

Document: Draft minutes of the 80th EERA meeting March 22, 2018
Date & location: March 22, Amsterdam – Schiphol
Attendees: Rasmus Bergström (RB), Chris Slijkhuis (CS), Kurt Kyck (KK), Sabine Krattiger(SK), Marius Costache (MC), Stefan Fuchs (SF), Kevin Garcia (KG), Manfred Fahrner (MF), Thierry Van Kerckhoven (TVK), Esteban Marijuan-Requeta (EMR), Tom Caris (TC), Patrick de Ligt (PdL), Norbert Zonneveld (NZ), Lida Stengs (LS).

The results of the elections for board position are announced.

The board requested for an amendment in the articles of association to extend the term for board membership with one year. (2 years-> 3 years, and board members will remain re-eligible). In total 19 members have voted, so the quorum of 50% is reached.

Extension of the term of board membership:

- 18 votes in line with the proposal
- 1 vote against the proposal

Elections for one board position:

- Marius Costache: 11 votes
- Esteban Marijuan Requeta: 8 votes.

NZ thanks the candidates and congratulates Marius continuing his board position for the coming three years.

News from EERA board

RB expresses that NZ is too young to retire, but Norbert indicated that he would like to step down as executive secretary. The board had a discussion in how to proceed. The board agreed on continuation with LS and this implicates that the main address (office) for EERA stays in the Netherlands.

The best profile for “a new Norbert” is discussed by board members and this will result in a profile (experiences and skills) for what EERA is looking for. The board will draft this profile (with focus on expertise in the field of WEEE and focus on public relations) and this will be communicated broadly. The board already received some interest for this position.

The draft minutes of the meeting in Salzburg are approved.

Action list January 2018:

257: Can be taken of the action list
258 & 266: Round table in Spain: first contact in March
259: Can be taken of the action – agreed not to proceed
264: Proposal UNU study and communication plan on the agenda today

Communication plan UNU study 2017-2018

The idea is to make a consigned report with infographics to be sent to all EERA members. Besides that, the board proposes (KK approach) to provide members with an up to date list of members of EP (MEP's) with environment & WEEE focus, and an information package based on the results of the study, with the request to EERA members to invite these people during their summer break for a visit in the recycling plant.

EERA will organise an EERA session during Electronics Goes Green in Vienna, with a focus on the result of this study. Other topics for this study will be discussed today.

NZ repeats the main conclusions of the UNU study and is asking to spread the word in all the MS.

The slides with main conclusions can be found at the EERA members 'site:

[click here and log in at EERA members 'site](#)

Presentation Chris Slijkhuis WEEE Plastics recycling.

In 2016 the volumes of plastics in WEEE was approx. 3.1 million tonnes of the almost total volume which was almost 15 million tonnes of WEEE in EU. CS shows the variation of all the plastics substances and percentages of these substances, like Deca BDE, Octa 7%, Penta hardly visible, HBCDD hardly visible in WEEE. Deca BDE is named POP and there is no formal threshold established at this moment.

The Stockholm and Basel convention decided for an intersessional working group (SIWG) on a high working level and based on worldwide participation. The idea is launched to raise a threshold for Deca BDE of 10-50 ppm. This means for WEEE that in case you send material to three different laboratories, the ranges will be all different, because these thresholds are not measurable and the recycling of plastics will completely stop. For ELV and WEEE recycling these targets will never been met. CS has prepared a paper for this SIWG meeting, to explain why these thresholds are not realistic and to indicate that proper and safe removal of hazardous substances in plastics is possible and is already the common practice. There is a simple method to measure which plastics can enter the recycling system. Some countries (FR) already consider all WEEE plastics as hazardous waste and are banning the export of these plastics at this moment. CS illustrates that the Austrian statement in their regulation is that all plastics exceeding the total Br content of 2000 mg/kg assumption: the POP limit is exceeded.

There is planned a stakeholder consultation, organised by BIPRO and CS has prepared a paper, which can be found at the EERA members 'site.

[Click here and log in at EERA members 'site to find all documents BIPRO questionnaire BFR's 2018](#)

NZ: What do you mean with the WEEE plastics industry is dead if these thresholds will be introduced? CS replies that the main reason will be that to proof these thresholds will not be possible. The laboratories will never give results lower than 1.000 ppm.

SF: The reality is also the ban on export to China, so almost 3 or 4 million tonnes are not going to be shipped to China. What is going to happen with all the material? MC: the only answer at this moment is incineration and that means that the recovery targets will be never met.

