

*****Press Release*****

Brussels, May 6th 2003 - Battery Industry Coalition launched to face the challenges of the future together.

In an unprecedented initiative, all battery manufacturers marketing in the European Union have joined to support a "common position paper on batteries in the light of the revision of European battery legislation".

Remy Burel, and CEO of Varta Consumer Batteries and Chair of the EPBA states that the EPBA is proud of its record of innovation in the environmental field and its reputation as a responsible and innovative industry. "I am confident that the industry will rise to the challenges of sustainability".

Jill Ledger, Chair of CollectNiCad and Communication Director of Saft is pleased to be associated with this initiative, as part of the battery industry's on-going constructive dialogue with European institutions, and the increasing success of Closed Loop schemes for rechargeable nickel-cadmium battery management.

Dr. Albrecht Leuschner, President of Eurobat, and Chairman of Exide Holdings Europe, says: "The market for industrial and automotive batteries is highly efficient in its promotion towards collection and recycling on a country level and through its professional customer supplier regimes. Eurobat is eager to further contribute towards the EU's consultation process and make EU's legislative plans workable".

The Battery Industry Coalition common position paper sets out a blueprint for the sustainable management of batteries across the EU by stating the basic principles to be followed on key issues such as collection and recycling and the financing of the waste management of the products.

EPBA is the European Portable Battery Association – www.epba-europe.org . It is the trade association representing the interests of the portable battery industry (manufacturers and importers of both rechargeable and primary batteries) active in the European market.

Eurobat is the European Storage Battery Association formed by industrial batteries manufactures and automotive batteries manufacturers in Europe – www.eurobat.org.

CollectNiCad is the European Association formed by portable and industrial nickel cadmium battery manufacturers and by Original Equipment Manufacturers incorporating those batteries in their equipment – www.CollectNiCad.org.

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