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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTABLE BATTERY INDUSTRY ASKS MINISTERS FOR A FAIR DEAL

The EPBA represents equally all portable battery systems and supports a policy of sustainable collection and recycling of spent batteries in the EU. It welcomes the progress made by the Dutch presidency on this file.

The new battery directive will extend the scope of collection from under 10% to ALL batteries.
THIS is the very ambitious goal of the proposal.

The 1991 battery directive failed due to the lack of a financing mechanism. The portable battery industry asks ministers for a fair deal, meaning; achievable recycling and collection goals, provision of a financing mechanism and a commitment that ALL producers placing batteries on the market will register their sales.

The EPBA, which defined the legal programme for a mercury phase out in general purpose consumer batteries in the early 90s, is the authoritative voice for the portable battery industry covering all EU Member States with unrivalled experience of end-of-life management of portable batteries gained over more than 10 years.

As a key player in the implementation and actor in the future success of this piece of complex legislation, the EPBA urges Member States to set achievable collection goals and review these in particular in the light of experience in the new Member States, after 7 years.

On a related note, Khush Marolia, Chair of the EPBA Operations Group, advises, that “restrictions on the use of NiCd accumulators and collection targets are entirely separate issues and Member States should not waste time in attempting to link the two”.

Also, the current wording of the Directive (art 22a) by setting imprecise de minimis producer responsibility thresholds would provide a loop hole for free riders and jeopardise the credibility of each national system.

Waste legislation is notoriously difficult to draft. The implementation record of waste directives is very poor and was the focus of the recent institutional push for better legislation.

The EPBA asks ministers for a fair deal in the best interests of the EU consumer and environment. “We need sustainable and workable legislation and have sought to work hand in hand with decision makers over the last months.

Everyone uses and needs portable batteries so let’s put together a Directive which will actually work in all Member States!” says Raynald Dallenbach, Chair of the Government Policy Group.

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Our website is: www.epbaeurope.org.