MISSION OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. Introduction

Over the last twenty years, the portable rechargeable battery market has been a fast growing market due to the development of new Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) in conventional and advanced applications for a society based on a service economy, on the continuous development of transportation and communication technologies and on increasing environmental awareness. As a consequence, Portable Rechargeable Batteries (PRB) offer a large variety of sizes and geometries, are made of many different metals and chemicals and are supplied under many original and specific technical features compared to other types of batteries. This development aimed at complying with the requirements of an increasing number of applications.

An important specific issue to be considered is the fact that rechargeable batteries are not sold directly by cells producers to end users but several intermediate companies have an economic role to-play between the source and the sink of PRB: packs assemblers and Original Equipment Manufacturers, retailers….

PRB specific issues include end users perception of, and behaviour versus, a rechargeable battery compared to a primary battery both at the time of purchase and/or at the end of the battery's use.

Finally, the end of life management of spent rechargeable batteries responds to many specific criteria which are different from those characterising the end of life of primary batteries, in particular considering financing, collection and recycling.

2. Objectives

RECHARGE has been founded to promote the value of rechargeable batteries and represent the interests of all its members in the chain of battery life.

RECHARGE's activities will focus on the achievement of four major tasks or objectives: they are summarised by the following headlines:

- Rechargeable and recyclable
- Registration and collection
- Regulation and legislation
- Information and communication

2.1.Rechargeable and recyclable

The rechargeable battery industry's message is that rechargeable batteries are "value added" products used many hundreds of time before their disposal at the end of their useful life.

PRB are made of metals and chemicals that have added value when compared witrh raw materials.

PRB are used in durable goods and not used as consumable products. Their lifetime extends sometimes beyond the lifetime of the application which itself often has a useful life of more than ten years.

RECHARGE supports the separate collection of PRB after their separation from WEEE and the sorting of spent PRB from collected spent portable batteries. The follow-up and development of the separate recovery of PRB from WEEE and from collected spent Portable Batteries is a prime focus of RECHARGE.

2.2.Registration and collection

There is a need to involve the largest number of companies incorporating batteries in their equipment into the general objective of collection and recycling of spent batteries. The shared responsibility principle between all economic actors should be promoted and its implementation followed by an independent Association such as RECHARGE.

Assistance to official National Collection and Recycling Organisations (NCROs) and to the future ones will be given by RECHARGE while promoting active participation of Members in NCROs and by increasing the number of Members.

The follow-up and development of the separate recovery of PRB from WEEE and from collected spent Portable Batteries is a prime objective of RECHARGE.

Wherever Private Collection and Recycling Organisations (PCROs) are created, the interface between NCRO and PCRO should be favoured at RECHARGE's initiative.

The participation in National and/or Private Registers should be guaranteed by the Membership of all OEMs involved in the distribution of EEE powered by PRB. The avoidance of Free Riders in order to secure fair competition is a major objective of RECHARGE.

RECHARGE will evaluate the delivery of a "Certificate of Good Practice – type RBRC" for those Members participating actively in the operation and success of PCROs and NCROs.

2.3.Regulation and legislation

The development of the EU chemicals and EU Environmental policies requires a higher administrative burden from companies. The follow-up of the development of EU legislation and the transposition of EU legislation of the WEEE Directive and of the future Battery Directive in 25 MS will be **the major task** of RECHARGE.

In addition to this basic activity, RECHARGE will concentrate on the following important issues.

2.3.1. **Classification of Metals and Chemicals used in batteries**. Liaise with Associations such as ZVEI, WMF and Eurometaux active in this field.

2.3.2. **Harmonization of Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)** supplied for rechargeable batteries in order to deliver to PRB users the highest level of technical and scientific information. MSDS standard models should be prepared by RECHARGE in agreement with cell producers and for OEMs delivering battery powered equipment.

2.3.3. **The Integrated Product Policy EU Directive** will require the performance of Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) on parts of equipment such as PRB and according to specific applications. Such LCA should be performed at the initiative and under the supervision of RECHARGE as a representative body of the PRB Industry.

2.3.4. **The Eco-Design and/or Energy Using Products Directive** will require setting standards for evaluation of battery performance. RECHARGE will be involved in setting these standards.

2.3.5. **The future REACH Chemicals Policy Directive** will require performing Risk Assessments on classified substances used in products such as PRB. As all of them contain classified chemicals this should be better performed anticipatively and supervised by a group of economic interests such as RECHARGE on behalf of its Members.

2.3.6. **Voluntary Agreements** are becoming a part of the EU legislative process. The more an Association is representing its global economic sector the highest its credibilty as a signatory of a Voluntary Agreement. It should be RECHARGE's objective to extend its representation by counting on an extended number of Members as a key part of its credibility build-up process.

3. Communication and Public Relations

3.1. The arguments " Rechargeable and Recyclable" will be further developed as a communication tool to raise the profile of the PRB industry.

3.2. The PRB needs also to complete the collection of socio-economic data and of data on local business and on broader macro-economic issues. This set of data will be generated by RECHARGE.

3.3. The positive aspects of using PRB technologies will be developed in order to communicate clear information to third parties such as international bodies: OECD, IATA, AMDG, ADR…

3.4 Continued communication with other Associations and NGOs will be among the regular tasks to be carried out.

3.5. Activities around the EU legislative process will be developed at the three co-decision levels: EU Commission, EU Parliament and Council.

3.6. Building alliances on specific subjects ahead of the legislative process will also be of concern.

4. Activities

The major activities to be developed by RECHARGE can be summarised as follow.

1. Follow the development of the implementation of the WEEE Directive and of the collection of WEEE containing PRB and their removal from WEEE.

2. Anticipate requirements of future EU and National legislations on the Battery Directive and related Directives.

3. Reinforce OEM participation in collection programs for spent PRB.

4. Reinforce the contribution of RECHARGE Members into the network of NCROs and PCROs collection and recycling activities.

5. Initiate tasks of common interests such as LCA , Materials Safety Data Sheets programs, classification of chemicals as well as Standards for Energy Efficiency of Energy Using Products.

6. Communicate programs and achievements to Members and interested third parties on a daily basis.

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