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# **GAMES CONSOLES VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT (GCVA)**

## **FIFTEENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

4 June 2024, 17:00-18:00 CET  
Hybrid meeting



# PARTICIPANTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>European Commission (EC)</b>             | 1. Ewout Deurwaarder  |
| <b>German Environment Agency</b>            | 2. Andreas Halatsch (online)  |
| <b>Independent Inspector (Intertek)</b>     | 3. Steve Fernandes (online)<br>4. Jane Lee (online)   |
| <b>Microsoft Corporation</b>                | 5. Kim Braun (online)<br>6. Ted Eckert (online)<br>7. Adriana Mattei, Zetacast, consultant (online)                       |
| <b>Nintendo of Europe GmbH</b>              | 8. Eiichiro Morisaki (online)<br>9. Calum Robertson (online)<br>10. Emil Schweiger (online)<br>11. Hiroki Takuma (online) |
| <b>Ökopol</b>                               | 12. Till Zimmermann (online)  |
| <b>Sony Interactive Entertainment (SIE)</b> | 13. Ceri Fenwick (online)<br>14. Masahiro Takase (online)   |
| <b>Swedish Energy Agency</b>                | 15. Carlos Lopes (online)   |
| <b>VA Administrator (SEC Newgate EU)</b>    | 16. Ferial Saouli<br>17. Katie Kapodistria  |

# AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of minutes of previous Steering Committee meeting
3. Review of actions of previous Steering Committee meeting
4. Annual Compliance Report (ACR) presentation
5. Presentation from Signatories:
  - 5.1 Summary of changes to the draft EU SRI v.5 following the Consultation Forum
  - 5.2 Recognition of final EU SRI v.5
  - 5.3 Next steps
6. Update from the European Commission
7. AOB and date of next Steering Committee meeting
8. End of meeting

# MEETING MINUTES

## 1. Welcome and introductions

Feriel Saouli (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) opened the meeting at 17:00 CET, she welcomed participants, presented the agenda, and held a brief round of introductions. No AOBs were added.

## 2. Approval of minutes of previous Steering Committee meeting (7 November 2023)

Feriel Saouli (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) confirmed that the minutes were circulated, approved, and uploaded on the Games Consoles Voluntary Agreement (GCVA) [website](#) on 7 December 2023.

## 3. Review of actions of previous Steering Committee meeting

Feriel Saouli (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) noted that all the actions agreed at the 14th Steering Committee meeting had been completed.

## 4. Annual Compliance Report (ACR) presentation

Jane Lee (Intertek, Independent Inspector) presented the 2023 Annual Compliance Report (ACR). Both the 2023 ACR and her presentation can be found on the GCVA website.

- The Independent Inspector determined that the Signatories continue to be compliant with all SRI requirements.
- The SRI version applicable to reporting period 1 January - 31 December 2023 is SRI v4.1.
- In 2023, EU sales of games consoles amounted to around 14.4M units, however this data (from VGChartz) includes some out of scope products - and UK sales data.
- Nine games consoles fell within the scope of the SRI for the 2023 reporting period: Xbox Series X (Model: 1882), Xbox Series S (Model: 1883), Nintendo Switch (Model: HAC-001(-01)), Nintendo Switch - OLED Model (Model: HEG-001), PlayStation®4 (Model: CUH-2216), PlayStation®5 (Model: CFI-1116A), PlayStation®5 Digital Edition (Model: CFI-1116B), PlayStation®5 (Model: CFI-1216A), PlayStation®5 Digital Edition (Model: CFI-1216B).

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- Two consoles (PlayStation®5 [CFI-2016] and PlayStation®5 Digital Edition [CFI-2016]) had updated model numbers but still classified as existing models, and there were no changes affecting power consumption.
- No new consoles were placed on the market during the 2023 reporting period for which PCRs were submitted in February 2024.
- Only the PlayStation®5 Digital Edition (CFI-1216B) was selected for testing, as the majority of consoles has been previously tested. This testing was to verify results from a manufacturer-supplied sample obtained in 2021. The sample obtained for testing in 2022 was an updated version and held over for testing in 2023.

Jane Lee (Intertek, Independent Inspector) informed participants that following the 2023 investigation, Intertek did not have any recommendations.

## 5. Presentation from Signatories

### 5.1 Summary of changes to the draft EU SRI v.5 following the Consultation Forum

Following the Consultation Forum which took place on 11 December 2023, Signatories responded to all stakeholder comments and shared their feedback with the European Commission for further distribution on 17 May 2024.

