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Orgalim urges Member States and EU policy-makers to abandon plans for new E-Waste Tax

Orgalim reiterates its strong opposition to plans for a new European Union own resource of €2/kg on non-collected Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) under the EU's next long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework/MFF):

- **We call on Member States and EU policymakers to abandon plans for a new e-waste tax (own resource)**. Europe needs policies that deliver higher waste collection rates and high-quality recycling while strengthening its industrial base, not a new levy that adds costs without addressing the root causes of the problem.
- **The proposed levy will not help to drive up Europe's e-waste collection rates**. The current WEEE framework already requires producers to finance key elements of WEEE collection and treatment, while successful collection depends on a joint effort from consumers, municipalities, retailers, waste operators, recyclers and effective enforcement.
- **Europe must focus on fixing the WEEE system, not introduce yet another fiscal burden**. The upcoming revision of the WEEE framework under the Circular Economy Act (CEA) provides a unique opportunity to:
    - establish more realistic collection targets;
    - improve monitoring of WEEE flows and strengthen enforcement;
    - ensure responsibility is fairly shared across the value chain; and
    - further harmonise requirements across Member States.

A new levy would send the wrong signal at precisely the wrong time. Europe needs to strengthen its industrial competitiveness, attract investment and simplify the regulatory environment. The proposed levy clearly goes in the opposite direction. It would add costs and regulatory complexity while failing to address the underlying reasons why WEEE collection targets are not being met. **We are particularly concerned by discussions to increase the proposed levy even further**, whether through annual inflation adjustments to the €2/kg rate or an additional increase under consideration in the Council. This would only amplify the costs of an already flawed proposal. Our concerns are shared by the wider electrical and electronic equipment sector, as set out in our joint industry letter, which calls for the proposal to be withdrawn.

Importantly, there are also fundamental problems with the methodology to determine collection performance. The current methodology, based on EEE placed on the market in the preceding three years, fails to reflect the realities of long-life electrical and electronic products. Increasing durability, repair and re-use only widens this mismatch. **Applying the proposed e-waste levy on the basis of this flawed methodology would risk penalising manufacturers for waste that may simply not yet have been generated, while failing to address the actual reasons behind insufficient WEEE collection.**

Orgalim represents Europe's technology industries, comprised of 770,000 innovative companies spanning the mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, electronics, ICT and metal technology branches. Orgalim is registered under the European Union Transparency Register – ID number: 20210641335-88.

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