



GEIR

Groupement Européen de l'Industrie de la Régénération - The Re-refining Industry Section of UEIL

GEIR response to the public consultation on the modernisation of European public procurement rules (COM/2011/0015)

At a time when the European Union has set out an agenda to make it one of the most competitive economies in the world through growth and job creation, and is willing to move towards a smart, inclusive and sustainable growth, it is confronted with the growing concern of using public funds and raw materials –including oil- efficiently. Threats to the security of energy supply and the spiralling cost of oil could undermine Europe's ambitions in this area. By recycling waste oils back into valuable base oils, the waste oil recycling industry, represented in Europe by GEIR*, plays an important role in conserving European oil resources and in securing the necessary supply of base oil to underpin future European growth.

Through its response to the Public Consultation on the Green Paper for the modernisation of European public procurement rules ([COM 2011/15](#)), GEIR would like to stress its **strong support to the modernisation of public purchasing rules towards the fulfilment of wider policy objectives including environmental protection, resource efficiency and innovation.**

Encouraging Green Public Procurement for better resource efficiency & innovation

GEIR and the waste oils recycling industry have always be thriving towards sustainable development and wish to highlight their support for a shift towards a resource efficient and low-carbon economy, through a wider use of green public procurement (GPP).

The re-refining industry has fully integrated the concepts of sustainable development and resource efficiency in its daily business: through the saving of valuable raw material by re-refining used oil and turning it into a valuable raw material for the lubricants market, the quality of which can be compared to that of virgin base oils. We therefore welcome the GPP guidelines already developed by the European Commission, including through its [GPP training toolkit](#).

🔗 The toolkit sheets for gardening and transport services developed by the European Commission even encourage the use of regenerated lubricant oils for machinery engines and vehicles¹.

We are aware that most EU Member States have adopted National Action Plans for Green Public Procurement, and we wish to see more specific measures to promote and implement GPP further in these respective countries.

Innovation should also be encouraged through the modernisation of the Public Procurement framework as we strongly believe that this will ensure Europe's competitiveness in the future.

¹ The transport GPP product sheet even mentions "a commitment to use low viscosity engine lubricant oils or regenerated lubricant oils, with a minimum of 25% regenerated base oils."



GEIR

Groupement Européen de l'Industrie de la Régénération - The Re-refining Industry Section of UEIL

↳The re-refining industry itself has focused on innovative techniques to reduce the environmental impact of its activities and is confident that, in view of evolutions in the formulation of lubricants and improvement of techniques, the environmental benefit of waste oil recycling is likely to increase even further in the future.

Better access to SMEs and less red tape

On a wider note, we also support all improvement measures which will lead to better access of small and medium sized companies to procurement markets, reduce administrative burden and ultimately support job creation and growth.

***ABOUT GEIR**

GEIR (Groupement Européen de l'Industrie de la Régénération) is the European Re-refining Industry section of the Independent Union of the European Lubricants industry (UEIL). Used lubricating oils represent the largest amount of liquid, non-aqueous hazardous waste in the world.

GEIR member companies are active throughout Europe in supporting the collection of used oils and re-refining these back to valuable lubricant base oils. Today the European waste oil recycling industry is comprised of 28 plants and employs between 1000-1200 in re-refining and 2000-2500 people in the collection of waste oil. Seventeen of the plants produce base oils. The industry has a total nameplate capacity of 1.300.000 tonnes/year, total lube oil production of 400.000t/y and produces 500.000 t/y of other products including fuels, asphalt, gasoil, flux oil etc. It has an approximate total turnover of between € 200-250 million/year.

For more information: <http://www.geir-rerefining.org>

Contact:

Séverine Trouillet

On behalf of GEIR

strouillet@cambre-associates.com

Tel: 026457993