



**EucoLight**

European Association of lighting  
WEEE compliance schemes

**Biennial Report**  
2016-2017



## EucoLight stands for compliance, technical excellence, and a level playing field

Juan Carlos Enrique  
Chairman

EucoLight members are Producer Responsibility Organisations that specialize in the collection and recycling of lighting products. Most have more than 10 years of experience in operating WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Producer Compliance Schemes and are making the Circular Economy a reality for lighting in Europe. In total, they represent 80% of the lamp waste collected and recycled, in the 18 European countries where they operate.

After two years of operation, our European association has been recognized by the EU Institutions as the reference for WEEE in lighting. It is our objective to reinforce the image and position of EucoLight in the Brussels arena.

Our members have the practical know-how and experience necessary to help European and national administrations in the development of the legislation and guidance that is needed for an effective, functioning market.

EucoLight seeks opportunities to work with EU decision makers to foster the best possible environment for collection and recycling that takes into account the impact of “LEDification” in the lighting industry, and the implementation of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan.

A revised Waste Directive that includes minimum operational requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes will certainly contribute towards a technically and economically level playing field for European Lighting Producer Schemes.

We will continue our dialogue with the European institutions and relevant actors, and collaborate with authorities to make the circular economy package a success.

In parallel, EucoLight members are actively engaged in developments and research initiatives to improve collection and recycling practices. This can increase the efficiency of the lighting waste recycling process and the recovery of raw materials, and reduce the environmental footprint.



## Fully functional, with proof points of success and a clear focus

**Marc Guiraud**  
Secretary General

Since starting operations in mid-2015, EucoLight has been dedicated to building structures and working procedures and to positioning itself as the leading entity representing WEEE for lighting in the EU arena.

We engage in a constructive dialogue with relevant stakeholders and promote the positive role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) organization on the environment and society, making the Circular Economy a reality for lighting products.

Three Working Groups, Policy, Logistics & Treatment and Marketing & Communications are operating. These Working Groups are the engine of the association and are composed of members who are industry experts.

Highlights in our work include:

- Contributions to major policy initiatives
  - Revision of the WEEE and Waste Framework Directive under the Circular Economy Action Plan

- Responses to Commission studies, e.g. the functioning of waste markets in the EU or underlining methodologies for WEEE collection targets
- Participation in the development of the European standards for WEEE

- Studies commissioned by EucoLight which demonstrate the suitability of recycled lighting product fractions as valuable secondary materials
- Mapping the implementation of the WEEE Directive in EucoLight member countries, thus identifying good practices of some countries as well as shortcomings in others. We gather and provide detailed information to our members and policy stakeholders
- Organising a second member conference in Bratislava in April 2017. One aim was to present breakthroughs in treatment of waste lighting products and to report on our members' successful campaigns that promote the collection of end-of-life lighting products by consumers

# EucoLight Priorities for the next three years



## Regulatory framework

EucoLight will encourage a legislative environment that enables the sustainable collection of lighting WEEE, thereby helping EucoLight members to achieve and even exceed performance targets. Key activities are:

- Ensuring the joint collection of all types of WEEE lamps
- Securing efficient registration of products and consistent EEE reporting procedures
- Ensuring that collection rate calculations are based on accurate and relevant data



## Operational aspects for collection and recycling in view of the environment

EucoLight members monitor research initiatives that improve recycling practices, decrease pollution of end-of-life Gas Discharge Lamps and LEDs, and implement the state of the art. EucoLight experts will:

- Provide technical input affecting the operational aspects of the management of WEEE lighting
- Contribute to WEEE lighting treatment standards (e.g. logistics, depollution and transport)
- Pursue effective sorting and recycling technologies for LEDs



## Circular Economy

EucoLight supports realistic and ambitious requirements for producer responsibility organizations. EPR is recognized as key tool of the Circular Economy. This means EucoLight supports the:

- Adoption of mandatory consistent requirements, including operational and financing aspects, for all EPR organizations, that reflect the professionalism and integrity of EucoLight members
- Identification of challenges and opportunities arising from the implementation of the WEEE Directive and encouraging of harmonized European solutions
- Utilization of quality secondary raw materials from recycled fractions of lighting products, for instance the use of cleaned lamp glass in some construction material



## Circular Economy

EucoLight has helped shape the general requirements for EPR in the waste legislative package. EucoLight published 4 position papers with concrete proposals that were taken into consideration by the European Parliament calling for:

- Clear roles and responsibilities for all actors involved, including distributors
- Transparency of the producers' financial contributions
- No limitation to the geographical coverage of Producer Responsibility Organisation within a given Member State
- Regular stakeholders dialogue through an EPR platform



## Methodologies to calculate collection targets in the WEEE Directive

EucoLight has published 2 position papers that have led to the following results:

- The final version of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/699 now allows Member States to review and update the statistical data used
- Important parameters affecting the calculation of Waste Generated have been corrected for lighting products, examples are the classification and the lifespan of certain products



## Electrical and Electronic Equipment Classification

EucoLight's interpretation that LED integrated luminaires are to be classified as luminaires and not as lamps was confirmed by the European Commission which helped EucoLight members to convince national authorities to classify LED integrated luminaires correctly.



