

Call for tender

Study on items shipped for reuse and EPR fees

Deadline for application: 02 September 2022 (17.00 CEST)

Research intention

The goal of the study will be to make the case for Extended Producers Responsibility fees to follow the products shipped for reuse to countries beyond the EU. The products shipped for reuse outside the EU may or may not be covered by a financial responsibility under any type of EPR scheme. If they are, the fees paid when buying the products are supposed to ensure sound waste management. Wherever they end up, at their end-of-life these products will have to be collected and either prepared for reuse, recycled or safely disposed of according to Environmental Sound Management (ESM). Today at least part of these potential benefits may be undermined by poor waste management in the receiving country. EPR is considered necessary to fund such End-of-Life activities in the EU, and it may be even more necessary in other countries, potentially less equipped than the EU. However, currently the gathered fees seem to remain with the European Producer Responsibility Organisations and do not follow the products when these are exported to be reused elsewhere.

The objectives of the research are to attempt to quantify the amounts of such products shipped for reuse beyond the EU, extrapolate on future trends, present the expected benefits of extending useful life versus the potential impacts of sub-standard waste management practices, assess the respective funds remaining with the PROs and put in perspective the funds that may be necessary to ensure a sound treatment of those products in the receiving countries having to deal with end of life. It is expected that beyond documenting the issue on key product streams (electronics, cars, batteries, textiles – in view of the coming EPR schemes), the study will also propose different options worth exploring to improve the situation.

Key expectations from the research include:

- Estimates of yearly quantities of EEE, batteries and vehicles exported for reuse beyond Europe (and as possible from which-to-which countries) and the associated EPR fees accumulated/not spent by PROs or responsible economic actors;
- Estimate of yearly quantity of textiles exported for reuse beyond EU (and as possible from which-to-which countries) to anticipate the future EPR scheme to be likely required for textile waste;
- Overview of existing EPR rules for exported goods for reuse within EU or outside EU, if any;
- Distinguish the case when an EPR system exists in a receiving country for concerned material streams versus when no EPR system exists (does the existence of an EPR system affect the shipment for reuse?);
- Distinguish from the illegal (e.g. WEEE) shipments labeled as exported for reuse (and consider if associating EPR fees to shipments labeled as reuse could help reduce this loophole);

European Environmental Bureau

- Frame some proposals and options to investigate further in order to remediate the highlighted issues, with associated policy recommendations targeting notably the upcoming revisions of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV), Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Waste Framework (WFD) directives. Those proposals shall integrate the risk of misuse/mismanagement of the fees as well as risk mitigation of such practices through minimum requirements and conditions to be associated with the suggested options.
- Produce a report with an executive summary and visuals that could support further presentations and be eventually used as campaigning material,

In addition, in collaboration with EEB and African partners, a number of elements shall be integrated in the study:

- Case examples of existing mandatory or voluntary EPR or take-back schemes in Africa;
- Integrate documented illustrative case studies in Africa;
- Co-develop possible practical systems to address the issue building on the options identified in the report;

The research is to be presented by the EEB to high level governmental and intergovernmental bodies such as UNEP, OECD, EU, GACERE, individual EU Member States and receiving countries beyond the EU, during international events such as WCEF, as well as to international associations dealing with Circular Economy such as WEEE Forum, ISWA, ACR+, WIEGO, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, PACE, etc.

The main deliverable will be a report of not more than 30 pages (as described below and excluding annexes) which will be written in English and in a non-technical, clear and understandable way, using graphs, maps, infographics, concrete examples and other images where possible. The layout will be discussed between the consultant and the EEB. The report is to be completed within 13 weeks after the study is commissioned, with an interim report after 5 weeks and draft final report after 10 weeks - see below for a detailed timeline.

Background

EPR is an essential economic instrument to finance a proper management of the reverse logistics and value chain of products at the end of their life and possibly other stages along the life cycle of products. End-of-life related activities must not only focus on retaining value of materials and recovering valuable secondary raw materials contained in products, but also ensure those operations take place in an environmentally sound manner, including dealing with hazardous parts and substances and dealing with non-valuable residues.

At EU level, a limited number of product groups/sectors are covered by mandatory EPR, including notably packaging, batteries and EEE. For vehicles, the legal provisions are less clear, but such a responsibility for proper end of life management does exist and may be reinforced as part of ELV revision. It is expected that a mandatory EPR could be established for textiles, as announced in the EU Strategy for sustainable and circular Textiles.

