



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

What do you think has changed the most and/or stayed the same over the years in the recycling sector?

When the first group of UK scrap metal merchants joined in 1919 to form the National Federation of Scrap Iron and Steel Merchants, my great-grandfather George was collecting and trading scrap metal in the Kensington and Chelsea area of London. At this time, the recycling industry would have been highly labour intensive, with little regulation or regard for health and safety, and collections and deliveries would primarily have been made by horse and cart. Virtually all businesses would have been sole traders or SMEs. Today, we are highly regulated, both in terms of site health and safety but also environmentally. The industry has made great strides technically and now utilises a range of mechanical equipment and has embraced automation. Fortunately, we have inherited our predecessors' thirst for innovation, and we continue to adopt sophisticated new technologies in a drive to improve efficiency and recovery rates.

Over the years companies have consolidated and there are now many multinational organisations in the industry, but SMEs still continue to play their part. Most recyclers I have met, from SMEs to multinationals are descended, like myself, from family businesses. I think it is because of these family roots that we are all so passionate about our industry and want to safeguard its future.

The world's attitude to recycling is changing at an incredible rate, and we now have higher societal expectations and targets for recycling alongside the growing regulatory constraints. The general



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PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH METALS RECYCLING ASSOCIATION (BMRA)

public are increasingly aware, especially with the advent of the internet and social media, of the importance of the recycling industry and the environmental benefits of using secondary raw materials instead of relying on primary ores.

As I am often quoted as saying, 'While our ancestors may not have entered the metal recycling industry to save the planet, as recyclers we are an essential ingredient in the Circular Economy, preserving finite resources for future generations, and that is something we can all be proud of.'

How do you think will Brexit change the way recycling companies operate in the UK as well as in the rest of Europe? After the recent Conservative landslide victory, the Government's Brexit bill passed its first hurdle in the UK Parliament just before Christmas and assuming the European Parliament also gives the green light,



the UK will formally leave the EU with a withdrawal deal on 31 January 2020. It will then begin a transition period that is scheduled to end on 31 December 2020. During this period the UK will effectively remain in the EU's customs union and single market but there will be no British representatives in the European Parliament.

While Brexit is now a certainty, the details of any future trade deals between the UK and the EU are much less clear. For the UK and EU to agree on their future trading relationship in 11 months is ambitious; many commentators suggest only the bare minimum will be achieved. Of particular concern to our industry will be changes to VAT liability and notifiable waste shipments.

There is also uncertainty around the effects of Brexit on country of origin, which could have critical implications for businesses supplying to customers requiring goods of European origin.

Throughout the upcoming transition period, the BMRA will continue to work with the UK Government to minimise the changes that will come about for the recycling industries as the UK leaves the European Union.

What are your priorities as Board Member of EuRIC and EUROMETREC President? My main priority is future proofing the recycling industry. I would like to see recognition of its fundamental role in the Circular Economy and the reclassification of recyclables as a valuable 'secondary raw material' instead of 'waste'. I would also like to facilitate more collaboration between companies, associations, federations and confederations, to give us a stronger united voice. EuRIC, as a confederation of national recycling associations, is in a good position to do this, especially as it represents approximately 6000 recycling companies ranging from SMEs to Multinationals, processing different waste streams across Europe. As we all know, recycling makes an important contribution to both the European economy and to the environment so Brussels based EuRIC is perfectly placed to lobby,

influence regulation, and to defend the interests of our businesses since national legislation is mostly driven by European legislation.

EU figures indicate that using recycled raw materials cuts CO2 emissions by some 200 million tonnes per year, so Governments across Europe need to be encouraged to actively promote and reward the use of secondary materials over primary ore in production. We can do this by outlining economic pull mechanisms such as carbon credits, reduced rate VAT on products containing recycled content and green public procurement policies, amongst other sustainability-led initiatives. As well as calls for products with compulsory levels of recycled content, manufacturers also need to be encouraged to design products that can be easily and safely recycled.

To achieve a fully Circular Economy, we will need to advocate for a risk-based approach for Waste and Chemicals legislation. Increasing numbers of materials are in danger of being reclassified at ultra-low thresholds and named as a 'substance of very high concern'; this will prohibit their recyclability, despite the energy and CO2 emission savings if they were to be safely recycled.

Finally, I would like to thank our Secretary General, Emmanuel Katrakis and his team for their dedication in lobbying for our cause in Brussels over the last five years. Due to the many different materials being processed, the EuRIC team handles a host of technically complex, science led issues; many of which involve drawn out lengthy projects. I am proud to have played a small part in the development of EuRIC and I look forward to continuing this exciting and rewarding journey with you all.

China issues new copper, aluminium and brass scrap grades not classified as waste

On 19 January 2020, China published new standards for high-grade copper, brass and aluminium scrap, which as a result will not be classified as waste. These new rules will take effect on 1 July 2020.

