
Newsletter of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

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Member Spotlight

EuRIC Member Dr. Rainer Cosson, Managing Director, German Steel Scrap Recycling Association BDSV, Germany

What are the biggest opportunities and challenges for companies operating in Germany with regard to recycling?

Recycling is at the beginning of the value chain. This means that there is a large and direct dependence on the general economic development. If the economy is doing well, this is usually also beneficial for recycling. Conversely, if the general economy slows down - or even enters into a recession - this is very quickly and immediately noticeable in recycling. It is therefore important for recycling companies to take precautions against a sudden decline in their business activity. A recycling company must be able to overcome phases of weakness in the general economy. This can only be achieved if precautions are taken in good economic times.

Given your extensive experience in the recycling sector, what do you think has changed the most and/or stayed the same over the years?

Recycling management is a typical task of medium-sized businesses. In many cases, recycling companies are managed by the owner. And where large companies have moved in, the personal relationships with the customer have hardly changed. However, the diversity of regulations and specifications has changed. This has grown significantly. Today there is hardly anything that can be done in the recycling industry without academically trained people. Many entrepreneurs have recognized this and equipped their companies with academically



trained personnel. Bringing academically trained personnel closer to a recycling activity has led to a modern image of the recycling companies in the immediate context of preserving our creation.

2019 is the fifth anniversary of the creation of EuRIC. Which are the biggest changes EuRIC has brought over the last five years?

Over the last five years, the diversity of regulations has increased particularly. It was therefore necessary to establish an expert institution that could observe the constantly growing flood of regulations and communicate what was happening to the member companies in an understandable way. In this respect, EuRIC has provided very important services. As is well known, the European Union has generally embarked on the path of merging the waste law



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and chemical law approaches. This is reasonable in principle, but it will also bring a few changes for recycling companies, usually tighter regulations. It will be a demanding

permanent task for EuRIC not to overstretch the approach for the recycling industry but to make the situation feasible.

EuRIC activities

Less than a month to register / European Recycling Conference 2019 / 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 at the unique location of the Air and Space Museum. The 2019 ERC is taking place in the framework of FEDEREC's biggest fair, the 2019 Journée Technique, gathering more than 400 participants. The conference, gathering top level institutional and industry speakers, will be followed by a Gala Dinner organized on a river cruise that will lead ERC attendees through the most iconic places of Paris. **Register now at the [EuRIC website](#).** We look forward seeing you in Paris!



EuRIC visits Greek Member SEPAN / Athens, 6 August 2019

Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis visited EuRIC's Greek Member Association SEPAN, the Federation of Recycling and Energy Recovery Industries and Enterprises in Athens on 6 August 2019.

The discussion of the latest recycling trends in Europe and Greece, was followed by a visit of a metal recycling facility operated by ANAMET and of a WEEE recycling facility operated by BIANATT. We would like to warmly thank SEPAN and in particular to Mr. Stavros Theodoropoulos, Mr. Thomas Papageorgiou and Mr. Spyros Karamoutsos for hosting us!

ERPA Vice President Andreas Otto in Indonesia / Jakarta, 9 August 2019

Andreas Otto was invited by the Indonesian Pulp and Paper Association, APKI, to present on EN 643, the European list of standard grades of paper and board from recycling. The meeting took place at APKI's main office in Jakarta. Apart from Ms. Liana Bratasida, Executive Director and Mr. Aryan Warga Dalam, Chairman, various representatives of Indonesian paper mills attended as well as representatives of the Ministry of Industry. We would like to warmly thank APKI for hosting us and exchanging on EN 643 as well as the situation on recovered paper in Indonesia!



BIAC Membership / July 2019

In July 2019, EuRIC has become an official [BIAC Associate Expert](#). BIAC (Business at OECD) advocates industry needs at all OECD policy levels and influences the OECD policy initiatives. Currently, EuRIC works with BIAC on the implementation of the Basel Convention (Norwegian Proposal) on OECD level and will contribute on policy papers related to waste management, recycling and trade.



European institutions activities

Official Journal of the European Union

Commission Decision (EU) 2019/ 1268 / 'Let's put an end to the era of plastic in Europe' / Brussels, 29 July 2019

Commission Decision (EU) 2019/ 1268 on the proposed citizens' initiative entitled 'Let's put an end to the era of plastic in Europe' (notified under document C(2019) 4974) has been published in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#). The subject matter of the proposed citizens' initiative refers to the following: 'We call on the European Commission to revise the Directive on the impact of certain plastics on the environment with the aim of banning all single-use plastics in Europe.'

Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/1338 amending Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 / Brussels, 9 August 2019

Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/1338 amending Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food has been published in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#) on 9 August 2019. The amendment was needed since the European Food Safety Authority has published a scientific opinion on the permitted uses of an already authorised substance that may be used in food contact materials ('FCM'). The Regulation will enter into force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal (29 August 2019).

European Commission

Public Consultation / ELV Evaluation / Brussels, 6 August 2019

The Commission has launched an [open public consultation on the ELV Evaluation](#) that will contribute to the evaluation of EU rules on end-of-life vehicles. This consultation, will run until 29 October 2019. Directive 2018/849/EU obliges the Commission to evaluate it by the end of 2020. Special attention is to be given to its implementation, to the feasibility of setting targets for reporting per specific materials, and to the problem of the end-of-life vehicles of unknown whereabouts.

EU funds / Support for SMEs

(i) The European Investment Bank (EIB) and ProCredit Group are providing €800 million to innovative small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the core element of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#), or "Juncker Plan", and the [InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility](#). The financing will target companies using new technologies and producing new products in one of the eleven countries where the facility is available (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine).

