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## European WEEE news – January 2011

Dear readers,

we have prepared the following topics for you this month:

- Commodities:** Continuously upwards.
- Producer responsibility:** No agreement upon the WEEE recast.
- The Recycler's view:** How reliable are weighing notes?
- From the countries:** Germany, UK, France, Italy, Finland.

**Commodities:** Continuously upwards.

Our partner for the commodity reports, the IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG ([www.ikb.de](http://www.ikb.de)) reports about an increase of world commodity prices on US \$ basis of 6 % in December 2010. At the same time, world steel prices were slightly decreasing. Based on the weakened Euro, inside the Euro zone, prices have been rising. For Q1 2011, increasing ore prices and up to 10 % higher scrap prices are expected.

You can find the full report in German on our homepage [www.rene-europe.com/](http://www.rene-europe.com/) WEEE News/ Commodity reports

**Producer responsibility: No agreement upon the WEEE recast**

According to a document from the European Council, dated 10th December 2010, a debate of the core elements of the WEEE recast did not lead to a final agreement. Diverging positions are still remaining with regards to the WEEE scope, the time line until the implementation of the new collection targets, the definition of the producer ("national" definition) and the implementation of an inter-operational European register. A comment from the European Parliament is not expected before February 2011.

Source: European Council, Interinstitutional File: 2008/0241 (COD), pp 3.

**The recyclers' view: How reliable are weighing notes?**

The documentation of a producer's WEEE material flow is ultimately based on the weighing notes that the first treatment plant provides at the reception of the material. Therefore, the weighing note has a core relevance for both reporting and invoicing. However, mistakes in weighing notes are a common observation. The system of RENE AG, which tracks every order separately and allocates weighing notes online directly to them, reliably detects weighing notes that are issued wrongly or twice. Without this tight control, producers potentially face multiple invoices for the same order. A producer shall therefore not only

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focus on consistent weighing notes, but also make sure that the invoices match weighing note and order!

Source: RENE AG

### **From the countries:**

#### **Germany: Power supplies are independent electrical products**

The German High Court has provided the basis for applying the German WEEE legislation (ElektroG) to power supplies. Essentially, the Court has concluded that power supplies are products for the generation, transfer and measurement of electric currents or electromagnetic fields (as stipulated in Article 3 of the WEEE Directive 2002/96/EC). Thus § 3(1) Nr. 2 of the ElektroG applies (<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/abfallwirtschaft/elektrog/index.htm>) This judgement can be extended also to peripherals such as USB memory sticks or system components.

Source: Allen & Overy LLP 2010

#### **UK: New evidence and national WEEE protocols guidance.**

The Environment Agency has published a new guideline in which new rules for batteries, WEEE protocols and recovery and re-use targets are explained.

Source: UK Environment Agency

#### **France: Further focus of the recycling industry on WEEE events.**

The French recycling industry continues to use collection events in order to get access to WEEE and to inform the public upon both their disposal obligations and correct treatment. This approach appears to make sense in the French consumer environment. The collective system Eco-Systèmes ([www.eco-systemes.fr](http://www.eco-systemes.fr)) organises two events in the Southern Paris area under the title "Grand Ramassage Exeptionel" on the 22nd and 29th January 2011.

Source: [www.siom.fr](http://www.siom.fr)

#### **Italy: Strong growth of collection volume in 2010.**

According to an evaluation of the Centro di Coordinamento RAEE ([www.cdcaee.it](http://www.cdcaee.it)) 250.000 tons of WEEE were collected throughout Italy in 2010. This represents an increase of 30 % in comparison to 2009. The highest growth contribution came from returned CRT monitors and TVs.

Source: REMEDIA ([www.consorzioremedia.it](http://www.consorzioremedia.it))

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**Finland: Visible fee remains - partially.**

The end of the “visible fee” that we have communicated in the last newsletter, applies only for invoices to end customers. Invoices that are issued to distributors can still display the visible fee separately.

Source: Elker Oy

We wish all of our readers a succesful month!

Your RENE team