**Expert Working Group on the E-waste technical guidelines**

**April 28th, 2020 - online consultation**

**14h – 16h - Geneva time**

For the list of attendees, please see Annex I of this document.

1. **Opening remarks**

* The representative of the Secretariat welcomed all participants.
* Co-chair Magda Gosk explained the objectives of the online consultation and the items in the agenda.
* The group adopted the meeting agenda by including an extra item for other issues.

1. **Recalling of decision BC-14/5**

* Co-chair Gosk highlighted the main requests of the decision from COP-14.

1. **Discussion on the suggestions/comments received from parties:**

* The representative of the Secretariat explained the comments received based on the discussions of the EWG in the online consultation of October 2019 (from Argentina, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago and ITI), when the group decided to have an extra round of comments within the EWG only, as well as the comments received in response to paragraph 8 of BC-14/5 decision (from Colombia).
* The group briefly discussed that the only set of comments which responds to paragraph 8 of decision BC-14/5 was the one from Colombia, and therefore this could be included in the information document being prepared for the OEWG-12 meeting.
* Co-chair Joost Meijer asked the group to share their views on the use and test the guidelines.
* Some participants shared information about some of the difficulties in testing the technical guidelines. For example, the lack of capacity of customs’ officers, the lack of equipment (i.e. scanners) for checking shipments, the need for more time, and from the industry, the time required for national governments to align the requirements/conditions presented in the guidelines in their policies and legislations. More specifically for the medical devices industry, the situation has not changed, and business continues as usual.
* The representative from Colombia mentioned their plans in testing the guidelines in the future, if possible, and their limitations including the lack of technical capacity for customs’ officers, the lack of HS codes for e-waste and used equipment, among others.
* The representative of Trinidad and Tobago mentioned that the regional center in the Caribbean region will start a new project related to e-waste where perhaps they could include the testing of the guidelines. However, she explained that it may take long to obtain results as this is a 5-year long project.
* The representatives of Germany and EU explained that the European Correspondents’ guidelines have been updated, to further take into account the Basel technical guidelines. They further stressed that the provisions on the shipment of e-waste actually are more stringent than the Basel technical guidelines because of the obligations contained in the European Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment, which were not altered due to changes in the Basel context.
* The Secretariat should send to the group the link to the European guidelines and information on WCO related documents on HS codes which are relevant to the e-waste entries.
* After ensuing discussions, the group agreed that little information is available about the use and test of the technical guidelines by countries and by other stakeholders.
* Members of the group also suggested that regional centers could perhaps help with the testing of the guidelines in their different regions, by reaching out to countries in the regions and proposing collaborative actions in order to test the guidelines.

1. **Discussion of the next steps, including reference to OEWG.**

* The representative of the Secretariat briefed the group on the activities that happened since COP-14 and on the OEWG-12 meeting organization. She explained that the meeting is aiming at being held electronically, in a simplified version, with procedural decisions only.
* The group requested the Secretariat to check whether it would be possible to add a paragraph to invite further comments on the use and test of the technical guidelines on a pilot basis in the OEWG-12 decision on these guidelines. The representative of the Secretariat explained that she would try, but could not confirm it, since the preparation of the OEWG-12 decisions was already on-going.

1. **Any other issues**
   * The representative of Switzerland explained that they, together with Ghana, had sent, in the framework of the ongoing work on the review of Annexes,a draft proposal to the Secretariat to amend Annex II of the Convention, adding a new entry related to non-hazardous e-waste. Switzerland indicated that further presentation of their proposal would be considered in due time.
   * After the meeting, the Secretariat should share with the group the draft proposal and the link where it is available on the website.
2. **Closing remarks**
   * Co-chairs thanked the group for their participation, despite the difficult circumstances the world is in at the moment due to the pandemic.
   * The Secretariat should circulate the summary notes and requested information to the group in due course.

**Annex I – List of attendees**

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| **NAME** | | **REPRESENTING** |
|  | Mr. Andrea Celso | Argentina |
|  | Mr. Joost Meijer | Chile |
|  | Mr. Yang Zheng | China |
|  | Ms. Andrea Lopez | Colombia |
|  | Ms. Trisha Beejai | Trinidad and Tobago |
|  | Ms. Katrin Kaare | Estonia |
|  | Mr. Yorg Aerts | European Commission |
|  | Mr. Michael Ernst | Germany |
|  | Mr. Joseph Edmund | Ghana |
|  | Mr. Marco Buletti | Switzerland |
|  | Ms. Isabelle Baudin | Switzerland |
|  | Mr. Kees Wielenga | Ffact (working with Switzerland) |
|  | Mr. Alvim Piadasa | TES-AMM Group |
|  | Mr. James Vetro | DITTA ENVI WG |
|  | Ms. Kristyn Rankin | Apple Inc |
|  | Mr. Osamu Sakamoto | Consultant to the Ministry of Environment, Japan |
|  | Ms. Patricia Whiting | Sims Recycling Solutions |
|  | Mr. Paul Hagen | Beveridge & Diamond PC |
|  | Mr. Riccardo Corridori | COCR and DITTA |
|  | Mr. Ross Bartley | Bureau of International Recycling |
|  | Ms. Carla Valle-Klann | BRS Secretariat |