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Document: Draft minutes German EERA meeting

Date: 04-07-2017

Attendees: Axel Riemann (AR), Dirk Kehrer (DK), Thorsten Pockrandt (TP), Sebastian Schormann (SS), Folkert Schmidt (FS), Thomas Dietershagen (TD), Lida Stengs (LS). Norbert Zonneveld (NZ, by phone)

Topics:

What does EERA do for German members and what are the expectations from German members with respect to EERA membership.

NZ is presenting an overview of topics & tasks with relevance for German members (*not in order of importance*):

- Country support by means of special meetings (members, politicians, authorities), cooperation with 'primus interparis' – following AG 1-5
- Follow, report on, commenting on, issuing position papers on European legislation:
- WEEE Directive – nudging the Commission on art 2, 8, 10, 12, 15,
- WFD – defending definition of recycling rate calculation
- RoHS – specific requirements which are relevant for recycling
- WSR – pre-consented facilities, disparities in and costs of notification, illegal export
- Industrial Emissions Directive – BREF assuring that (non-depolluted) WEEE cannot be treated in car-shredders
- Ecodesign Directive – JRC proposals on regulation of displays, computers, servers – making sure that Annex 7 issues are addressed
- POP's regulation, Stockholm convention, OECD – making sure that WEEE plastics still can be recycled by setting realistic limit values
- ADR – disseminating information on packaging of Lion batteries
- Cenelec – (EN and TS 50625 series and EN 50614) securing the position of recyclers in order that all normative requirements (definitions, limit values, methodologies, etc.) for collection, logistics, treatment, depollution, final treatment and reuse are realistic and can be achieved.
- Cenelec – TC 10 on Ecodesign – making sure that waste requirements (WFD, WSR, WEEE) are included in the normative of these standards
- WEEELABEX organisation – assuring accredited 3rd party auditing, internal quality control, certification according to EN and TS 50625 series (6 German recyclers are certified)
- Projects and research – CWIT, NSSR, REE, Economics of compliant recycling, scavenging
- New issues – Data security
- Informal – contacts between (international) members – coffee talks

German members are asked to reflect and to express their expectations:

First the current situation in Germany is discussed. Germany suffers from problems with their powerful municipalities and the flat rates. The recycling quotes in EU are useless in this situation. Recyclers in Germany introduced the workshop Germany preprocessing.

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Short overview German expectations:

- Alba (TD) is interested in a timeline for activities and action plans in the EU, to facilitate a more strategic position in EU.
- DK adds that there is also a role for EERA when the bottlenecks are at EU level. E.g. a certain recycler in Germany gets the material from the Netherlands and this breaks the prices at German market.
- AR: the important themes are listed by EERA secretariat, but timelines are often too short to respond properly. The EERA members' site is not easy accessible and there is no improvement for the website and communication, yet.
- FS proposes to make the plastics index(es) available at the EERA website. EERA is independent and it will result in more visitors at the website. This idea has to be investigated on property rights and is taken into the plans for the modifications of the website.
- TD expresses that he is critical on what EERA will bring for Alba in the coming three years. AR replies that it is also a task for German members to ensure that EERA remains effective for Germany.

There is a discussion on how the lifecycle and ownership of products will change in near future. Will this result in really closing the loop and what is the role of the recycler. EERA has role in the elaboration of this new concept.

- **UNU study**

AR provides all attendees with the German translation of the NDA. It is important that the NDA's will be signed soon, because the study is seriously delayed. (Survey phase 1 was scheduled for May and June). TD shares his concerns for participation. LS is replying that German Members decided in Salzburg (January 2017) to participate in this study. The project is running and Germany is an important part in this study. AR provides all attendees with an English and German version of the NDA, by email, during the meeting. LS is asking for a deadline for signing.

TD is asking why the study is done by UNU. LS replies that this a matter of costs reduction. UNU is the (only) University that is so well informed in the whole WEEE chain. A study by another University or Institute is financially not feasible for EERA. EERA tried to find financial partners for this study, in order to make the study more independent. This did not succeed.

- **German board membership**

The fact that Germany is not represented in the board is discussed. LS explains that there is a board position vacant next April. The elections are a democratic process. Also the importance of being represented in the board is discussed. The German members have different views.

- **Ecodesign**

TD: This topic is strongly related to plastics. EERA is involved in many ways in Ecodesign: Cenelec TC 10, the Ecodesign Consultation Forum on ecodesign and energy labelling requirements for electronic displays, the plastics strategy etc. TD: EERA has to decide where to react on. The world of ecodesign is too broad and too slippery to focus on the whole scope. It could get out of hand.

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The dividing line between ecodesign and art 15 WEEE directive is blurred. Is this a question for legal experts? TD comes with a proposal for German members how to react on ecodesign proposals, before August.

- **Miscellaneous:**

The attendees decide for a next meeting in October. LS will send out a Doodle in finding a suitable date. The objective is to draft a joint document to be presented during EERA meeting in Düsseldorf in November.

Actionlist:

Topic:	Who:	Date:
EERA position paper on plastics (draft) to all German Members	LS	a.s.a.p.
Document Digital Europe (June 2017) Ecodesign to all German members	LS	a.s.a.p.
Contact with German manufacturers to cooperate in the discussion of plastics recycling. Initiate proposals for plastics recycling e.g. VAT exemptions	EERA & German members	
Data security on EERA agenda	EERA	
Time line EU themes for WEEE industry	EERA	
Proposal on ecodesign (how to react, where intervention etc..)	TD	August 2017
NDA's for UNU study (signing)	All German members Coordination: AR	July 20
Bottlenecks at EU level: EERA members should provide EERA with information (unfair competition) and EERA has address this at EU or MS level.	EERA members & EERA	
Next meeting German EERA meeting- Doodle invitation	LS	October 2017
Drafting a joint document with insights from German members. To be presented at EERA meeting Düsseldorf.	German Members	November 2017