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## Newsletter of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

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Monthly, Issue n°40, November 2019

### Member Spotlight

#### **EuRIC Board Member and Board Member of The Finnish Scrapdealers Association, Piritta Laurila, Finland**

**What are the biggest opportunities and challenges for recycling companies operating in Finland?** Most of the companies in Finland have a long history in ferrous and non-ferrous recycling business and within this professional ability we can find new ways to develop our processes towards even more sustainable recycling. Scrap and its definitions have changed during the years and have become more regulated. We have tried to find ways to keep up the high level of recycling in this field in Finland. We have done our work with pride while creating positive environmental benefits and saving primary resources. Unfortunately, in Finland we haven't always received the credit or reward of our work in the circular economy.

New challenges arise from different laws and regulations which have either direct or indirect effects on our business. We must find a way to recycle "new waste materials" that come out of our sorting and processing systems in scrap yards. Insufficient treatment capacity for residual waste complicates the position of companies and, in some cases, may also affect the functioning of the market. In some cases, environmental requirements may outweigh economic viability.

**As Vice-President of EUROMETREC, what do you think should be EuRIC's main objectives for 2020?** EuRIC offers a unique networking opportunity for the member countries. As circular economy has become number one topic in the EU, we can use the skills and professional ability of the different member countries to promote the importance of the recycling

industry. Ensuring proper operational conditions affects waste shipments and thus the internal markets.



**What do you think could be a good measure/s to further boost recycling and a Circular Economy in Europe?** The role of recyclers in promoting a circular economy is very important, but the transition to a circular economy requires changes in the product chain. The complexity of the products makes recycling more difficult and on the other hand disposable consumption and shorter product life cycles increase the amount of waste generated. Further improvement of recycling requires better product design and easier identification of harmful substances in waste. Sorting and collection of materials is of importance, but so is the demand for recycled materials. This can be promoted for example by the declassification of waste and consistent practices across countries. A functioning market is an effective way to promote recycling. At the same time, it must be ensured that there are disposal facilities for difficult residual waste.



## EuRIC activities

### BMRA celebrates its 100th Anniversary / London, 22 November 2019

The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during a Gala Dinner at the Royal Lancaster on 22 November evening. Before 500 BMRA members and guests, Susie Burrage – BMRA President and President of the European Metal Trade and Recycling Branch of EuRIC (EUROMETREC) – delivered a moving speech outlining the history of the BMRA, its contribution to the UK industry and trade as well as the 2020's upcoming challenges. Susie Burrage stressed the



importance of the work done by the BMRA with a number of Recycling Associations, with a particular emphasis on the role played by EuRIC to advocate recyclers' interests at European level. During the dinner, she presented Emmanuel Katrakis of EuRIC with a cheque for £9,250, donated by BMRA member companies in appreciation for the work EuRIC does together with the BMRA. EuRIC would like to seize the occasion of this newsletter to wholeheartedly thank BMRA and its Secretariat for that

donation adding to

regular Membership fees which highlights the close collaboration between EuRIC and the BMRA, at an important time of the EU-UK relation. During that unique occasion, Stan Whittaker, former Board Member of the BMRA and owner of a family-owned metal recycling and trade company sold to Sims Metal Management in 2018, received the Lifetime Achievement award.



### EuRIC visits ELG stainless recycling facility / Sheffield, 22 November 2019

Emmanuel Katrakis, EuRIC Secretary General, visited on 22 November just before the BMRA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner, the stainless-steel recycling facility of ELG in Sheffield. Mark Vaughan, Managing Director/CEO, explained the various processing stages run by the facility to produce high quality recycled stainless-steel products. EuRIC would like to warmly thank Mark Vaughan and his Team for the time taken for that very instructive site visit.



### **EuRIC joins Repacar's National Congress / Madrid, 30 October 2019**

EuRIC Policy Officer Julia Blees participated to the 11<sup>th</sup> Congreso Nacional de Reciclaje de Papel entitled "Nuestro papel en el futuro" in Madrid. Among the interesting topics of the agenda were discussion on the difficult global recovered paper market as well as a round table on the role of waste managers in Europe. EuRIC would like to congratulate Repacar for a successful conference!



