



MINUTES
of the working meeting in the frames of the project
”Promoting ESM of E-Waste in the Republic of Moldova”

19 April, 2017, Ministry of Environment, room 740

Venue: Chişinău, 9, Constantin Tănase str., room 740

Date: 2017.04.19

Duration: 10.00-13.00

Host: Environmental Pollution Prevention Office

Agenda

Time	Subject	Reporter
10.00 – 10.30	Registration of participant/coffee break	
10.30 - 10.50	Opening remarks	Inga Podoroghin, State Secretary, MOEnv
10.50 - 11.10	Overview of the project ”Promoting ESM of E-Waste in the Republic of Moldova”	Tatiana Țugui, EPPO
11.10-12.00	Waste Law: Extended producer Responsibility Principle	Tatiana Țugui, EPPO
12.00-12.30	Overview of the draft WEEE Regulation	Svetlana Bolocan, MoE
12.30-13.00	Matters related to the Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment	Tatiana Țugui, EPPO
12.30-13.00	Group discussions 1. Technical guidelines 2. Extended producer responsibility principle	All the participants



Mrs. Inga Podoroghin, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment provided the opening remarks of the workshop, by welcoming all the participants representing the business community and expressing her appreciation for the willingness to attend the workshop.

Mrs. Podoroghin recalled the determination of the Moldovan Government to integrate in the European Union by signing the Association Agreement and into the EU Market by signing the DCFTA. Through the EU Association Agreement, the Republic of Moldova has committed to harmonize its legislation with the EU acquis, including the relevant waste directives. The new Waste Law no. 209 of 29.07.2016 was recently approved and the workshop will be an opportunity to present the new law, in particular the provisions related to the implementation of the extended producer responsibility principle, which will enter into force at the end of 2017. In addition, the DCFTA agreement provides for the adoption and implementation of the extended producer responsibility principle, which aims at promoting the circular economy by turning waste into resources. The State Secretary, mentioned that the EPR systems are already well established in Europe, in the areas of packaging waste, e-waste, batteries, end-of-life vehicles.

She also sought to mention that, in order to set up cost-efficient and high performing EPR-schemes, a prerequisite is to clearly define the responsibilities of all involved stakeholders and to set up a partnership between the public and the private sector. This is the main objective of the present meeting and, in this regards, Mrs Podoroghin wished participants fruitful discussions.

Besides this, the State Secretary noted that the meeting will provide floor for discussing the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment.

Further the floor was given to **Mrs. Tatiana Țugui**, who made a short insight into the project activities whose objective is to support introduction of extended producer responsibility mechanisms in Moldova, with particular focus on e-waste in order to promote the relevant obligations pertaining to WEEE EU Directives and the Basel Convention. Mrs. Țugui also listed the expected outcomes of the project which are detailed feedback on e-waste technical guidelines, training on extended producer responsibility for economic operators in the e-waste sector; and draft statute and regulation of the Association of the WEEE producers. All this results will be achieved by conducting activities related to introduction of extended producer responsibility mechanisms in Moldova with particular focus on e-waste, enhancing institutional capacities and knowledge of producers and distributors of electrical and electronic equipment with regards to establishment of the associations and last, but not the least, increasing the awareness among key stakeholders regarding risks associated with unsound management of e-wastes.



Following the general description of the project, Mrs. Țugui proceeded to the presentation of the new legal framework that introduces new principles in waste management, including the EPR principle. She outlined that currently, as the new law on waste was adopted, that gives an impulse for elaboration and adaption of the secondary framework, including the WEEE Regulation, which has been drafted and is now in process of consultation with the interested stakeholders. Further, Mrs. Țugui made 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.

Mrs. Svetlana Bolocan, chief of Pollution Prevention and Waste Management division of the Ministry of Environment, has further made a detailed presentation of the draft WEEE Regulation, by listing the responsibilities and obligation of each actor involved in the implementation of the EPR principle, such as environment local and central authorities on one side and business community on the other. Firstly, she outlined the main obligations of the producers and distributors of EEE arising from the new legal framework. She paid a special attention to the issues related to honoring the EPR either individually or collectively, by highlighting the benefits and disadvantages of each approach. Mrs. Bolocan also made reference to the types of equipment covered by the Regulation, along with the exceptions. Another important issues tackled by Mrs. Bolocan were the financial mechanisms for implementation of the regulation, in particular the costs for establishing and operating the individual and collective scheme, the financial guarantees. In the final remarks, she advised the participants to get familiar with the provisions of the Regulation and to provide feedback.

The next topic in the agenda was the presentation for discussion of the Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention, made by **Mrs. Tatiana Țugui**. The technical guidelines focus on clarifying aspects related to transboundary movements of e-waste and used equipment that may or may not be waste, which is an issue of concern and should be clearly set in order to reduce transboundary movements of e-waste that currently may be exported to countries



and facilities that cannot handle it in an environmentally sound manner. Mrs. Țugui delivered a brief description of the criteria for distinguishing waste and non-waste and informed the participants that the core issues of the technical guidelines will be reflected in the draft WEEE regulation, under the relevant chapter dedicated to the Transportation of WEEE.

The introductory presentations provided a frame for further discussions during the breakout sessions, when participants were broken up in two groups: one for discussing the EPR principle and one for technical guidelines.

During the breakout sessions the participants of each group exchanged their views and opinions on the topics assigned. As a result, the main findings can be listed:

- technical guidelines are useful and opportune to be used as a reference for developing the regulatory framework for WEEE management;
- the TGs should tackle more detailed the export of equipment for repair and failure analyses under the warranty period;
- a special issue of concern is the customs duties for reimport and the term in which the equipment under guarantee should be repaired (14 days);
- the procedure of obtaining the documents accompanying the transport could be longer than 14 days;
- it is recommended to include in the TGs a link with the WEEE covered by EPR principle, in particular the exported WEEE;
- the evaluation and testing of the equipment destined for repair and refurbishment is difficult to be conducted in the RM, as there are no tailored service centers;
- the TGs should be also considered by the Customs Service, who is dealing with the export and temporary export of EEE;
- the Customs Service should be provided with a checklist of documents to facilitate the control at the border,
- the customs codes should be included in the WEEE Regulation, in order to facilitate tracking of the imported EEE.

As regards the EPR, the participants agreed to establish a Task Team that would further consult the WEEE Regulation and provide relevant feedback, in particular on the responsibilities of each member of the supply chain: producers, importers, distributors; the financial mechanism; setting the individual and collective scheme; the responsibilities of the scheme, etc.

In the closing remarks, Mrs. Tatiana Țugui, thanked the rapporteurs and the participants for all their valuable inputs during meeting. The participants of the workshop have agreed of the need to continue the communication with regards to drafting and approval of the WEEE regulation, also acknowledging the need to take into consideration the recommendations of the TGs while transporting EEE and WEEE.