

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002919/26
to the Commission
Martin Günther (The Left)
(14 July 2026)

Subject: Strengthening and harmonising extended producer responsibility (EPR) under the WEEE framework

Recent academic research commissioned by Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V on the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive ⁽¹⁾ in Germany concludes that shortcomings in the German system have led to unclear responsibilities and poor performance in collection and recycling. The study suggests that a system of full EPR, combined with binding environmental targets, could have significant positive effects on material recovery, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and employment. These findings indicate that the inconsistent implementation of WEEE requirements across the Member States results in missed opportunities for collection, preparation for reuse and recycling. Only a few Member States have provided opportunities to promote waste prevention through EPR. In this context, ecomodulation, where producer contributions depend on durability, repairability and recyclability, may be a good measure.

1. What measures is the Commission considering for further harmonising EPR, for example, regarding cost coverage, system governance and responsibility for meeting collection, preparation for reuse and recycling targets?
2. Is the Commission considering making participation in collective producer responsibility organisations (PROs) mandatory for producers and setting binding collection, preparation-for-reuse and recycling targets for PROs?
3. Is the Commission considering making ecomodulation of EPR contributions mandatory to harmonise WEEE EPR schemes across the EU and if so, will this include an EU-wide fixed bonus and malus system regarding product characteristics?

Submitted: 14.7.2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2026)

In the context of the forthcoming Circular Economy Act (CEA) ⁽¹⁾, the Commission intends to propose harmonisation of some key features of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems, including on their transparency and governance. Different options are considered.

The retained option should build on the best practices in place in the Member States but also on the recommendations on EPR of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Measures for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) under the forthcoming CEA will take into account the findings of the evaluation of the WEEE Directive ⁽²⁾.

The CEA will include different measures to incentivise better product design to favour a better application of the waste hierarchy. This will be achieved taking into account the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

¹ Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (recast) (OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 38, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/19/oj>).

⁽¹⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy_en.

⁽²⁾ Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 38-71.