RB: There was so much imported waste and materials into China, so China reacted with this ban. None of the Chinese are using domestic plastics, so this is also meant as an incentive to fix the domestic problem of plastics in China. Now the materials go through other countries in Asia, as a short window, that will be stopped soon. Other routes are through Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan etc. These ways are still open and the enforcement in China is strong now, but shall it be as strong as it is after 6 months? It is important that we treat plastics well in Europe now and in the future. The total turnover capacity is now 1.3 million ton, so the recycling capacity for plastics is far too low.

SF: This will affect the recycling rates directly. Even when the collection rates are okay, but what happens when the plastics are not recycled and remain in the stocks? The whole industry will be facing this problem in the next months. It is the same for cables, because export of cables is completely stopped and many times cables are already incinerated.

CS gives a short resumé of the meeting at DG growth, yesterday. The title for this meeting was: pledging exercise for WEEEE plastics. Hoping that these problems will be solved with an answer from the producers to use more recycled plastics. CS asked for a commitment from the EC but the only answer received was that if we did not stop asking for such commitment it is better to stop the meeting!

CS is working from 2005- RoHs, REACH, Stockholm and Basel Convention and the WSR etc... and it always pops up from different sides. RB: EERA should focus more on this complex topic, with large impact for our industry. NZ is asking if EERA should plea (threat and opportunity) for an exemption for waste incineration or do we principally say let the problem occur and push the problem forward.

Who dares to report that the recycling rates for IT and SDA are met in near future? The attendees agree that the best way forward is to face truth that the recycling rates will be impossible to meet in very near future. COP 2019, May is now our future. Providing BIPRO with correct information is the most important thing to do for now.

Actions:

- A lot of lobbying must be done before the next COP meeting (Spring 2019), and the Bipro study will be ready before the COP, so we should disseminate our views now.
- Make WEEE plastics a joint subject in communication and cooperation with WEEE Forum
- Create a plastics working group among EERA members

TC suggests that we all should stress more that the proposed thresholds for Deca BDE etc. of 10-50 ppm cannot be measured. Make that more visible, wherever it is possible. The minimum for reliable measurements is now around 1.000 ppm. The reliable threshold for WEEE plastics for EERA is 1.000 ppm.

NSRR- FTN

CS shows his celebration party for a two years notification request for 500 tonnes of e-waste, to express what the current situation (transboundary shipments within EU) is and why the project for Fast Track Notification is of importance. The last meeting for FTN was in February 2018 in Metz and the whole issue is that the competent authorities do not trust each other. Harmonized business rules for pre-consents, and minimum requirements for a notification request are now discussed in this group. The idea is to draft a set of requirements which is needed to define a procedure to obtain the status pre-consented facility and a base line for Fast Track Notification Requirements, so once a facility is a pre-consent, a notification can be issued within 7 days, according to art. 14 WSR. CS is illustrating shortly that he and EERA secretariat are working on a BFR-Flyer, with infographics to explain the complex world of Brominated Flame Retardants in WEEE. The flyer exists as a draft now.

Going Green Meeting Care innovation 2018

The EERA board decided for an EERA session during Going Green Care innovation 2018, and CS is in contact with the organisation (Bernd Kopacek). The final program for this session needs to be submitted soon.

The attendees agree on the following topics:

- UNU study- economics incl. scavenging – Norbert Zonneveld
- Recycling rates (Sabine Krattiger and Heinz Böni, Empa)
- Discussions on plastics (Chris Slijkhuis)
- Lithium Ion batteries whenever they are there.

WSR evaluation:

CS is asking to fill out the WSR evaluation and to promote the importance of Fast Track Notification project in this evaluation. CS will prepare a small hand out for some guidance. Link to the evaluation: *You can access this consultation and submit your response to the questionnaire at the latest by 27 April 2018, by clicking here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/WasteShipmentReg>. In case you need to address aspects in more detail or provide information or data which may be of relevance to the evaluation, such information can also be submitted via email until 27 April 2018 at: WSRevaluation@trinomics.eu.*

Update Cenelec:

NZ is showing all the steps in Cenelec standards. The last documents are almost finalised: Preparing for Re-use (EN50614) in June and the Technical Report in May. Both are nearly finished. EERA has inquired the rumours about WEEE (Directive) 3, but this not yet on the agenda at the EC level.

I 4 R platform: base is in art 15 WEE directive, information for recyclers

NZ shows the new I 4 R platform and shows the first examples for C&FA. There is still very little information in the database. It is an empty shell at this moment, but the setup is in line with what EERA members have asked for. EERA has insisted on listing the components. EERA is asked for participation in the advisory board. It is decided to step in and Tom Caris will represent EERA in this board. Secondly a small group is created to monitor the new platform and to ask for better and more information and to monitor this on a regular base with EERA members.

