

WEEE Forum calls for cooperation to reach ambitious e-waste collection targets

National WEEE schemes share blueprint for 15 years of recycling success with Commissioner Vella

At its fifth international conference, the WEEE Forum celebrated its 15th anniversary and laid out its vision for a resource efficient and sustainable WEEE sector. Cooperation among all stakeholders will be key to reach the ambitious collection targets, said the forum. The conference in St Julians, Malta, was held in the fringe of the EU Environment Ministers informal meeting during the Maltese EU Presidency and was addressed by both EU Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella and Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. The two-day conference gathered producer compliance schemes, recyclers, producers and other stakeholders to discuss three topical environmental issues: Digitisation & Innovation, Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency, and Extended Producer Responsibility.

The WEEE Forum includes thirty-one WEEE producer responsibility

organisations (PROs) in Europe and Australasia. Mandated by 31,000 liable producers of electrical appliances to collect, recycle and recover to the highest treatment standards 17 million tonnes of e-waste, the PROs have worked towards the development of a European economy that is more resource efficient and sustainable, according to the forum.

"The 2019 collection target of 65% of equipment sold, or 85% of WEEE generated, will be extremely challenging for almost all member states, unless we encourage cooperation among stakeholders, count all WEEE and improve law enforcement," said Jan Vlak, President of the WEEE Forum. Delivering the keynote address at the conference, Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for the Environment, European Commission said, "WEEE provides a prime example of why recycling efforts pay off; and it pays

off for the environment, it pays off for industry, and it pays off in jobs. This industry is a prime example of why we need to move from waste management to resource management, and why we have to find circular solutions."

"Producers accept they need to finance end of life costs, but they must have authority to manage and control the cost," adds Philip Morton, Vice President of the WEEE Forum. "Legislation needs to ensure producers' cost responsibility is clear and they have the legal right to approve collection points, collectors and recyclers of WEEE."

"All member states of the EU need to follow the example of the Dutch, Belgians, Irish, Lithuanians and French, and make the EN 50625 standards on collection, logistics and treatment of WEEE legally binding", points out Pascal Leroy, Secretary General, WEEE Forum.

BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition 2017

The BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition assembled over 900 recycling industry professions from east to west in a remarkable meeting held from May 21-24 in Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, a major event venue in Hong Kong. The convention offered good business and networking opportunities, and covered significant topics on ferrous and non-ferrous metals, paper, textiles, stainless steel, plastics, tyres and e-scrap.

BIR partnered with several companies across the globe to sponsor the event, and one among

the Platinum sponsors was Sayed Metal, a company representing the Middle East.

"BIR initiated and provided opportunities for direct business in an informal setting. What's more, delegates and guests got to experience an extraordinary welcome evening party at Sky100 on the rooftop of the tallest building in Hong Kong. The conference no doubt brought industry experts together and provided the best platform for its members and guests to connect and showcase their best contribution to the recycling industry," said Dr.

Sayed Hussain, Managing Director, Sayed Metals.



Dr. Sayed Hussain, Managing Director, Sayed Metals and BIR President Ranjit Baxi