Ecology & Environment Committee

*Noting with satisfaction*The reduction of carbon emissions in energy production in recent years.

*Deeply concerned**by* the continued rising levels of carbon emissions in product consumption and projection by the United Nations Global E-Waste Monitor (2014) that 49.8 billion tonnes of electronic waste will be generated in 2018.

*Emphasising*The need to extend product life cycles to reduce landfill usage and carbon emissions from burning waste.

*Acknowledging*That according to the European Commission Consumer Market Study to support the Fitness Check of Consumer Law (Lot 3), 96 % of recent problems reported with defective goods arose within two years of purchasing the product.

*Noting*The recent introduction and use of the “Hamon Law” in France against large multinationals, which stipulates that a company found to be deliberately shortening the life of its products can be fined up to 5 percent of its annual sales and that its executives can face up to two years in jail.

*Further noting* The introduction in January 2017 of tax reductions on repair work in Sweden, including up to 50% less VAT on clothing repairs.

*Seeking*To encourage greater transparency in manufacturers in an effort to allow consumers to make more informed choices by knowing about the intended lifespan of the product, especially in developing countries where product durability is more important.

*Expecting*That manufacturers are unlikely to take responsibility for the environmentally safe disposal of their products without financial incentive.

*Noting with concern* That no action has been previously taken by the United Nations to promote sustainable design, extend product life spans or combat planned obsolescence.

*1. Urges*  All member states to require manufacturers by law to display the intended lifespan of the product and whether the product can be repaired on the packaging of the product in order to incentivise long product life cycles.

*2. Recommends*That member states implement a uniform guarantee period of two years in which the manufacturer must replace products which fail to meet its advertised functions at no cost to the consumer.

*3. Further recommends*That member states place greater responsibility on manufacturers to safely dispose of or recycle broken products and provide a product end-of-life service by placing higher tax rates on manufacturers who do not.

*4. Encourages*All member states to offer incentives, such as lower tax rates, to product repair businesses.