(ii) The European Investment Bank, the European Investment Fund and Česká spořitelna (ČS) are channeling €306m of new financing into [small and medium-sized businesses](#).

(iii) Five European national promotional banks & institutions and the [European Investment Bank \(EIB\)](#) launched in Luxembourg the Joint Initiative on Circular Economy to support the development and implementation of circular economy projects and programs in the European Union (EU). This flagship partnership will target at least €10 billion of investments over the next five years (2019 – 2023).



Competition / European Commission publishes 2018 Report on Competition Policy / 15 July 2019

The European Commission has published the [Report on Competition Policy for 2018](#), presenting its most important policy and legislative initiatives, as well as key decisions adopted last year. The 2018 report stresses how fostering a competitive internal market benefits both EU consumers and companies, with a focus on the effectiveness of competition enforcement, challenges in the digital economy, a more resilient financial sector and a fair and non-discriminatory taxation of firms active in the EU, as well as on promoting a global competition culture.

Market Access / MAAC / Restrictive measures taken by Tunisia / Brussels, 26 July 2019

The [Market Access Advisory Committee](#) (MAAC) has informed via email that restrictive measures taken by Tunisia on 28 November 2018 have been cancelled as of 26 July 2019. The imposition of these import authorisations was in a clear violation of Article 19 of the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement (Art. 19 (a): "Without prejudice to the provisions of the GATT: (a) no new quantitative restriction on imports or measure having equivalent effect shall be introduced in trade between the Community and Tunisia...") as well as WTO rules. According to the information received, this decision has already entered into force in the Tunisian customs system. After several checks on the ground it looks like importers do not need to request prior authorization for each import operation anymore. No new measures have been introduced. De facto we are back at the situation we were prior to 28 November 2018. However, the technical control procedures remain unchanged.

European Parliament

ENVI Committee Draft Opinion / Draft general budget of EU for 2020 / Brussels, 22 July 2019

The European Parliament shares the power to decide on the entire annual budget of the EU with the Council of the European Union and it has the final say. On 4 September 2019, the ENVI Committee will vote on amendments to the [draft budget for 2020](#). The budget items of particular interest for ENVI particularly relate to the environment (LIFE programme), climate action, health and civil protection. Budgetary amendments also include proposals for pilot projects and preparatory actions and are published in a [draft opinion](#).

Council of the European Union

Informal Council Meeting on Environment and Climate / Helsinki, 11-12 July 2019

Circular economy was [discussed](#) in an informal meeting of the ministers of environment under the Finnish presidency of the Council on 12 July: "Finland's aim is to prepare conclusions on the circular economy based on the ministerial discussions, which the Environment Council will then discuss in the autumn. The conclusions will set out how the new Commission should promote the circular economy over the next five years". The items discussed ([document #1](#) and [document #2](#)) could be included in a 2nd circular economy action plan.

Court of Justice of the European Union

Judgement of the Court / Openbaar Ministerie v Tronex BV/ Luxembourg, 4 July 2019

The court ruling [Case C-624/17](#) is a criminal proceeding before the Court of Justice of the European Union against Tronex BV. Tronex BV was charged with having shipped a consignment of waste from the Netherlands to Tanzania in breach of Regulation No 1013/2006.



Judgement of the Court / Plastics Europe v ECHA / Luxembourg, 11 July 2019

In the court ruling [Case T-185/17](#), the Court of Justice of the European Union dismissed the claim made by PlasticsEurope that ECHA failed to differentiate the uses of Bisphenol A when classifying it as a SVHC, and to make an exemption to this classification for intermediate uses of it. The Court dismissed this claim by ruling that “inclusion of a substance in the candidate list of substances are carried out solely on account of the intrinsic properties of a substance and not on account of the uses of that substance”.

Circular Plastics Alliance

High-level event on the Circular Plastics Alliance / Brussels, 20 September 2019

On 20 September 2019 in Brussels, the Circular Plastics Alliance will present and adopt [its declaration](#). The declaration will describe the alliance's vision for more recycled plastics in Europe, as well as their commitments for action to reach the EU target. Namely, that 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics find their way in products in the EU by 2025. All organisations, companies and public authorities willing to contribute to delivering the commitments of the alliance can co-sign the declaration.

Member States

France

ELV Sector Observatory / May 2019

ADEME, the French Agency for the Environment and Energy Management has published the [2017 ELV sector observatory](#). The report draws up an inventory of the end-of-life vehicles (ELV) sector in France in 2017, based on information collected through the observation of the ELV flow.

Germany

Circular Economy Initiative / 29 July 2019

The [Circular Economy Initiative](#) started its work at the beginning of 2019 and went public on Earth Overshoot Day (29 July). The Circular Economy Initiative brings together economic, scientific and societal stakeholders. Its aim is to develop a joint target vision and a concrete plan how the transformation towards a Circular Economy in Germany could be fostered.

International Section

China's Import Ban / Update of solid waste management plan / 12 July 2019

ISRI has [informed its Members](#) that China released a new version of its solid waste management plan, which appears to contain softer language regarding the import ban which could lead to the conclusion that China's 2020 import ban might not be a firm deadline. However, even if China does ease the timeline for implementing the 2020 ban, it's unclear which materials might be affected.

Indonesia / Revised inspection method of waste paper / 12 August 2019

[Baltic Control](#) has informed via email that the verification of waste paper and non-paper shipments must now be carried out basing on 0.5% of prohibitive. This comes as a reaction to a sudden revise of the Indonesian regulation from two weeks ago where the tolerance for impurities went down to 0.0%.
