



## Environmental organisations call for a swift revision of the Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive to address Europe's electronic waste crisis

**The number of electronic devices on the EU market nearly doubled, soaring by over 98% between 2013 and 2022, new Eurostat data reveals.<sup>1</sup> This sharp increase is driving an e-waste crisis.<sup>2</sup> In response, a broad coalition of environmental organisations is urging the EU to take bold and immediate action to mitigate the environmental damage caused by Europe's growing dependence on electronics.**

Environmental NGOs call on the European Commission to swiftly overhaul the outdated Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE Directive). Notably, they call for the inclusion of reduction targets to cut the material footprint of electronics, stronger circular economy and sustainable design principles, as well as stricter responsibilities for producers, sellers and online platforms in the production, use and treatment of electronics.

When it entered into force in 2012, the WEEE Directive introduced a pioneering approach to environmentally sound management of e-waste and represented a first step towards a circular economy. However, since then, the challenges posed by electronic waste have intensified, and considerable technical developments have occurred, making the current WEEE Directive no longer fit for purpose.

The latest Eurostat data highlights once again the growing environmental threat posed by electronics, confirming the steady increase in the number of devices entering the EU market, which directly contributes to the rise in e-waste:

- More than 14.4 million tonnes of electrical and electronic equipment were sold in the EU in 2022 – an increase of over 98% since 2013.
- Per inhabitant, the biggest consumers of electrical and electronic equipment in the EU are the Netherlands (39.9 kg), Denmark (38.8 kg), Germany (33.9 kg), France (33 kg) and Austria (30.2 kg).
- In 2022, 5.0 million tonnes of e-waste was registered – 1.4 % less than in 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> [New Eurostat data on increased demand for electronics in Europe](#)

<sup>2</sup> [New Eurostat data on the amount of e-waste in Europe](#)



**Against this background, environmental organisations propose the following key recommendations for transforming the WEEE Directive into a WEEE Regulation:**

- Set quantitative targets to reduce the environmental footprint of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE), e.g., in relation to the use of material-specific primary resources or the volume of electronics put on the market.
- Introduce horizontal ecodesign and information requirements, and phase out all substances of concern, including those that hinder an effective end-of-life treatment of EEE.
- Promote reuse and repair by setting clear targets, improving collection, raising awareness, and strengthening the fundamental 'right to repair'.
- Increase and enforce producer and seller responsibility, including for online platforms.
- Improve WEEE collection and end illegal exports by ensuring better consumer information, consumer-friendly collection systems, more realistic calculation methods for targets, and better differentiation between reusable and functional equipment.
- Set modern rules for WEEE treatment, collection, logistics, and preparation for reuse.
- Ban the destruction of unsold EEE and ensure their reuse.

For more details on environmental NGO's demands, see [here](#).

### **About the EEB**

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations, standing for environmental justice, sustainable development, and participatory democracy. It represents over 185 members in over 41 countries.

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### **About DUH**

Environmental Action Germany (Deutsche Umwelthilfe – DUH) is a recognized German environmental and consumer protection organization, which has been campaigning for resource conservation and consumer interests since 1975. DUH is politically independent, non-profit and it campaigns on a national and European



level. It is for example renowned for its role in uncovering the Diesel Scandal and in establishing a deposit system for non-refillable beverage containers in Germany. Within its Department Circular Economy, DUH promotes waste prevention, responsible consumption, and a sustainable economy.

Website: [www.duh.de/englisch](http://www.duh.de/englisch)

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### **About ECOS**

ECOS - Environmental Coalition on Standards is an international NGO with a network of members and experts advocating for environmentally friendly technical standards, policies, and laws. We ensure the environmental voice is heard when they are developed and drive change by providing expertise to policymakers and industry players, leading to the implementation of strong environmental principles.

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### **About NABU**

Founded in 1899, NABU (The Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union) is the oldest and largest environment association in Germany. It encompasses more than 940,000 members and supporters, who commit themselves to the conservation of threatened habitats, flora, and fauna, to climate protection and energy policy. NABU advocates a sustainable economy and society, thoughtful eco-design, and a universal right to repair.

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### **About RREUSE**

RREUSE is Europe's largest network of social enterprises active in the circular economy, notably in the fields of re-use, repair and recycling.

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