RB is critical: There is no information which is not known by the recyclers, without this platform. MF sees this whole exercise as a green washing operation. Such a platform could only be interesting if this provides us with information on what substances are in each product and how do we have access to it. TC is happy to represent EERA in the advisory board and the working group should put questions forward on a quarterly base. The platform is for free, you should ask for access at the homepage. For the working group are selected now: Tom Caris (Coolrec), someone from Stena and someone from Green WEEE Group.

ACTION: small working group for i4R (to monitor the content of the platform I 4 R): Coolrec, Green WEEE, Stena

Country reports

Romania:

The Romanian Ministry asked EPR to support their views and to make standards mandatory and all EPR were agreeing on this. MC would like to do a proposal for future EERA meetings: Companies are changing and processes are changing. Maybe we can do “a ten sentences presentation” on what are our companies are doing. This could make EERA membership more attractive. It is good to be well informed on each other’s businesses. (and show this at the EERA website). It is of great importance to be represented in (almost) all EU MS. Let us start a project on prospects and start with all the WEEELABEX certified companies in EU.

Netherlands:

NZ is explaining that in the Netherlands the producers drafted a constructive proposal for the increase of collected and treated WEEE, based on input from all stakeholders. Unfortunately, the commitment of Authorities is low and distant. Besides that, the scrap metal dealers are promoting the idea of a hallmark for scrap metal dealers and a payment of 85 euros for collection and logistic activities to guarantee the sending of the material to certified recyclers.

It is being said that EC will start an impact assessment for making standards mandatory. We have asked to incorporate in this study economics analysis, scavenging levels and how the gap can be solved.

Germany:

UBA is proposing for a treatment directive for Germany. All representatives in the Ministry and at UBA related to WEEE have left their position. Proposal TA Luft is withdrawn because of complexity. WEEE is not high on the political agenda. MF will retire in September 2018. MF: On the 12 of August the new 6 categories will be implemented and the collection groups will be changed also.

Spain:

Transposition of the WEEE Directive took place in February 2012, then there were 5 years to adapt the law requirements by the MS. But this did not happen in Spain. Spain has no requirements for logistics, so the collection quality is very poor.

Sweden:

Denmark: Danweee is bankrupt. The Danish TBS was on site for an audit just one month before and the question is still how could they accept this? Recipo <https://recipo.se/en/> is a new company name in Norway, Denmark Sweden, with activities as a TBS and as a recycler. Action: this needs to be discussed with WEEE Forum at the next B2B meeting.

EERA meetings 2018:

Meeting:	Date:	More information:
EERA meeting and plant visit Stena Halmstad, Sweden	May 30, with the request to arrive in Halmstad on May 29 (evening)	Start 9:30 hrs Closure: 15:30 hrs.
82 nd EERA meeting in Vienna	November 26 (day before the start of the Going Green Care innovation conference in Vienna)	
NB: the EERA meeting in France (September) will probably be cancelled		

Action list:

No	On-going actions	Who	Time	Status
210	EERA members will provide EERA with lists of press contacts in WEEE business in Europe.	All	February 2015	Information from EERA members is awaited. EERA Secretary will send out a reminder
240	Recruiting new members	All		Follow up by EERA secretariat
254	Participation in Cenelec working group 10- eco-design	EERA members	a.s.a.p.	
255	Overview certified EERA members	EERA members-LS	November 2017	
256	Contact Impel, improving enforcement	EERA secretariat	November 2017	
264	Communication activities UNU study and continuation of UNU study on the EERA agenda.	EERA secretariat	January 2018	
265	EERA secretariat will ask UNU to establish a protocol on what can be monitored on a yearly base.	EERA secretariat	January 2018	
267	All EERA members are invited to share their proposals on how EERA should be going forward. Mail your suggestions, wishes and ideas to Bergström Rasmus: rasmus.bergstrom@stenametall.se	EERA members	January 2018	
268	secretariat will prepare a proposal for changing the board membership period.	LS	January 2018	
269	EERA board will prepare first concept for the EERA session during	CS, EERA board	January 2018	Deadline February 2018

	Electronics Goes Green Care innovation, Vienna, all members are invited to step forward with idea for presentations.			
270	Infographics document BFR	EERA secretariat CS	January 2018	
271	Proposal to organise a round table session in Spain	EERA secretariat	Spring 2018	