



Basel Convention

## INFORMATION NOTE

### MOBILE PHONE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (MPPI)

#### Background

- Mr. Philippe Roch, State Secretary Switzerland, in his capacity as President of COP 5 of the Basel Convention, launched an initiative to set up a pilot project on partnership with industry on the environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile phones. .
- The Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) was formally established under the Basle Convention in December of 2002 during COP 6, at which 12 manufacturers signed a Declaration entering into sustainable partnership, with the Basel Convention and in cooperation with other stakeholders, to develop and promote the environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile phones. Following the commitment by manufacturers, three telecom operators who signed this declaration to join the partnership.

#### Benefits of the MPPI

- Consumers should have confidence that re-sold phones are of a satisfactory standard with respect to product safety, quality, longevity and environmental performance. Also, refurbishers, who indirectly provided their new refurbished/second-hand products, are taking their *Producer Responsibility* obligations seriously, and thereby assuring their customers of a high calibre service/product.
- Manufacturers should have confidence that both importers & local reprocessors are aware of the best practise with respect to refurbishment, materials recycling, transboundary movements, and implement these for products they manufactured.
- International organizations, such as UNEP, should benefit by the fact that partnerships such as the MPPI make concrete contribution to the implementation of sustainable development goals, outlined in environmental agreements such as the Basel Convention. It contributes towards the implementation of Agenda 21, and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
- Finally, partnerships like the MPPI supplement government's initiatives to deliver on goals and objectives under various environmental agreements, while promoting cooperative sustainable and transparent working arrangements.

## Work Programme

In June 2003, the Basel's Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) approved the Work Programme of the MPPI. It consists of 4 projects:

1. *Reuse of used mobile phones after refurbishment*  
Development of guidelines for refurbishment of used mobile phones that would re-enter the market.
2. *Collection and transboundary movement of used mobile phones*  
Development of best practice guidelines for collection schemes, and transboundary movement of used and end-of-life mobile phones. It is also to provide advice on programmes, legislation and/or regulations for an effective collection of end-of-life mobile phones.
3. *Recovery and Recycling of end-of-life mobile phones*  
Identification of existing best environmentally sound practices for recovery and recycling of mobile phones, and development of guidelines on environmentally sound practices for recycling and recovery.
4. *Awareness raising on design consideration*  
Development of guidelines on raising awareness on what manufacturers have already done in product design with extended producer responsibility in mind. It also provides recommendations on additional environmentally sound efforts that would be welcomed.

## Current Status

- Five guidelines were completed and are available and a glossary of terms

Glossary of Terms (Final Draft). March 20, 2006 

Guideline on the Refurbishment of Used Mobile Phones (Approved Draft). Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative Project 1.1. March 20, 2006 

Guideline on the Collection of Used Mobile Phones (Approved Draft). Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative Project 2.1. March 20, 2006 

Guideline on Material Recovery and Recycling of End-of-Life Mobile Phones (Approved Draft). Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative Project 3.1. March 20, 2006 

Guideline on the Awareness Raising-Design Considerations (Approved Draft). Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative Project 4.1. March 20, 2006 

Guideline for the Transboundary Movement of Collected Mobile Phones (Approved Final Draft). Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative Project 2.1. November, 2006  **NEW**

- <http://www.basel.int/industry/mppiwp/guid-info/index.html>
- The overall Guidance Document on environmentally sound management of used and of-life mobile phones summarizes the guidelines and is available at:

**Guidance document...link**

- Dissemination of the guidelines and training government officials in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and know-how to countries from the guidelines will be realised through a set of workshops held in a select number of countries over the next 1.5 years.
- Plans are being finalized to initiate the establishment of pilot collection schemes and for and treatment schemes for used and end-of-life mobile phones in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Its objective is to test the effectiveness of various guidelines that have been developed, as part of the MPPI. The key deliverables from the project would be: raised public awareness regarding such schemes; raised public awareness regarding the MPPI; and a successful mobile phone collection, and recovery scheme operating in a selected country or region.