Ceri Fenwick (SIE) summarised the revisions and clarifications made in the **EU SRI v.5**:

- Amendments to text regarding the verification procedure, which was adjusted to ensure power testing is representative through a more comprehensive testing process and addressing potential outliers.
- Editorial updates such as those regarding broken links and missing footnotes, text order, typos, and clarifications.
- Minor updates to Annex F regarding energy savings calculations.

Emil Schweiger (Nintendo) provided a reminder of the contents of **EU SRI v.5** as it was presented at the Consultation Forum:

- **Energy Efficiency:** Further power cap reductions for Navigation and Media modes.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Increase duration of spare parts provision from 2 to 5 years; Increased the number and types of spare parts made available; Included a minimum time commitment of 5 years to provide an out-of-warranty repair and refurbishment services; Exclusion of halogenated flame retardants (HFRs) in plastic external enclosure parts greater than 0.5g.
- **General updates:** Compliance and verification process; editorial changes.

### Questions/comments from stakeholders:

Andreas Halatsch (German Environment Agency) asked why the minimum time commitment for an out-of-warranty repair and refurbishment was decided at 5 years and not longer. Ted Eckert (Microsoft) indicated that consoles typically have a much longer lifespan than other products (e.g., cellphones), and consoles typically have a minimum of 5-8 years between generations. Ted Eckert (Microsoft) indicated that this would mean that spare parts would be made available for 10 – 13 years after the first console of a generation is placed on the market. Emil Schweiger (Nintendo) confirmed that the 5 year commitment constitutes simply a minimum timespan, but which does not necessarily mean that repair services would stop accepting older products after this period, while Ceri Fenwick (SIE) clarified that the minimum

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5 year full commitment applies from the date the last unit of a model has been manufactured, so spare parts will likely be provided for a much longer time period in total.

Steve Fernandes (Intertek) asked if there are alternative flame retardants to HFRs in plastics. Ted Eckert (Microsoft) confirmed there are alternatives, and those commonly used now in games consoles are phosphorous-based flame retardants. Others are possible depending on resins used, such as glass fibre flame retardants used in polycarbonates.

Andreas Halatsch (German Environment Agency) asked if HFRs will be excluded in games consoles only for the EU markets, or if they will also be excluded from products on the US market. Ted Eckert (Microsoft) indicated that typically one product is made for worldwide distribution across all markets, therefore the strictest requirements will generally be implemented for all products. Emil Schweiger (Nintendo) and Ceri Fenwick (SIE) confirmed this.

Andreas Halatsch (German Environment Agency) followed up to clarify if the US market does not have any requirements on HFRs in consoles. Ted Eckert (Microsoft) responded that there are no federal requirements yet. However, many US states are implementing potential requirements individually, and it is possible that such requirements will be implemented in the near future.

### 5.2 Recognition of EU SRI v.5

SRI version 5.0 was recognised by the four voting members of the Steering Committee: the three Signatories and the Commission.

### 5.3 Next steps

Ted Eckert (Microsoft) noted that the next update will take place over the course of 2024 in the form of minor revisions for **EU SRI v5.1**. These will typically be technical amendments, with a view to proposing new SRI amendments to the Commission for preliminary feedback in Q3 2024 (TBD) and to stakeholders for preliminary feedback in Q3/4 2024 (TBD). The next EU Steering Committee meeting is envisaged to take place in Q4 2024 (TBD).

## 6. Update from the European Commission

Ewout Deurwaarder (European Commission) reminded participants that the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) was adopted in May 2024, now awaiting publication and entry into force. Once this is done, all products in scope of the current Ecodesign Directive will be transferred to the new ESPR. An important transitional step in this process will be the establishment of the new Ecodesign Forum (EDF). Within the new ESPR, the Commission will be adopting implementing acts (following assessment reports) which list the Self-regulatory Initiatives (SRIs). It will be necessary for the Commission in the near future to analyse how this will be executed in practice. Due to this and looking ahead towards an eventual EU SRI v.6, Signatories will need to liaise closely with the Commission ahead of time to determine how this will be done and possible timelines. The next EU Steering Committee envisaged to take place in Q4 2024 will provide an opportunity to discuss this based on recent developments.

## 7. AOB and date of next Steering Committee meeting

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No AOB was raised. Ferial Saouli (SEC Newgate EU, VA Administrator) indicated the next EU Steering Committee meeting will be held before the end of 2024.

The draft minutes of the current meeting will be shared by 11 June at the latest and participants will have two weeks for comments, as indicated in the SRI. The final version of the minutes will be published by 4 July.

### **8. End of meeting**

Ted Eckert (Microsoft Corporation) thanked participants and closed the meeting at 18:00 CET.

### **Actions**

- VA Administrator to prepare and distribute the minutes of the current meeting. *DONE*