
Newsletter of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

Monthly, Issue n°33, March 2019

EuRIC activities

EuRIC's annual event *Implementing Circular Value Chains* / Brussels, 13 March 2019

EuRIC, the European Recycling Industries' Confederation, would like to kindly thank all our participants, sponsors, speakers and media partners who were part of EuRIC's Annual Conference 2019, entitled *Implementing Circular Value Chains*, which took place last 13th March 2019 in Brussels. The wide range of topics and points of view (from the industry, the institutions, the financial sector, etc.) shared in EuRIC's Annual Conference 2019 was possible thanks to the expertise and variety of the panel of speakers. With close to 170 attendees, EuRIC's Annual Conference 2019 succeeded at bringing together industry representatives from different countries and recycling streams and provided them with a space to share their challenges and commitments linked to the future of the recycling sector.



EuRIC's New Presidency and Board / Brussels, 14 March 2019



During EuRIC's General Assemblies on last 13 and 14 March, the Presidency and Vice Presidency of EuRIC and of its branches (EFR, EUROMETREC, ERPA and EPRB) were elected. EuRIC's Secretariat kindly thanks the previous Board Members for all their dedication and work during their term. We look forward to keep working with EuRIC new President (Cinzia Vezzosi) and Vice Presidents (Jean-Philippe Carpentier, Alicia García-Franco and Thomas Braun). The composition of the new Board of EuRIC is available [online](#).

European Recycling Conference 2019 / Save the date / Paris, 19 September 2019

The next edition of the European Recycling Conference (ERC), organized by EuRIC, will take place on 19 September in Paris, France. The 2019 ERC is taking place in the framework of FEDEREC's biggest fair, the 2019 Journée Technique, gathering more than 400 participants. More details about the program and venue will be soon published in EuRIC's website. Stay tuned for more details!



EuRIC's ERA WG meeting / Madrid, 12 February 2019



The first EuRIC's ERA WG meeting of 2019 took place last 12 February in Madrid, Spain. During this meeting kindly hosted by FER gathering Executive Directors and their staff of Member Federations and Companies in lieu, EuRIC provided an overview of the last updates on regulations affecting the recycling industry and had a very fruitful exchange with EuRIC members on key topics. EuRIC warmly thanks FER for hosting this meeting.

European institutions activities

Publications Office of the European Union

EU budget for 2021-2027 / Horizon Europe, the future EU research and innovation programme / Brussels, 20 March 2019

The Commission welcomes the provisional agreement on the Regulation on Horizon Europe, the future EU research and innovation program, reached by the European Parliament and Council. The Commission will now start preparing Horizon Europe's implementation in order to have the first draft work program published in time for the program's launch on 1 January 2021. More information available on the [European Commission website](#).

European Parliament

Regulation on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EEC (recast) / ENVI Committee vote / Brussels, 14 March 2019

The ENVI Committee of the European Parliament adopted by vote the [overall compromise text](#) on 14 March 2019. The concentration limit value for DecaBDE is set at 1000 mg/kg, and a review clause mandating the Commission to adopt a legislative proposal for lowering that value to 500 mg/kg within two years from the entry into force of the Regulation is included. The European Parliament shall adopt the Regulation at the Plenary in Strasbourg before the end of the incumbent mandate.

European Commission

**** Communication & Action Plans – Statistics ****

Climate strategy 2050 / Climate and Energy policy

On 28 November 2018, the Commission presented its [vision for 2050](#): a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy. The Commission communication was accompanied by an [in-depth analysis](#). Recycling activities are recognized as important lever to achieve a successful transition. Both documents strengthen the link between recycling activities and mitigation/prevention of climate change impacts. For instance, recycling a million of tonnes of plastics is equivalent to the emissions of one million cars.

Report on the implementation of the circular economy action plan

The European Commission published the [report on the implementation of the circular economy action plan](#) on 4 March 2019. This report is also supported with a [staff working document](#) which yields from the latest developments concerning the EU product policy framework.

Assessment report of the voluntary pledges under Annex III of the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

According to this [staff working document](#), the pledges alone are unable to ensure that 10 million tons of recycled plastics find their way into new products by 2025. 6.2 million tons per year by 2025 is the most likely figure expected. The Circular Plastic Alliance should support the European Commission to develop the solutions that would bridge the gap. The Commission has invited EuRIC to participate to the meetings of the working groups established under the Circular Plastic Alliance.

****** Mergers ******

Commission clears joint venture by Blackstone and Sretaw

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed creation of a joint venture by The Blackstone Group L.P. ("Blackstone") of the US and Sretaw 2 Limited ("Sretaw") of Ireland. The joint venture ("Beauparc") operates primarily in the waste recycling and utilities sectors in Ireland, the UK and the Netherlands. Blackstone is a global alternative asset manager. Sretaw currently holds 100% of Beauparc. More information is available on the Commission's competition website, in the public case register under the case number [M.9219](#).