### **EuRIC participated to BDSV's Annual Meeting / Münster, 14 November 2019**

EuRIC Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis and Policy Officer Julia Blees participated to BDSV's Annual Conference which took place in Münster. The central topic of the annual meeting was the contribution of the steel recycling industry to climate protection and the billions in environmental and climate costs saved by recycling. Rainer Cosson, Managing Director of BDSV, soon retiring, was warmly thanked at this occasion for his outstanding dedication to the German steel scrap

recycling industry. EuRIC would like to kindly thank BDSV for the invitation!

### **EuRIC ERA Meeting / Prague, 5 November 2019**

The last EuRIC ERA WG meeting for 2019 took place on 5 November in Prague. During this meeting kindly hosted by SVDS, gathering Executive Directors and their staff of Member Federations and Companies in lieu, EuRIC provided an overview of the latest updates on regulations affecting the recycling industry and had a very fruitful exchange with EuRIC members on key topics. EuRIC warmly thanks SVDS for hosting this meeting!



## **European institutions activities**

### European Commission

#### **Public Consultation / Ship Recycling / Brussels, 7 November 2019**

The European Commission [has launched](#) an open public consultation on ship recycling and the list of approved breaking yards. The reasoning behind the update is that the European Commission has received applications for three ship recycling facilities located in Turkey to be included in the European List. This public consultation will run until 5 December 2019.

#### **Textiles / Presence of Bisphenol A in clothing / Brussels, 7 November 2019**

The European Commission [submitted a request](#) to the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCC) regarding the presence of Bisphenol A (BPA) in clothing. The Commission elaborates that there is no direct restriction on the use of BPA in textiles and its absence is only taken into consideration for the potential granting of the EU Ecolabel for textiles. They further discuss that this is because BPA is



included in the REACH list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) whilst EU Ecolabel is only awarded to textiles not containing more than 0,1 % in weight of SVHC.

### **Raw Materials Week 2019 /Fourth Edition / Brussels, 18-22 November 2019**

The fourth edition of the EU "[Raw Materials Week](#)" took place from Monday 18 to Friday 22 November 2019, in Brussels. It built up on a series of events organised by the European Commission addressing the latest news on raw materials in the EU and was a unique opportunity for the raw materials community to discuss and exchange on all relevant issues: policy, technology, international cooperation, framework conditions, knowledge base etc.

### **New online portal / Responsible sourcing in business / Brussels, 20 November 2019**

The European Commission [launched](#) 'due diligence ready!', an online portal that provides businesses with guidance on how to check the sources of the metals and minerals entering their supply chains – the so-called 'due diligence' process. It will help them ensure that their use of raw materials respects human rights while improving transparency and accountability across their value chains.

### **EU funds / Support for SMEs**

(i) The European Investment Bank (EIB) [has signed](#) a financing agreement with Danish national promotional institution Vækstfonden (Danish Growth Fund) in support of local businesses. Both parties will inject €75 million into a co-investment platform that will target small and mid-sized companies for which bank financing can be scarce, given a lack of business history or relatively weak credit profile.

(ii) The European Investment Fund (EIF) [has invested](#) €30 million in the online creditshelf loan fund, which provides financing to SMEs and small mid-cap companies in Germany. The fund target size is €150 million and it aims to provide loans to more than 150 businesses. The EIF investment is supported by the Juncker Plan's European Fund for Strategic Investments.

(iii) The European Commission [has reported](#) there are funds available for projects under the Horizon 2020 challenge

(iv) The European Commission [has announced](#) there are €240 million investments for nature, environment and climate action available under LIFE.

### **Mergers / Commission clears acquisition of Primetals Technologies by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of sole control over Primetals Technologies, Limited ("Primetals") of the UK by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. ("MHI") of Japan. Primetals is active in the design and construction of plants for the metallurgical industry, as well as in associated project management services. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9591](#).

### European Parliament

#### **Parliament vote on new Commission / Strasbourg, 27 November 2019**

The new European Commission led by Ursula von der Leyen [has won approval](#) from the European Parliament. On 27 November, MEPs confirmed the new Commission with 461 votes in favor, 157 against and 89 abstentions. The new team will take office this Sunday, 1 December 2019.

### Council of the European Union



### **Council Conclusions / Circular Economy in construction sector / Brussels, 8 November 2019**

The Council of the European Union [has adopted](#) Council Conclusions on Circular Economy in the Construction sector. The Council sees large potential for enhanced resource efficiency and circularity of the manufacturing, use and end-of-life treatment of construction materials and products.