The consultants can build on [OECD work on EPR](#) and [Trade](#) (EEB raised the issue of unfair delegation of waste management when shipping for reuse), as well numerous reports on EPR in various countries notably to address e-waste (e.g. [ongoing work by UN for years on the e-waste topic](#)), but the

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development of a system to enhance the use of EPR fees for waste management in countries receiving EU items for reuse is still to be documented specifically.

This study is commissioned by the **European Environmental Bureau (EEB)**, the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe with 180 members in more than 35 countries. EEB stands for sustainable development, environmental justice and participatory democracy.

Deliverables

1. Report encompassing an analysis of the current situation with possible future trends with regard shipment for reuse of key product streams: EEE, cars & textiles, an estimation of the positive and negative impacts in terms of material and emissions savings versus pollution at end of life, as well as options and recommendations to enable EPR fees to contribute to sound waste management in receiving countries (see more details below);
2. Executive summary with key recommendations;
3. Visuals included in the report to help disseminate the main findings;
4. 30 minutes presentation of key findings in a webinar organised by the EEB.

Proposals

Technical and financial offers for this project should outline your understanding of the task, the issues and challenges linked to the topic itself or the gathering of related evidence, your methodological approach, the reasons why you are suitable for carrying out the study and a simple presentation of the budget.

As part of this technical offer, a specific section on design, visuals and communicability of the report will be included. CVs of the team carrying out the study should also be submitted in annex.

The **deadline for proposals** is the **02/09/2022 (17.00 CEST)**.

All proposals should be submitted by email to: Piotr Barczak, *Senior Policy Officer for Circular Economy and Waste*, piotr.barczak@eeb.org **and to Marco Musso**, *Policy Officer on Fiscal Reform for Circular Economy and Carbon Neutrality*, marco.musso@eeb.org

Budget

The budget set for this report is 25,000 euro net.

Approach and timeline

While the detailed methodological approach is left to the contractor and would be described in the technical offer, it should at least encompass the following:

a) In terms of content:

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- analytical work based on literature review encompassing, at least, an investigation of yearly quantities of EEE products and vehicles exported for reuse beyond Europe (and specifically from which-to-which countries) and the associated EPR fees accumulated by PROs;
- estimates of the amounts of textiles sent for reuse beyond Europe;
- an overview of existing EPR rules for goods exported for reuse in and outside EU (if any);
- a distinction between export to countries where an EPR exists versus where it does not exist or is poorly implemented;
- a possible extrapolation of such review for coming years when it is expected that more products will be designed for longevity, circularity, repair, reuse, thus more products might be exported for reuse;
- integration of a mapping of legally required or voluntary take back/EPR schemes on the African continent, in coordination with EEB and African partners that could contribute to such mapping;
- a reflection on illegal export of waste labelled for reuse and the possible effect of EPR fees following the product on illegal shipment abusing the reuse status;
- an integration of illustrative case studies in African countries, possibly produced by African partners (as part of self-standing 'text in the box' sections in the report if the work on case studies can be well synchronized with the work by the contractor, but without having such work on case studies delaying the work of the contractor).

In terms of logistics:

- A kick-off meeting;
- An open channel of communication with EEB to discuss proactively any issue related to contents, timing and communication;
- An intermediary milestone to suggest a report structure with potential visuals to be developed;
- An advanced draft with a list of policy recommendations to be discussed before the finalisation of the report and the Executive Summary;
- A final report with visuals;
- A presentation of the report during an event, to be identified at a later stage.

We suggest the following timeline for the work:

- Publication of ToR: 28/07/2022
- Deadline for proposals: 02/09/2022
- Selection of consultant: 12/09/2022
- Start of work, kick-off meeting: 20/09/2022
- Interim report – outline/structure of the report: by 21/10/2022
- Draft final report with list of policy recommendations: 30/11/2022
- Final report with final layout and visuals: by 16/12/ 2022
- Webinar and presentation of results: beginning of 2023 (tbc).

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Selection criteria:

Convincing technical offer = 50%

Experience and quality of the team = 30%

Design, visuals and communicability = 20%

Offers not meeting the budget limit and the required timelines shall not be considered.