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## Binding standards aim to improve environmental performance

**The WEEE Forum, the European association of e-waste take-back systems, is meeting in Zurich to discuss producer responsibilities.**

At its conference today and tomorrow in Zurich, the 38 member organisations of the WEEE Forum are meeting with the manufacturers of electrical and electronic appliances, representatives from the authorities, supervisory bodies, recycling, retail, academia and non-governmental organisations to debate how to put producer responsibility into practice over the next 10 years. The topics of the conference range from new collection targets to the treatment of electrical and electronic waste and through to the creation of new business models.

“The producer community takes the principles such as the efficiency and sustainability of advanced producer responsibility very seriously,” says Andreas Röthlisberger, WEEE Forum President. “The key to its future success will lie in its ability to find new solutions that will improve the environmental performance of the overall WEEE distribution chain while seeking efficiencies and synergies at the same time. But we respond with a firm no to any proposed scheme to make producers financially responsible for activities beyond their control.” Reference is made here to the clear stance of the WEEE Forum against proposals to make producers financially responsible for the collection of used or worn-out electrical and electronic appliances from households to be recycled.

Furthermore, the WEEE Forum welcomes the European Parliament’s amendment concerning harmonised standards for WEEE collection, storage, logistics and treatment of electrical and electronic waste. The WEEE Forum, jointly with stakeholders from the producers and the recycling industry, is currently managing a four-year project named WEEELABEX, which is co-financed by LIFE, the financial instrument of the European Community for environmental programmes. The organisation is currently working intensively on the project, developing binding standards for collection, logistics and treatment, and working on the instruments to verify operators’ compliance with the proposed standards.

“The WEEE Forum is paving the way for Europe-wide standards that will change the WEEE landscape substantially,” comments Pascal Leroy, Secretary General of the WEEE Forum and WEEELABEX project manager. “These standards will not only optimise the quality of the process from collection through to recycling, but will also bring improvements for society as a whole,” he continues.

The three take-back systems for WEEE in Switzerland – SENS, SWICO and SLRS – are hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> WEEE Forum Conference, which takes place in Zurich. The Swiss systems are among the pioneers in advanced producer responsibility in Europe, collecting a total of 14 kilograms of waste per head per year – the largest amount across the whole of Europe. SENS is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

[www.weeeforumconference.org](http://www.weeeforumconference.org)

[www.sens.ch](http://www.sens.ch) / [www.swico.ch](http://www.swico.ch) / [www.slrs.ch](http://www.slrs.ch)

### About the WEEE Forum

The WEEE Forum was founded in April 2002. It brings together 38 WEEE producer responsibility organisations from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. All organisations are open, non-profit-oriented take-back systems run on behalf of a community of about 17,000 producers. Members in 2010: Amb3E, Appliances Recycling, Asekol, Ecoasimelec, Ecodom, Ecofimatica, Colec, Ecologic, Ecoped, Eco-RAEE's, ecoR'it, Eco-systèmes, Ecotic, Eco Tic, EEPa, ElectroCoord, ElektroEko, Elektrowin, El-Kretsen, elretur, el retur, Envidom, ICT Milieu, Lightcycle, Lumicom, NVMP, Recupel, Re.Media, Repic, Retela, RoRec, SENS, SEWA, SLRS, SWICO, UFH, WEEE Ireland and Zeos. As the world's only multinational e-waste centre of competence in this field, the WEEE Forum's mission is to make a significant contribution to an expert and constructive debate on the issue of electrical and electronic waste based on facts and figures. Further information can be found online at [www.weee-forum.org](http://www.weee-forum.org).

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