Commission clears the creation of a joint venture by the Schwarz group and NWD

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the creation of a joint venture by GreenCycle Holding GmbH & Co. KG ("GreenCycle") and Nord-Westdeutsche Papierrohstoff GmbH & Co. KG ("NWD"), all of Germany. The joint venture will operate an online trading platform for recyclable and waste materials. GreenCycle is active in the collection, trade and supply of recyclable materials and belongs to the Schwarz group, which is predominantly active in the food retail sector worldwide through its Lidl and Kaufland divisions. NWD is active in the collection and recycling of waste paper and belongs to the international WEIG group, producing different types of cardboards. More information is available on the Commission's competition website, in the public case register under the case number [M.9265](#).

Commission clears acquisition of joint control over ELG Carbon Fibre by Mitsubishi Corporation and ELG Haniel

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over ELG Carbon Fibre Limited ("ECF") of the UK by Mitsubishi Corporation ("MC") of Japan and ELG Haniel ("ELG"), a solely controlled subsidiary of Franz Haniel & Cie. of Germany. ECF, which is currently fully controlled by Franz Haniel, is active in the recycling of carbon fibre from manufacturing waste and end-of-life composite components and in the manufacture of recycled carbon fibre products. MC develops and operates businesses across a variety of industries, including environment and infrastructure, manufacturing, finance, energy, metals, machinery, chemicals, and food. ELG trades, processes and recycles raw materials for the stainless-steel industry as well as high-performance materials such as carbon fibre. More information is available on the Commission's competition website, in the public case register under the case number [M.9247](#).

****** Implementing regulations and delegated acts ******

Ecodesign requirements / Servers and data storage products

The [eco-design requirements](#) for servers and data storage products have been adopted and the regulation was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 15 March 2019. Material efficiency requirements included in Annex II of the Regulation will be mandatory as of 1 March 2020. By March 2022, the Commission shall assess the regulation and check whether updating the material efficiency requirements for servers and data storage products, including the information requirements on additional critical raw materials (tantalum, gallium, dysprosium and palladium), taking into account some of recyclers' needs.

Ecodesign requirements / Household Refrigerators & Freezers

The Commission has laid out [eco-design requirements](#) for electronic Household Refrigerators & Freezers. The draft measure sets out energy efficiency requirements as well as ecodesign requirements on repair and end-of-life aspects, including requirements for disassembly (Annex II). Following the

favourable opinion of Member State experts, the Commission sent the text to the European Parliament and the Council for scrutiny. The two institutions have until 22 April to examine the text and raise objections. If no objection is raised, the Commission will adopt the measure. It will then be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force.

Ecodesign requirements / Electronic Displays and televisions

The Commission has laid out [eco-design requirements](#) for electronic displays and television. The draft Commission Regulation would set out energy and resource efficiency requirements, including design to enhance extraction of key components, marking of plastic parts and a logo for the presence of mercury or cadmium (Annex II). Following the favourable opinion of Member State experts, the Commission sent the text to the European Parliament and the Council for scrutiny. The two institutions have until 7 May to examine the text and raise objections. If no objection is raised, the Commission will adopt the measure. It will then be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force.

Ecodesign requirements / Household washing machines and household washer-dryers

The Commission has laid out [eco-design requirements](#) for household washing machines and household washer-dryers. The draft Commission Regulation would set out energy and resource efficiency requirements, including requirements for dismantling for material recovery and recycling (Annex II). Following the favourable opinion of Member State experts, the Commission sent the text to the European Parliament and the Council for scrutiny. The two institutions have until 25 May to examine the text and raise objections. If no objection is raised, the Commission will adopt the measure. It will then be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) / Common format for registration and reporting of producers

The Commission [Regulation implementing Article 16\(3\) of Directive 2012/19/EU \(WEEE Directive\)](#) has been adopted and published on the Official Journal of the European Union. According to Article 16, Member States are required to draw up a register of producers, including producers supplying EEE by means of distance communication. This register will serve for monitoring the compliance with the provisions laid down in the WEEE Directive. The measure establishes a harmonised structure and format for registration and reporting of EEE producers to Member State national registers. The regulation shall apply from 1 January 2020.

Commission's Infringement procedures & Court of Justice of the European Union

Iron and steel imports / Anti-dumping duties / People's Republic of China

In view of the General Court's findings in Case T-364/16, and in accordance with the rule of equivalence of form, Implementing [Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2272](#) has been amended so as to remove Hubei from the scope of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of certain seamless pipes and tubes of iron or steel from the PRC with retroactive effect to the date of entry into force of the said regulation.

