



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

As Vice-President of EuRIC and a Board member who actively participated to the foundation of the confederation, what do you see as being the main benefits of being a Member of EuRIC? I would like to start my answer by saying one thing: It is an honour and pleasure for me to have been able to accompany the development of EuRIC for 5 years. EuRIC is THE European recycling association. I consider the highly professional, strategically smart, passionate and, not least, credible lobbying work of Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis and his team to be unique and it deserves the high level of recognition that EuRIC receives in Brussels and in the Member States. This is motivation for me to use my power not only for my association bvse but also for EuRIC.

Every single member of EuRIC benefits directly from this lobbying work. EuRIC always has its ear at the pulse of the industry. The numerous branches of EuRIC are each in itself powerful divisions, composed of a fertile mixture of entrepreneurs and association representatives. The flat committee structure in EuRIC also enables rapid networking and decision-making, whether between the branches, the Board or with the Presidency. Each member can rely on the Secretariat's rapid technical advice, can place its problems and wishes or can represent them in meetings with the political decision-makers in Brussels itself. Today in Brussels, it is decided what will happen tomorrow in the EuRIC member states to our industry. For me, one thing is certain: no national recycling association can afford not to be a member of EuRIC.



THOMAS BRAUN

MANAGING DIRECTOR
BUNDESVERBAND
SEKUNDÄRROHSTOFFE UND
ENTSORGUNG E.V. (BVSE)

Could you name three main priorities for the recycling industry EuRIC should tackle in 2020?

EuRIC recently published its "[Top 5 priorities of the recycling industry for the period 2019 - 2024](#)". Of course, I stand behind each of these priorities.

Also, out of personal inclination I would like to highlight one of them. We have to get to the point where recyclables, tens of millions of tons which are used by the manufacturing industry as a direct substitute for primary raw materials, receive the status of "secondary raw materials" to which they are entitled. The status quo is an absurdity. I would like to see all those involved working together as a team and at the same time I am convinced that the opportunity to move a great deal closer to this goal together with the legislator has never been better than now.

Last but not least: The trustful cooperation of the national member associations in EuRIC is



impressive and I am always looking forward to it anew. I therefore consider it a "permanent priority" to consolidate and expand this trustworthy network for the benefit of the 6000 companies represented by EuRIC.

Bvse's Altpapiertag 2020 (Recovered Paper Conference) is quickly approaching. What can participants expect this year and what will be your personal highlight? The changed global market conditions present the recovered paper industry with considerable challenges. It is not the play of supply and demand but a political decision in China against the import of "waste" that has recently led to a massive oversupply of recovered paper in the markets. Many millions of tons of recovered paper that were previously imported from China for paper production have to find new customers. However, this cannot be achieved overnight. The recovered paper recycling industry is therefore currently in a crisis, with collection, logistics and processing costs often exceeding the fallen revenue for recovered paper. Thus, we are already at the main topic of this "International bvse Recovered Paper Day". For the central market panel, which is also my personal highlight, we were able to recruit experts from key regions of the world. In presentations and a moderated

Q+A session, they will give us first-hand insights and perspectives on the situation in China, Indonesia, South-East Asia, the United States of America and Europe.

Companies in the recovered paper industry have to prove themselves in this extreme situation, and that is why it is essential that all those involved in the paper value chain work together wisely. Everyone must be aware of their responsibility. Despite its temporary oversupply, recovered paper is still a valuable secondary raw material, the use of which saves CO2 and energy and conserves resources. Especially in view of the recent further increase in quality requirements of paper mills in Europe, it is essential that the proven path of separate collection of recovered paper is maintained. Personally, I am convinced that we will leave this crisis behind us in the near future, also thanks to the new paper production capacities that are being created worldwide outside of China.

In addition to the market aspect, the 23rd International Recovered Paper Day also offers other topics that are important for the daily business. These include the keynote speech entitled "Challenges Posed on the Road to a Circular Economy - a Macroeconomic Perspective" and the discussion of "Packaging Market Trends and their Impact on Recovered Paper Recycling".

EURIC ACTIVITIES



ERA WG Meeting / Madrid / 11 February 2020

The first ERA WG meeting of 2020 took place on 11 February 2020 in Madrid, Spain. During this meeting 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, such as the Waste Shipment Regulation and ELV Directive. EuRIC warmly thanks FER for hosting this meeting.

Plastics Conference 2020 / Athens / 12 February 2020

EuRIC Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis participated as key note speaker to the Plastics Conference entitled "The Road to Evolution and Sustainability" in Athens. During his session he spoke about re-shaping plastics recycling in Europe and what the major policy and regulatory drivers are in order to do so.





