

Royal Philips
Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Amsterdam, 10th of June 2008

Subject: How Philips can become a green leader

Dear Mr. Kleisterlee,

We are here today to challenge Philips to become an environmental leader in the electronics industry. At your AGM we asked you to take responsibility for Philips' branded e-waste. Despite your claims at the AGM, that you want Philips to score better in our Guide to Greener Electronics, Philips has done nothing since then to improve its performance – in particular in the area where it is most deficient, namely on its waste policies and practices.

As you know the Greenpeace Guide requires four key steps from companies on their waste policies:

1. Support for individual producer financial responsibility for Philips end-of-life consumer electronics products and implementing this in practice, including individual brand and cost differentiation in the waste management system.
2. Providing free and easy global take-back of Philips products in all countries they are sold, independent of whether required by law, including information for customers.
3. Achieving minimum recycling levels for Philips' end-of-life products and reporting clearly on amounts recycled as a percentage of past sales per specified product type.
4. Using recycled plastic content in Philips products.

What we ask of Philips is, as a first step, to commit to setting up a take-back system for its end-of-life products globally. This means in all countries where Philips products are sold, these end-of-life products have to be collected (with no cost and in a way convenient to the last owner - free and easy) and properly recycled.

As a clear sign of your commitment, we expect at least a formal public announcement of a statement of intention of Philips' plans to set-up free and easy' take-back systems globally, including countries where there is no legal obligation to do so **before the 15th of July this year**. We expect the plan to be accompanied by a timeline and programme details (such as commitments to investment in awareness raising campaigns, information on return channels to be created etc) starting with at least Thailand, India, Russia and Argentina.

In addition we want Philips to re-evaluate its position on individual producer financial responsibility for its own waste, to start taking the necessary steps to make it a reality and to support legislation that is designed to implement this principle.

The waste we are delivering to you today comes from the informal sector. It was not collected by the existing NVMP collection system and shows once again that this system is not functioning properly. It is very likely that had Greenpeace not brought back your e-waste, this waste would have ended up in developing countries like India, Nigeria or China. These countries don't have the infrastructure and adequate facilities to recycle these toxic appliances in a sound way. As a result, this waste would have polluted the environment and harmed the health of people already struggling to survive. We return this waste to you, and expect you to make sure it will be recycled in the best possible way.

We would like to invite you to come down and discuss this matter today.

Kind regards,



Kim Schoppink
Toxics campaigner
Greenpeace Netherlands



Martin Besieux
Toxics campaigner
Greenpeace International