

EucoLight statement on online platforms

16 May 2017

EucoLight is the voice of European WEEE compliance schemes specialised in managing the collection and recycling of WEEE lighting. Our members have many years of practical experience of the implementation of the WEEE directive across the 18 EU member states in which they operate. A significant number of our members have reported concerns over the level of free riding that appears to take place through a number of online platforms. That includes both online platforms that are domiciled outside of the EU, but also those with a physical presence (warehouses and legal entities) within one or more Member States.

It is our opinion that the problem is widespread. In our view the lighting sector is particularly vulnerable to such free riding. This is because the products are small, light weight, and robust enough to be shipped easily. Furthermore, it is widely recognised that WEEE charges per Kg of EEE tend to be higher in lamps than in many other sectors. This increases the financial attractiveness of free riding.

It is our view that further work is urgently needed to apply the WEEE directive in such situations. This might include additional legal obligations for online platforms, or better enforcement of the requirement to appoint authorised representative. We would urge the relevant authorities to prioritise such a review. The widespread free riding that our members believe is taking place damages compliant operators, and undermines the sustainable financing of lamp waste.

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About EucoLight:

EucoLight is The European association of collection and recycling organisations for WEEE lamps and lighting. On behalf of its 19 members, EucoLight engages with everything related to the WEEE Directive, legislations and standards affecting the collection and recycling of WEEE lighting. EucoLight members collect and recycle, in aggregate, 79 % of the lamps waste collected in the 18 countries in which they operate.

EucoLight is the voice of European WEEE compliance schemes specialised in managing the collection and recycling of WEEE lighting; working to make the circular economy a reality for lighting products.

Founded mid-2015, EucoLight has quickly embarked into constructive dialogue with relevant stakeholders to provide expertise in the field of management and treatment of WEEE lighting and to promote the positive role of Extended Producer Responsibility schemes on the environment and society.

For more information, visit the EucoLight website www.eucolight.org, follow EucoLight on Twitter @EucoLight or contact the Secretary General, Marc Guiraud (marc.guiraud@eucolight.org).