## European standards for WEEE (collection, transport and treatment)

Our experts contributed to the CENELEC WEEE treatment standards, particularly to the technical specification on Logistics & Collection (TS 50625-4).



## Promotion of members' success for WEEE Lighting

- At the Bratislava conference EucoLight Recycling Light Awards were handed to members for projects aiming at increasing recycling rates, reducing the environmental footprint and improving the enforcement of WEEE obligations
- A booth at the Light+Build international fair in Frankfurt in March 2016 raised awareness of WEEE obligations in the EU for domestic producers and raised the profile of WEEE lighting collection and recycling in Europe

# WEEE – the unique nature of lighting products

Lighting products are Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) that have many characteristics that set them apart from other types of EEE. In comparison to other EEE, lamps are very light, fragile and may contain small quantities of mercury. It is vital that these characteristics are properly considered in the collection, recycling and treatment process:

- In comparison to other WEEE, the relative cost of waste management of lamps is high
- The residual value of materials however is extremely low
- In total, it is estimated that lighting products make up just 2% of the weight of all WEEE



In 2015 EucoLight members collected

**50%**  
of the lamps put  
on the market

in the previous three years  
thus exceeding the member  
state target of 45% in the  
WEEE Directive





EucoLight members collected

**37 000**  
**tonnes**  
of lighting products  
in 2015



EucoLight members have established

**120 000**  
lighting collection points



EucoLight members  
collect about

**80%**  
of the lighting WEEE  
in the 18 countries where they operate



# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



- WEEE is the fastest growing waste stream in the world
- In 2002 the European legislator adopted the first WEEE Directive, which aims at assuring the collection, recycling and treatment of WEEE
- In 2012, the EU adopted the recast WEEE 2 Directive. As an EPR Directive, it extends the responsibility of producers and distributors of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE), including lighting products, to the end-of-life phase
- EPR can be considered as product stewardship making producers financially or physically responsible for the collection, treatment and recycling of the products they place on the market once the consumers and end users decide to dispose them

- EucoLight members are specialised in the collection and recycling of end-of-life lighting products. Acting on behalf of producers, EucoLight members are generally not-for-profit PROs implementing EPR and making the Circular Economy a reality for lighting products
- EPR facilitates life-cycle thinking of producers and incentivises them to design products in a way that they can easily be recycled



*EucoLight helps us to track the political processes in Brussels and allows us to share our operational expertise with important stakeholders to achieve more effective legislation. EucoLight is developing into an impactful association in Brussels and has successfully represented our industry on various occasions. With the strategic priorities of EucoLight clearly defined, we look forward to further benefit from our EucoLight membership."*

Stephan Riemann  
General Manager, Lightcycle

# Bratislava conference



The second EucoLight Conference in April 2017 took place in Bratislava and was attended by 65 delegates from the 18 EucoLight lighting compliance schemes and their lighting producer Board members. Key learning and decisions include:

- **Circular Economy:** EucoLight members called upon Member States to secure the good progress made by the European Parliament with regards to general EPR requirements
- **Online Platforms:** EucoLight members are concerned about the apparent lack of WEEE compliance of some product sold through online platforms/market places. This requires a review of operation of the WEEE Directive
- **Authorised Representative** (concept mentioned in the WEEE Directive): A survey among EucoLight members showed that the concept of Authorised Representatives differs significantly among Member States. A harmonized concept of the Authorised Representative is needed
- **LEDs:** A pan European consumer survey undertaken in April 2017 showed that consumers have difficulty in distinguishing between Gas Discharge Lamps (GDL) and LEDs. This confirms the position of EucoLight that collection must be kept simple and that GDLs and LEDs should be collected together

# EucoLight Board (as of 1 July 2017)



**Juan Carlos Enrique**  
EucoLight Chairman  
General Manager,  
Ambilamp (ES)



**Nigel Harvey**  
EucoLight Vice Chairman  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Recolight (UK)



**Hervé Grimaud**  
EucoLight Treasurer  
General Manager,  
Récyllum (F)



**Tomáš Rychetský**  
EucoLight Board Secretary  
General Manager,  
EKOLAMP (CZ)



**Ourania Georgoutsakou**  
EucoLight Board Member  
Secretary General,  
LightingEurope

## EucoLight working groups



**Natalia Sierra**  
Chairwoman of the Policy  
working group  
Ambilamp Institutional  
Relations and Public Affairs  
Director

