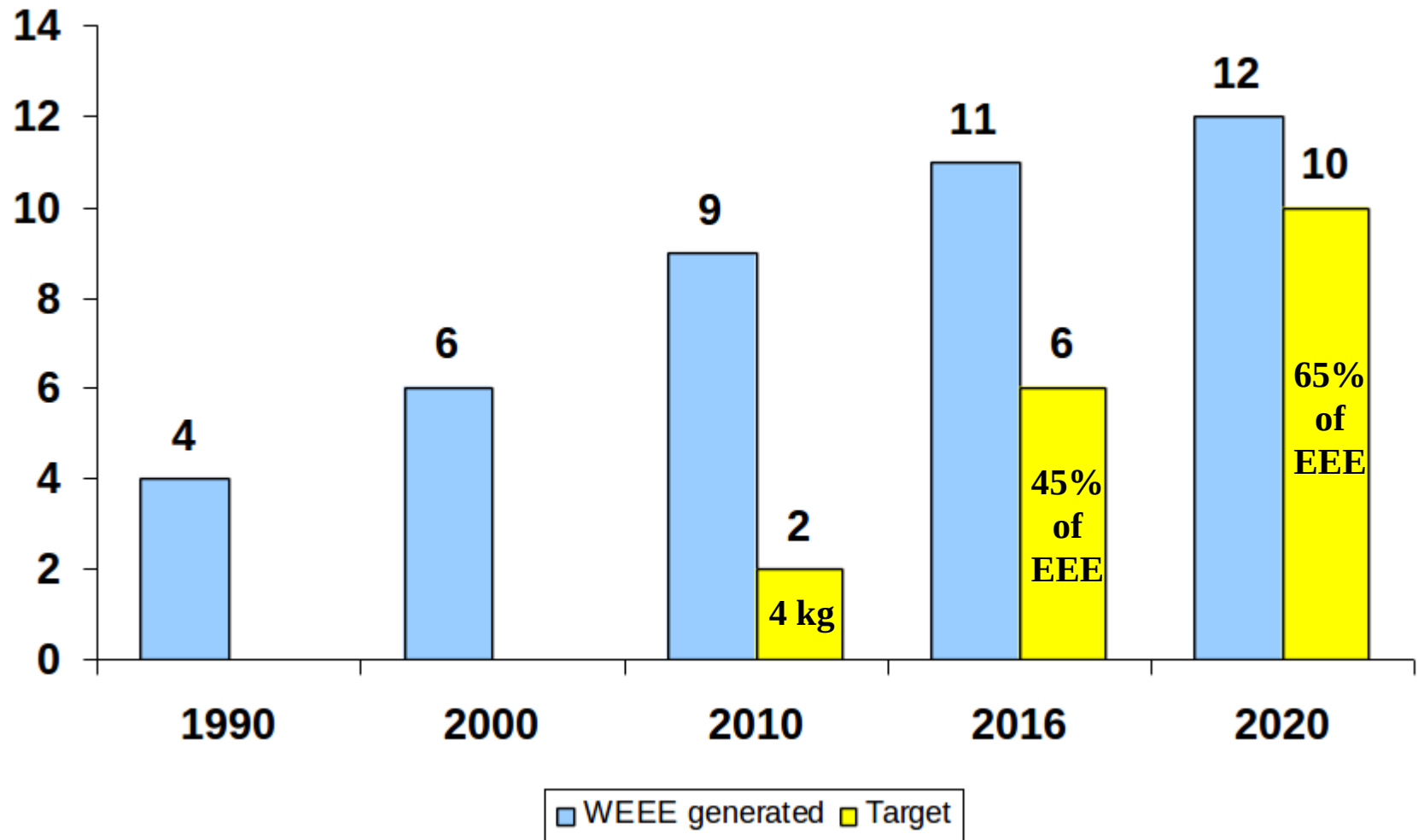


# NEW WEEE2 „DIRECTIVE 2012/19/EU“ ON ONE SLIDE

Process step	Key elements of the new EU WEEE Directive
<b>Collection</b>	Collection targets increase, specific for each Member State Large distributors to take back small WEEE 0:1
<b>Treatment</b>	Member States to ensure all WEEE properly treated European standards for treatment to be developed
<b>Recycling</b>	Preparation for re-use counts into the targets Simplified categories for recycling targets from 2018
<b>Financing</b>	Producers responsible from collection point onwards Refund procedures to avoid double payment
<b>Clearing structure</b>	Reporting to national registers will be harmonised EU Member States report to the Commission

# COLLECTION RATE AMBITION LEVEL EVOLVES TOWARDS WEEE GENERATED

WEEE generated and targets in the EU (million tons, rounded)  
(Source: United Nations University and own calculations)