### **Provisional Agreement / VAT / Brussels, 8 November 2019**

The Council of the European Union [has reached](#) a general approach on further simplification of the VAT rules applicable to small businesses. The purpose of the new rules is to reduce administrative burden and compliance costs for small enterprises and to help create a fiscal environment which will help small enterprises grow and trade cross-border more efficiently.

### **Handover Donald Tusk to Charles Michel / Brussels, 29 November 2019**

Today, 29 November 2019, outgoing President of the European Council Donald Tusk hands over his tasks to the incoming President Charles Michel. Live coverage can be followed [here](#).

### **Official Journal of the European Union**

#### **Commission Regulation/ Ecodesign / Brussels, 25 October 2019**

Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/1782 laying down ecodesign requirements for external power supplies pursuant to Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 278/2009 [has been published](#) in the Official Journal of the EU.

#### **Commission Regulation/ Ecodesign / Brussels, 25 October 2019**

Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/1784 laying down ecodesign requirements for welding equipment pursuant to Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council [has been published](#) in the Official Journal of the EU.

#### **Summary / REACH / Annex XIV/ Brussels, 29 October 2019**

The Official Journal of the EU publishes summaries ([364/04](#), [364/05](#), [364/06](#), [364/07](#)) of Commission's decisions on authorisation of substances listed in Annex XIV of REACH.

### **CEN CENELEC**

#### **CEN and CENELEC Workshop / Circular Economy / Standards / 29 October 2019**

CEN and CENELEC [held a workshop](#) dedicated to exploring how standardization can support the transition to a fully functioning Circular economy. In particular, the workshop focused on the challenges in reaching circular value-chains for plastic, wood, concrete and metal. Christer Forsgren, the Chair of EuRIC Waste & Chemicals Task Force, presented the views of the recycling industry on standardization for the circular economy during the conference.

## **European Environment Agency (EEA)**

#### **Plastics / Briefing & Technical Report / 28 October 2019**

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a briefing about plastic waste trade in the circular economy and gives an overview of exports of plastic waste from the 28 EU Member States (EU-28) to other countries and discusses its possible consequences and opportunities. It builds on a report by the EEA's European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE).



### **Circular Economy / Briefing / 28 October 2019**

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a briefing that describes material losses in Europe for some key waste streams, namely waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), end-of-life batteries, plastic waste and textile waste.

### **Textiles / Briefing & Technical Report / 19 November 2019**

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a briefing and underpinning technical report to give an overview of the production and consumption of textiles in Europe and discuss how a circular economy for textiles can contribute to lowering the environmental and climate impacts associated with textiles, while offering new business opportunities.

## **European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)**

### **Cobalt / Draft ATP / Brussels, 12 November 2019**

The [draft ATP](#) (Adaptation to Technical Progress) to the CLP regulation containing a specific entry for Cobalt metal is still under scrutiny by both the European Parliament and the EU Council since 5 October, initially for a two-month period. The EU Council has [not objected](#) to the proposal, but the scrutiny period has been extended by the European Parliament until February 4<sup>th</sup>, although it can end earlier if both EU Council and EU Parliament adopt decisions not to object the ATP. It is important to note that the political attention is mostly focused on TiO<sub>2</sub>, also regulated by this ATP. As a reminder, this draft ATP contain a Cobalt threshold limit of 0,1% of Co, instead of the initial 0,01% threshold.

### **ECHA database / Workshop / Helsinki, 12 November 2019**

ECHA held a [workshop](#) on the SCIP (Substances of Concern In articles, as such or in complex objects (Products)) database on 12 November, on the practical implementation of the database. The prototype of the database will be released on Q1 2020, and by 5 January 2021 duty holders will need to enter their information in it. While the main focus of the workshop was the practical input of data in the SCIP, ways to disseminate of information from the SCIP database to consumers and waste operators still need to be devised.

## **Studies**

### **EU Circular Economy and Trade Report / IEEP / 22 November 2019**

The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) [has published](#) a EU Circular Economy and Trade Report which analyses the global dimension of the EU circular economy, exploring the links with trade and sustainable development.

## **International Section**

### **New Import Regulation / Indonesia / Jakarta, 11 November 2019**

The Indonesian government has published a new regulation concerning all scrap imports into Indonesia. The new regulation will impact shipments to Indonesia and at the moment shipments to Indonesia have been even temporarily halted.

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