



## **Press release**

*For Immediate Release*

*09/10/2007 – Brussels*

### **The Photovoltaic sector proposes a voluntary take-back system for waste**

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**Brussels, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007 – The 4<sup>th</sup> EPIA Round-table in a cycle of 6 debates, running until December 2007, focused on waste and recycling in the photovoltaic sector. The round table event highlighted the PV sector's initiative to establish a voluntary take-back system for photovoltaic products and at the same time urged the Commission not to include photovoltaic in the WEEE directive, currently under revision.**

Photovoltaic (PV) products are currently not included in the scope of the directive on Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), but the directive is under revision and a possible inclusion of new products in the directive will be presented during 2008.

The current WEEE Directive stipulates:

- **The prevention of waste through the reuse, recycling and recovery of electrical and electronic equipment waste so as to reduce disposal.**
- **That each producer is responsible for financing the collection, treatment, recovery and disposal of its own products.**

Today the need to recycle PV products is still limited as the sector only took-off a few years ago. However EPIA foresees a drastic change of the situation in 20 years time, as products will reach their end-of-life and spent modules will have to be recycled.

To anticipate the future needs, the PV sector, through the association "PV Cycle", is now proposing **a voluntary take-back system for PV waste that will enable the sector to recover up to 90% of PV products by 2015.** The association currently represents over 70% of the global photovoltaic market. Its key objectives are:

- **Promoting and setting up an industry wide voluntary PV module reclaim and recycling program;**
- **Promoting industry-led sustainable product life cycle management practices;**
- Strengthening the industry's overall joint **product responsibility;**
- **Ensuring regular monitoring;**
- **Supporting targeted future research.**

An inclusion of the PV-sector in WEEE would result in 27 differently designed recycling systems, with inherent administrative procedures and costs. The take-back system proposed by PV-Cycle will instead create a coherent EU-wide recycling system that will enable efficient and economically viable management of waste from the PV-sector.

**EPIA together with PV Cycle is therefore urging the Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament not to include photovoltaic products within the future scope of the revised WEEE Directive.**

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***About the European Photovoltaic Industry Association:***

With 129 Members drawn from across the entire solar electricity sector, the European Photovoltaic Industry Association represents over 95% of the European photovoltaic industry. EPIA represents the whole value-chain of the photovoltaic industry from silicon producers, cells and module manufacturers to system providers. EPIA's mission is to deliver a distinct and valuable service driven from the strength of a single European photovoltaic voice.

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