



MINUTES
of the working meeting with the employer's associations in the frames of the project
"Promoting ESM of E-Waste in the Republic of Moldova"

06 September, 2017, Ministry of Environment, room 603

Venue: Chişinău, 9, Constantin Tănase str., room 603

Date: 2017.09.06

Duration: 10.00-12.00

Host: Environmental Pollution Prevention Office

The working meeting with the existing relevant employer's association in the continuation of the series of meeting with EEE producers aimed at consulting the WEEE regulation and providing training for setting up of EPR schemes. This meeting was oriented towards the employers' associations who represent interests of different EEE producers and whose input is very important. The draft WEEE Regulation and the draft statute of the EPR scheme was circulated among the participant's prior the meeting for consideration and feedback.

Mrs. Inga Podoroghin, State Secretary of the MoEnv, welcomed the participants and expressed her appreciation for their willingness to attend the event. Making reference to the important of enforcing the new legal framework, Mrs. Podoroghin invited the participants to actively take part in its drafting. She also noted that a well-functioning public private partnership depends on a sound and enforced legislation with well assigned responsibilities and competences for each actor.

Mrs. Svetlana Bolocan, chief of Pollution Prevention and Waste Management division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, who was also pleased to welcome the participants at the meeting, completed the introductory remarks by pointing that an effective law will contribute to a sound waste management, including WEEE and packaging.

Next, Mrs. Bolocan provided a brief presentation of the draft Packaging Regulation, highlighting the most important provisions, in particular the responsibilities of producers and distributors, financial mechanisms, individual and collective schemes; collection and recovery targets. She also mentioned that the along with the approval of the regulation, the relevant articles of the Law on payment for environmental pollution will be abrogated. In the end of the presentation, Mrs. Bolocan wished to mention that the pollution taxes for packaging paid by the producers to the state budget at present are much higher that the potential costs to be carried by the producers within an EPR scheme.



Mrs. Tatiana Țugui, Eppo manager, continued the meeting with a comprehensive, article-by-article presentation of the law, putting emphasis on the key issues that are of the interest of the workshop participants, in particular the extended producer responsibility principle and the management of waste electric and electronic equipment. She mentioned that it becomes necessary to develop a resource efficient economy allowing countries to shift from a linear to a circular economy and there is a growing tendency for businesses to be accountable for their impact on the environment, economy and society, both being reflected in the new legal framework.

In the last part of the presentation, Mrs. Țugui, provided some figures related to the import of EEE in the Republic of Moldova, according to the 10 categories defined in the Regulation. The figures were obtained from the Customs Service and allowed to make some preliminary calculations regarding the total quantity of EEE placed on market.

Next, **Mrs. Natalia Efros**, Eppo consultant, made an insight into the WEEE Regulation, chapter by chapter, by underlining the most important provisions to be considered by the EEE producers, in particular the EPR schemes, setting the collection points, permitting requirements, financial guarantees, collection and recovery targets, transportation of EEE and WEEE.

Conclusions

The introductory presentations opened the floor for Q&A session. The participants showed deep interest in the provided information about the new legal framework and the regulatory one, that will be soon in place and thanked the organizers for the opportunity to establish the platform of cooperation among business and central authorities. However, the employer's associations shared their concerns with regards to implementation for the new regulatory framework and provided. After in-depth exchanges and discussion, the participants of the meeting reached a common understanding on some of the key issues in the area of EPR for waste electric and electronic products. The meeting identified the following issues in need solutions:

- Lack of local WEEE recycling and reprocessing technology was identified by workshop participants;
- It is necessary to enforce legislation for all stakeholders and strengthen monitoring and compliance mechanisms across the country to ensure a level playing field;
- When no local end-processing facilities exist for an e-waste fraction, ensure good and easy access to international licensed treatment facilities;
- It is recommended to create a permitting system or encourage certification via international standards for collection and recycling;



- If an informal collection system exists, it should be used to collect e-waste, and ensure e-waste is sent to licensed recyclers through incentives;
- The collection targets are another issue of concern and the participants recommended to postpone the term for mandatory achievement of the collection targets, by providing a transition period;
- The mechanism for establishing the financial guarantees to be provided by the producers must be clear enough
- Ensure that costs to run the EPR scheme are transparent and stimulate competition in the collection and recycling system to drive cost effectiveness;
- It is recommended to provide some tax relief incentives for the EPR schemes, at least for the first year of operation;
- It is crucial to define measurable waste management targets and establish a clear reporting and monitoring system;
- It is necessary to create awareness on the environmental benefits of recycling among consumers.

The participants of the workshop have agreed of the need to continue the communication with regards to drafting the WEEE regulation and launching the negotiation process for establishing the EPR schemes. The workshop was concluded by Mrs. Tatiana Țugui who thanked all participants for their contributions and a rich and informative discussion.