

Imaging equipment manufacturers are disappointed at EU's decision not to endorse the revised Voluntary Agreement

Brussels, 31 March 2022 – EuroVAprint, the association grouping major Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of imaging equipment operating in Europe, expressed disappointment at the European Commission's decision not to endorse a revised Voluntary Agreement (VA) on Imaging Equipment.

The proposed VA was the result of unprecedented cooperation between OEMs, remanufacturers of cartridges, European Member States and some NGOs to deliver an ambitious text, with commitments that would have significantly contributed to increasing collection and remanufacturing of cartridges, including setting re-use targets, thereby contributing to the EU's sustainability agenda. The draft VA was submitted by EuroVAprint and a group of cartridge remanufacturers operating in Europe after more than 4 years of negotiations.

While initially the VA was focused on energy-efficiency, over the years and through several revisions, it evolved to include material efficiency and information requirements for consumers. The latest draft submitted to the Commission was the most ambitious VA proposal, extending the commitments on energy efficiency, adding resource efficiency, commitments on spare parts and expanding design commitments to include consumables.

"EuroVAprint is disappointed at the Commission's decision which represents a missed opportunity to secure progress in the coming years towards the EU's sustainability aspirations for the circular economy. We remain committed to achieving ever-higher standards of environmental performance in Europe," said EuroVAprint President Sara Rodriguez Martinez.

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About EuroVAprint: Grouping all major manufacturers of imaging equipment that operate in Europe, EuroVAprint serves as a platform to ensure the implementation and monitoring of a Voluntary Agreement on imaging equipment concluded in 2011 and sanctioned by the European Commission as an implementing measure under the Ecodesign Directive. Its commitments are aimed at curbing the environmental footprint of imaging equipment for home and office use - copiers, printers, fax machines and multifunction devices.

About the VA: Since its adoption, signatory companies have reduced energy consumption by 46.2% for OM products and 26.5% for TEC products.

OM (Operational Mode) and TEC (Typical Electricity Consumption) are a method of testing and comparing the energy performance of imaging equipment products; OM focuses on consumption in various low-power modes while TEC focuses on consumption during a representative period of time.

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