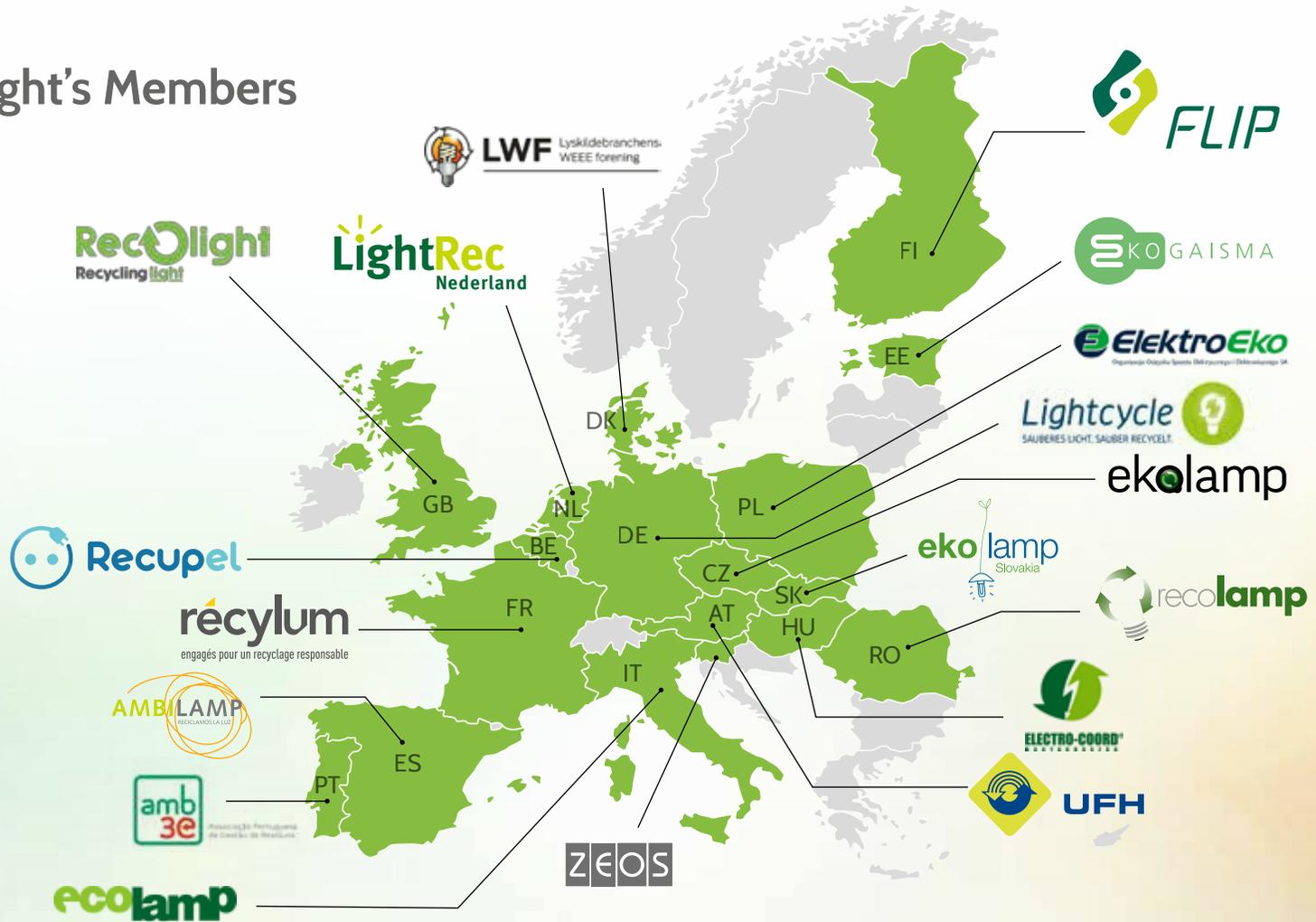


**Suzanne Castine**  
Chairwoman of the Marketing  
and Communications  
working group  
Recolight Marketing Manager



**Xavier Lantoinette**  
Chairman of the Logistics  
and Treatment working  
group  
Récyllum Technical Director

# Eucolight's Members



**Affiliate Member:**  **LIGHTINGEUROPE**  
THE VOICE OF THE LIGHTING INDUSTRY

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“Within a short timespan since starting operation, Eucolight has become a key stakeholder on matters related to WEEE lamps and lighting. We welcome the collaboration between our organisations and look forward to further strengthening it to achieve common goals.”

Emmanuel Katrakis  
Secretary General, European Recycling  
Industries' Confederation