Depending on the metal and grade, material must be 90-99.5% contaminate free and ready for the smelter. All scrap metal imports will be sampled and tested on a batch by batch basis and at least 10kg per batch will be checked for metal content, recovery rate and impurities. You can find more information on the [Argus Media website](#).

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ACTIVITIES



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

REACH Committee / Meeting documents / January 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) the meeting documents and agenda for the REACH Committee Meeting on 4 February 2020.

European Social Innovation Competition / Textiles / 20 January 2020

The European Social Innovation Competition (EUSIC) is a challenge prize run by the European Commission across all EU countries and Horizon 2020 associated countries. The [2020 competition](#), Reimagine Fashion, is calling for ideas and ventures that aim to improve the environmental and social impact of the European fashion market through the development of new products, services and processes, and innovative business models.

Mergers / Commission clears acquisition of ENVICCO by PTT GC and ALPLA TH

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of ENVICCO Limited ("ENVICCO") by PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited ("PTT GC") both of Thailand and ALPLA TH Recyclingbeteiligungsgesellschaft m.b.H.A, ("ALPLA TH") of Austria. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9593](#).

Mergers / Commission clears acquisition of Aleris divestment business

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of the Aleris Divestment Business of Belgium by Liberty House Group Pte Ltd of Singapore. Liberty House is active in metals recycling and the manufacture of steel, aluminium and engineering products. The Aleris Divestment Business manufactures and sells aluminium flat rolled products. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.9693](#). Information on the buyer approval process will instead be available under the case number [M.9076](#).



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Outcome of the Council Meeting / 19 December 2019

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) the outcome of the latest meeting on Environment, including discussions on the Green Deal.

Presidency of the Council / Croatia / 1 January 2020

Croatia took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union on 1 January 2020. During a six-month period, Croatia will lead the work of the Council, building co-operation and agreement between member states. Croatia has divided its program into four pillars: A Europe that develops; A Europe that connects; A Europe that protects; and An influential Europe.

Working Party on Ecodesign and Energy Labelling / 20 January 2020

The Council of the European Union [has designated](#) a working party on Ecodesign and Energy Labelling: important contribution to greater energy efficiency reduced by significant delays and non-compliance.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

ENVI Coordinators Meeting / Outcome / 13 January 2020

The European Parliament [has published](#) the outcome of the ENVI Coordinators meetings regarding circular economy, zero-pollution Europe, the Just-Transition mechanism and others.

Green Deal Resolution / 15 January 2020

The European Parliament resolution on the European Green Deal has been adopted and [published](#) on the Parliament's website.

Plenary Highlights / Green Deal / 17 January 2020

During the first plenary session of 2020, the European Parliament called for more ambitious measures to tackle climate change and to put citizens at the centre of an initiative to reform the EU. It also [supported](#) the European Commission's plan for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050 and called for a higher 2030 emissions reduction target of 55%.



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/11 / 10 January 2020

The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/11 of 29 October 2019 amending Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures as regards information relating to emergency health response [has been published](#) in the Official Journal of the EU.

Corrigendum to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2193/ 15 January 2020

The Corrigendum to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2193 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data and establishing data formats for the purposes of Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) [has been published](#) in the Official Journal of the EU.



European
Environment
Agency

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

Briefing / Improving circular economy practices in the construction sector / 16 January 2020

On 16 January 2020, the European Environment Agency [has published](#) a Briefing on improving circular economy practices in the construction sector key to increasing material reuse, high quality recycling. The

EEA says more must be done in preventing or recycling the large amount of waste produced by the construction and demolition sector in Europe.

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)



Candidate List / Four new substances / 16 January 2020

ECHA [has added](#) three new substances to the Candidate List due to their toxicity to reproduction and a fourth due to a combination of other properties of concern. This latter causes probable serious effects to human health and the environment, giving rise to an equivalent level of concern to carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR), persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) and very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) substances. The substances are: Diisohexyl phthalate, 2-benzyl-2-dimethylamino-4'-morpholinobutyrophenone, 2-methyl-1-(4-methylthiophenyl)-2-morpholinopropan-1-one, Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) and its salts.

EVENTS

Sharing is caring! Feature your upcoming event, be it a conference or a cocktail, by sending the details and the corresponding logo to nkalapos@euric-aisbl.eu. The event will be mentioned on our website under the "Member and Partner Events" tab, our main page as well as in the Newsletter!

EU LIFE information and networking day / 30 April 2020 / Brussels

The European Commission is organising an [information and networking day](#) on the 2020 LIFE call for project proposals. The event is open to potential applicants presenting project proposals on green technology, nature protection and climate action. Participants will be invited to a morning information session on the 2020 LIFE call.