WEEE - Roundtable / Sofia / 18 February 2020

Technical Officer Louis Ollion participated to a roundtable entitled “Good practices and challenges in recycling – WEEE” hosted by the Bulgarian Association of Recycling (BAR) and gave a comprehensive overview of WEEE recycling standards and practices for ecodesign. We would like to warmly thank BAR for the invitation!

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ACTIVITIES



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cohesion Policy / Waste to Energy in Poland / 30 January 2020

The European Commission [has approved](#) two investments aimed at improving waste management in Poland, by transforming waste into energy. Almost €63 million from the Cohesion Fund will be allocated to build a municipal waste treatment plant in Gdańsk. By thermally neutralising some 160,000 tonnes per year of municipal solid waste, the new plant will generate electricity and useful heat at the same time.

State Aid / Landfill in Belgium / 7 February 2020

The European Commission has launched an in-depth investigation to examine whether the tax treatment applied to operations at the Mont-Saint-Guibert landfill complies with EU state aid rules. More information is available on the website of the Directorate General of [Competition](#) from the Commission in the State Aid [Register](#), under number SA.43147.

Environmental and Climate Action / LIFE / 17 February 2020

The European Commission [has announced](#) an investment of €101.2 million for the latest projects under the LIFE programme for the Environment and Climate Action. The funding will support 10 large-scale environment and climate projects in nine Member States, helping Europe's transition to a sustainable economy and climate neutrality. These projects are located in Cyprus, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Slovakia, Czechia and Spain.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Executive Summary / Waste Shipment Regulation / 31 January 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) the executive summary and evaluation of the Waste Shipment Regulation.

Note on Green Deal / European competitiveness / 5 February 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) a note on the Green Deal and European competitiveness including the EU industrial policy.

Decision / Hexavalent chromium & lead and lead compounds / 14 February 2020

The Council of the European Union has published their decisions not to oppose the adoption of the European Commission's Delegated Acts on exempting [hexavalent chromium](#), [lead and lead compounds](#) in vehicles' components.

Report / European environmental economic accounts / 17 February 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) a report from the European Commission on the implementation of the Regulation on European environmental economic accounts.

Report / Waste Statistics / 17 February 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) a report on waste statistics and their quality.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

ENVI Committee / Brexit / 6 February 2020

The Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI) [remained](#) the biggest committee in the European Parliament after the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU. Despite the overall reduction in the number of MEPs for the whole Parliament (from 751 to 705), ENVI increased the number of full members from 76 to 81, reflecting the saliency of ENVI issues among MEPs.

Amendments / Annex XVII of REACH / 7 February 2020

The European Parliament [has published](#) amendments on the notion for resolution amending Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation.

Lead in recycled PVC / 12 February 2020

The European Parliament [has published](#) a text blocking the European Commission's proposal to allow lead in recycled PVC.

ENVI / New Vice-Chairs / 18 February 2020

Members of the ENVI Committee [have voted](#) by acclamation their second and third Vice-Chairs: Mr César LUENA (S&D) and Mr Dan-Ștefan MOTREANU (EPP) respectively. The vote was needed to replace former MEP Seb Dance following Brexit and to replace third Vice-Chair Cristian Bușoi after his election as Chair of the ITRE committee. The composition of the ENVI Bureau is thus the following:

Chair: [Pascal CANFIN](#)

1st Vice-Chair: [Bas EICKHOUT](#)

2nd Vice-Chair: [César LUENA](#)

3rd Vice-Chair: [Dan-Ștefan MOTREANU](#)

4th Vice-Chair: [Anja HAZEKAMP](#)



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/171 / 7 February 2020

The Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/171 amending Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) [has been published](#) in the Official Journal of the EU.



Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/217/ 18 February 2020

The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/217 amending, for the purposes of its adaptation to technical and scientific progress, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures and correcting that Regulation [has been published](#).



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

Tender /Provision for Expert Assistance / 6 February 2020

The European Environment Agency [has launched](#) a tender for Provision of Expert Assistance to support EEA's activities on circular economy, industrial transformation and interlinkages between environment and health including chemicals. The tender is open until 9 March 2020.

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)

SCIP database / Testing phase / 17 February 2020

ECHA [has announced](#) that the SCIP database of products containing Candidate List substances of very high concern is now open for testing. The final database will be launched later in 2020.

EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE: 18th March 2020
Fokker Terminal, The Hague



Registration will open in March!