Other EU bodies

European Chemical Agency (ECHA) / Cobalt restriction dossier

In response to a request by the European Commission, ECHA submitted a [restriction dossier](#) in October 2018 concerning five cobalt salts (cobalt carbonate; cobalt di(acetate); cobalt dichloride; cobalt dinitrate; cobalt sulphate). As the most appropriate measure to address the identified risks, ECHA

proposes to implement a reference exposure value: 0.01 µg Co/m³. Registrants should use this value in their chemical safety assessments to determine suitable operational conditions and risk management measures for their uses of the cobalt salts. The value should also be communicated to all actors in the supply chain through extended safety data sheets.

Recommendations of the Expert Group “Support to circular economy financing”

This [report](#) identifies the barriers to financing the circular economy and proposes a number of recommendations to address these barriers such as: (i) Non-binding targets on recycling and landfilling that can serve as a basis for voluntary agreements with industries should replace unfeasible mandatory ones; (ii) Economic incentives for the uptake secondary raw materials should replace business as usual subsidies; (iii) Economic instruments should be planned and adopted to drive innovation in product design, separate waste collection and waste management systems; (iv) Product information requirements for B2B transaction should be adopted to incentivize the use of circular products. EuRIC’s Secretary General, Emmanuel Katrakis, is a Member of this Commission’s Expert Group.

International Green Deal / NSRR „Fast-Track“-notification for WEEE

The first North Sea Resources Roundabout (NSRR) Fast-Track pilot notification, for a shipment of WEEE between HKS Metals and Müller-Guttenbrunn, was approved on 20 March 2019, setting the total time needed for approval by Dutch and Austrian authorities to 19 working days. This constitutes a very significant improvement compared to regular notification procedures, even those between so-called pre-consented facilities. Making shipments between compliant recyclers in the EU faster and easier may significantly boost the circular economy in Europe. More information is available on [EuRIC’s website](#).

Studies

Ramboll – European Commission / Recast POPs Regulation

The study to support the review of waste related issues in Annexes IV and V of Regulation (EC) 850/2004 on Persistent Organic Pollutants has been published. In the [final report](#) information from competent authorities, scientific institutions, literature and other experts was collected, analysed and summarised. Further, mass flows for newly listed and candidate POPs were established and, finally, recommendations for the environmentally sound management of waste containing POPs were elaborated. Suggestions for limit values (LPCL and MPCL) were derived using the methodology developed by BiPRO GmbH in 2005.

Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment / A blueprint for safe and sustainable material loops in a circular economy

[This study](#) aims at laying down a framework to assess whether raw materials from waste can be used safely and sustainably by comparing the risk assessment of a substance with the environmental gains of its reuse, e.g. CO₂ emissions reduction. The framework has been tested with three cases: recovering phosphate from waste water, recycling polystyrene foam and using rubber granulate from old car tires.

Ecodesign for a circular economy: methodology for circular product design

Researchers have developed a methodology to help assessing how an existing product design meets design guidelines required for the circular-economy perspective, and which guidelines would need to be incorporated to improve product-design. [The results, based on a case study of small electrical equipment in Spain](#), indicate that the most urgent priority is to incorporate circular-design guidelines related to extending life span and to product/components re-use, while there is a moderate need to include guidelines related to the use of simple removable connections or a modular product structure.

What affects battery recycling rates? Political, social and cultural factors examined

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) and other regulatory influences are essential to battery recycling in Finland, [a new study finds](#). The researchers compare this with the situation in Chile, where a lack of appropriate legislation prevents recycling companies from overcoming the technical and financial challenges of battery recycling. The study helps policymakers understand how political, social, and cultural factors can support companies in their move towards circular-economy business models.

Events

EU LIFE Information and Networking Day / Brussels, 30.04.2019

The European Commission is organising an Information & Networking Day on the 2019 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 2019 LIFE call, covering significant changes to the programme compared to previous years. The afternoon will be dedicated to networking with fellow participants to share experience, match with potential new partners and meet representatives of the LIFE programme from the European Commission. Participation is free but [online registration](#) is obligatory. More information and registration application available on the [event website](#).

StandarDays - Discover the world of European Standards / Brussels, from 29 to 30.04.2019

Newcomers will discover the world of European standardization and all participants will understand how standardization works. During StandarDays, Participants will receive a clear and structured overview of the European Standardization System and of CEN and CENELEC products and processes, as well as the benefits of stakeholder involvement. All persons interested in the European Standardization System are welcome; national standardization organizations; administrations and government; industry; academia; etc. Participation is free, but [online registration](#) is obligatory. Discover and [download the programme](#) or [visit the event website](#).

ECHA Conference / Helsinki, from 21 to 22.05.2019

ECHA free conference on 21-22 May 2019 will offer insight into the current priorities in EU chemicals regulation after the final REACH registration deadline. [Register now](#) for two days packed with practical advice, discussion and networking. The conference is open to all but particularly useful for companies, industry associations, public bodies, NGOs and research institutions involved in chemicals. The language of the meeting is English. For questions, contact: echa-events@echa.europa.eu. More information available on [ECHA website](#).