# **ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS REDUCED VIA GREATER EUROPEAN HARMONISATION AND COOPERATION**

- Harmonisation of registration and reporting information through Comitology**
- Marking and treatment information one time in Europe, when placing on the European market**
- Reimbursement of multiple compliance contributions**
- Authorised representative instead of multiple legal seat**

# **MORE EFFECTIVE TOOLS TO FIGHT ILLEGAL SHIPMENTS OF E-WASTE**

**Reversed burden of proof to show that an item for shipment is EEE, not WEEE, including:**

- **Functionality testing**
- **Declaration of non-waste**
- **Appropriate transport protection**

**Specific derogations to ensure that the above conditions do not hinder certain legal shipments of non-functional equipment for repair/refurbishment/root cause analysis**

**Obligation on the Member States to apply the respective annex where there is suspicion that used EEE may in fact be WEEE**

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# **FINE-TUNING OF DETAILS OF WEEE2 IS ONGOING**

**Transposition by EU Member States nearly completed**

**Work on EU level continues:**

- How to measure “EEE placed on the market” and “WEEE generated”**
- Harmonising format for registration and reporting, frequency**
- Development and role of European standards**
- Rules on “equivalent conditions” for exports out of the EU**

**General FAQ guidance document is online:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/pdf/faq.pdf>

# EU WORK UNDER THE WEEE2 DIRECTIVE

## Published:

- COM study on scope review
- COM study on recovery and re-use targets
- COM study on equivalent conditions when exporting
- COM mandate for WEEE standards ([ftp://ftp.cencenelec.eu/CENELEC/EuropeanMandates/M\\_518.pdf](ftp://ftp.cencenelec.eu/CENELEC/EuropeanMandates/M_518.pdf))
- Standards for treatment (CENELEC, some published)

## Ongoing:

- Standards for treatment (CENELEC, ~10 more in 2016)
- COM study “EEE placed on the market” and “WEEE generated”
- COM study on harmonising registration and reporting, frequency

## Secondary legislation under preparation:

- Measuring “EEE placed on the market” and “WEEE generated”
- Harmonising registration and reporting, frequency
- Equivalent conditions when exporting, role of standards

COM studies are published here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/events\\_weee\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/events_weee_en.htm)

## **WEEE2 TEXT ELEMENTS MAY ALREADY HINT TO POSSIBLE FUTURE DISCUSSIONS FOR WEEE3**

**Scope: COM report on open scope, including  
definition of „large“ and „small“ equipment**

**Collection rates: COM report on methodology of  
WEEE generated, on deadlines, and on specific  
collection rates per product type**

**Producer financing: COM report on possibility of  
real end-of-life costs**

**Recovery targets: Reexamination on the basis of a  
COM report**

**Link between product sales (registration) and waste (financing)  
creates significant complexity and room for many discussions**



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# WHAT DO WORLD LEADERS THINK ABOUT e-WASTE?



# **G7 IN JUNE 2015 CREATED THE NEW „ALLIANCE ON RESOURCE EFFICIENCY“**

**Advance resource efficiency, best practices, and foster innovation**

**A forum to share knowledge and create information networks on a voluntary basis between businesses, SMEs and other relevant stakeholders**

**UNEP International Resource Panel to prepare a synthesis report highlighting the most promising potentials and solutions for resource efficiency**

**OECD to develop policy guidance supplementing the synthesis report by the second half of 2016**

**G7 workshops at least once a year under the leadership of the respective Presidency**

**In creating the new alliance, G7 makes explicit reference to the „3R action plan“ of 2008 in Kobe, Japan**

# **NEW EU CIRCULAR ECONOMY PACKAGE PLANNED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR LATE 2015**

**In July 2014, the (outgoing) European Commission made a proposal to better promote the circular economy**

**In March 2015, the (new) European Commission withdrew the proposal, however promising a new more ambitious proposal before the end of 2015**

**A substantial review of the WEEE Directive, with its agreed deadlines reaching into 2019, is not indicated to become part of the proposal**

**Information on the circular economy package:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)

# CHANCES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

**E-waste remains a key waste stream to regulate and create value: Valuable, hazardous, and generation growing globally**

**E-waste is the most diverse waste stream: Millions of different items, some valuable, some hazardous, some none of the two, many both...**

**Value creation in the e-waste industry is from recycling revenues, and from producer responsibility fees: How to balance the two, for each product?**

**Administering data on policy targets, and on compliance fees, becomes increasingly complex: Is there a limit? Who is best placed to manage such data? Can we become more efficient?**

**Will further discussions be global?  
Will there an EU WEEE3, and if so when?**

**Thank you for your attention.**

**The floor is open for your  
questions and comments.**