

PIC PROCEDURE FOR ALL E-WASTE

A proposal of Ghana and Switzerland for an amendment of the Basel Convention

The proposal

Switzerland and Ghana propose amending the Basel Convention to additionally cover e-waste not characterized as hazardous under the Convention. Consequently, **all types of e-waste moved transboundary would be submitted to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure**. For this purpose, e-waste not characterized as hazardous would newly be listed in the corresponding ANNEX II of the Convention listing “Categories of waste requiring special consideration”.

Goal

To direct all e-waste to an environmental sound recovery with state-of-the-art technology in order to **protect human health and the environment and get a maximum of resource recovery** and thus contribute to a circular economy. Applying the PIC procedure to all WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) is a prerequisite to assure environmentally sound management (ESM) of all such categories of wastes.

Reasoning– E-waste Situation Today

E-waste not treated in an environmentally sound manner burdens the environment, regardless if it is classified as hazardous or non-hazardous. E-waste has a yearly growing rate of up to 5% and is one of the fastest growing waste streams worldwide. **In 2019 more than 50 million metric tons of e-waste was generated** and for the year 2030 around 75 million metric tons are predicted. The value of the raw material in e-waste generated in 2019 is estimated to be 57 billion US \$. Today the **fate of more than 80% of the e-waste generated is undocumented**.

(The Global E-waste Monitor 2020: Quantities, flows and circular economy potential Forti V., Baldé C.P., Kuehr R., Bel G.)

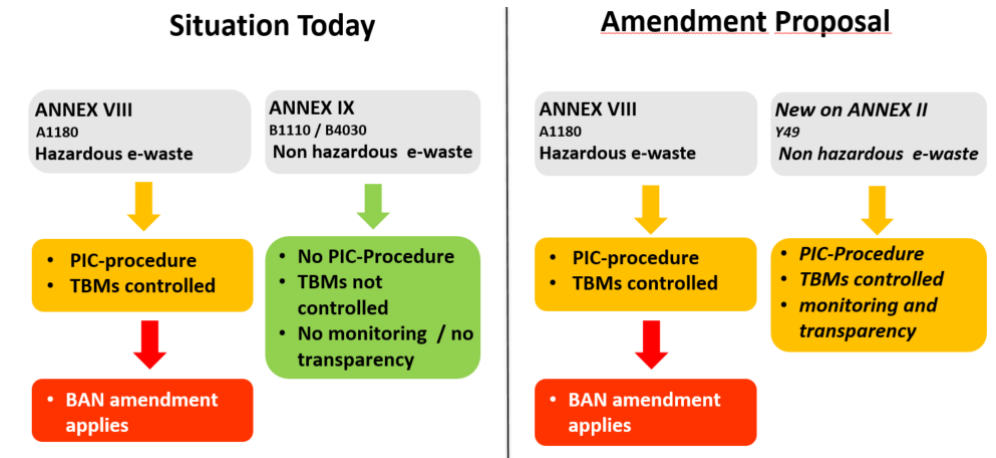
Today, huge amounts of waste from electrical and electronic equipment do not end in environmentally sound recovery operations and therefore pollute soils, waterbodies and air and also threaten human health. In addition, e-waste not treated with state-of-the-art technology leads to the loss of enormous values and natural resources

Transboundary Movements (TBMs)

It is estimated that between 7 and 20% of the e-waste worldwide generated or **3.8 to 10.7 million metric tons are moved transboundary** every year declared as second-hand products or e-waste. Such TBMs are often directed to vulnerable countries, which are not in a position to treat e-waste in an environmentally sound

manner. Additionally, false declarations of moved material contribute to the e-waste emergency.

Today, under the Basel Convention, only e-waste characterized as hazardous and moved transboundary is subject to the PIC (Prior Informed Consent) control procedure. Additionally, exports of hazardous waste from Parties and other States which are members of the OECD, EC and Liechtenstein to other States are prohibited under the Convention (BAN amendment).



Benefits of the proposal

- Better protection of the environment and human health.
- Better transparency and monitoring of TBMs, reduction of illegal trade of e-waste and the protection of vulnerable countries from unwanted imports.
- Ensures state-of-the-art treatment of all e-waste, protects resources and results in a much more valuable recovery.
- Better assistance for the integration of the informal sector based on new available information about TBMs of e-waste.
- Increases the sustainability of the recycling chain and creates new jobs.

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Full proposal: <http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/Amendments/Proposedamendments/tabid/7906/Default.aspx>
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