



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

What do you think is the reason that associations based in Brussels and their work is getting more and more important?

In the area of environmental policy, the European Commission has set itself the goal of becoming the leading region worldwide while setting the necessary standards globally to achieve new and very ambitious goals in the environmental protection segment. That is why the activities of the branch and industry associations based in Brussels are becoming increasingly important. On the one hand, it is necessary to work with the relevant institutions of the European Union, e.g. European Commission, European Parliament, Council of the European Union and others to be in constant contact and exchange of information. On the other hand, associations need comprehensive knowledge and current industry knowledge in order to best represent their members' interests. The higher this knowledge competence of an association, the better is its perception in Brussels by the decision-makers there. Associations therefore need extensive input from their members.

Waste legislation has significantly shifted away from the Member States and towards the European Union in the last decade. European waste law, but also technical standards in the field of waste management and recycling are increasingly being defined and created in Brussels. The Member States are solely responsible for the implementation into national law. Nevertheless, the requirements and regulatory content for companies in the waste and recycling industry are



getting higher and higher. It is therefore very important to counter this development in the area of European waste legislation with the extensive professional competence of the industry associations and the increased local presence of the companies concerned in Brussels.

What are the biggest challenges and opportunities for recycling companies operating in Austria? The new Austrian government wants to strengthen the circular economy. This is anchored in the new government program. This includes a strategic action plan for environmental technologies as well as for the recycling industry. The recycling of plastics waste takes up a lot of space. The new government wants to improve reparability of electrical appliances and to introduce tax benefits for small repair services. The federal government wants to examine a

deposit system for small electrical appliances and batteries.

In contrast, there are still no draft assessments for the implementation of the EU circular economy package, which should have been sent by the end of 2019. Implementation into national law by July 5, 2020 at the latest is now impossible. This means great legal uncertainty for recycling companies. Another critical point here is the assumption of transport costs through collection and recycling systems, as defined in EU law; what the actual implementation of this requirement should look like in practice is currently open, too.

In the segment of plastic waste, 78,000 to/a or 25% are currently being recycled in Austria. This amount has to be doubled by 2025 in accordance with the new requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive. This will only be possible if the legislator, the packaging recycling organisations, the municipalities and the private recycling industry join forces. In addition, high

investments in new sorting systems and technologies and capacity expansions are to be expected in this area.

Could you name your top 3 priorities for the recycling industry which EuRIC should tackle?

- Creation of a robust and integrated internal market for secondary raw materials in the EU with a mandatory quota for the use of recyclates in industrial production (not only in the plastics industry)
- Mandatory obligation of manufacturers and producers based outside the EU to label their goods and products marketed in the EU accordingly (in particular a mandatory obligation to disclose dangerous substances and/or substances of very high concern included in their goods and products in a legally binding manner)
- Standardisation and harmonisation of European waste law and prohibition of national "got-it-alone" approaches (especially in the area of end-of-waste and waste shipment regulations)

EuRIC ACTIVITIES



Meeting Ministry of Commerce and Industry / New Delhi / 27 February 2020

ERPA Vice-President Andreas Otto met with a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi, India to introduce the work ERPA is doing as well as to discuss the European standard for grades of paper EN 643 and planned legislative initiatives in India.

Waste Management in the Circular Economy / Berlin / 27 February 2020

EuRIC Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis participated as speaker to the Conference on Waste Management in the Circular Economy in Berlin. During his session he conveyed practical insights from recyclers' perspective on how to move towards a Circular Economy, in particular about the implementation of the revised Waste Framework Directive and game-changers be them incentives or regulatory drivers to move from linear to circular flows.





EuRIC meetings / Video Conference / March - April 2020

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and travel restrictions imposed, EuRIC is holding all meetings originally scheduled in person via video conference. EuRIC Secretariat is fully mobilised to support the recycling industry in the current exceptional circumstances and would like to thank its Members for their active participation and numerous inputs.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ACTIVITIES



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Principles / Building Design / 25 February 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) principles on Building Design which aim to help reduce the environmental impacts and lifecycle costs of buildings. The target audience is construction industry actors, including economic operators in the value chain, policymakers, legal and technical actors.

Tender / Environmental Effectiveness of Textile Fibres Recycling / 2 March 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) a tender aiming at improving the knowledge about opportunities and challenges of textile waste recycling technologies, identifying promising areas for future research and innovation projects, providing policy makers with an in-depth analysis of existing regulatory barriers and presenting alternative policy options.

Adoption / Climate Law / 4 March 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) the Climate Law which sets the 2050 target and the direction of travel for all EU policy, and gives predictability for public authorities, businesses and citizens.

Publication / Categorisation Circular Economy / 9 March 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) the “sector-agnostic categorisation system for activities substantially contributing to the circular economy”. The document classifies all the activities related to the circular economy, including recycling.

Publication / Industrial Strategy / 10 March 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) the Industrial Strategy aiming to ensure that European businesses remain fit to achieve their ambitions, while coping with global competition. More information is available [here](#).

Publication / Circular Economy Action Plan / 11 March 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) the new Circular Economy Action Plan which announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products, targeting for example their design, promoting circular economy processes, fostering sustainable consumption, and aiming to ensure that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible. The EuRIC Press Release is available [here](#).

Brexit / Stakeholder Rules / REACH / 23 March 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) stakeholder guidance on EU rules in relation to the Chemicals Regulation under REACH.

Mergers / Joint control over CleverShuttle Düsseldorf by Stadtwerke Düsseldorf and GHT Mobility

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over CleverShuttle Düsseldorf GmbH (“CleverShuttle”) by Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG (“SWD”) and GHT Mobility GmbH (“GHT”), all of Germany. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9647](#).

Mergers / Acquisition of certain recycling assets of Sims Metal Management by TSR Recycling

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of certain recycling assets of Sims Metal Management Limited of the U.S. by TSR Recycling GmbH & Co. KG and TSR Recycling Holding GmbH (together “TSR Recycling”) of Germany. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9649](#).

Mergers / New joint venture by AMG and Shell

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the creation of a new joint venture called Shell & AMG Recycling B.V., by AMG Advanced Metallurgical Group N.V. (“AMG”) and Shell Overseas Investments B.V. (“SOI”), all of the Netherlands, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell plc (“Shell”) of the UK. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9623](#).



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Conclusions / Ecodesign and Energy Labelling / 4 March 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report 01/2020 entitled “EU action on Ecodesign and Energy Labelling: important contribution to greater energy efficiency reduced by significant delays and non-compliance”.

Working Papers / Dangerous Substances / 4 March 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) a list of working papers distributed in the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation (Dangerous Substances - Chemicals) in the 4th quarter of 2019.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Results / ENVI Coordinators / 21 February 2020

The European Parliament [has published](#) the results of the ENVI Coordinators meeting that took place on 18 February 2020.

Extraordinary ENVI Meeting / 4 March 2020

Climate activist Greta Thunberg was in ENVI on Wednesday 4 March in an extraordinary ENVI committee meeting that was open to all Members. More information on the meeting can be found [here](#).

STUDIES

ADEME / Study on ELVs / March 2020

The global overview of incentives schemes aiming to bring ELVs through authorized processing channels [has been published](#) in English on the website of the French Environment Agency ADEME.

EURIC IN THE PRESS

Please click on the icon to read the corresponding article.

04/03/2020	Imported products must meet EU chemicals legislation, says recycling body	
05/03/2020	Recycling body underlines significance of imported products meeting EU Chemical legislation	
13/03/2020	EuRIC welcomes new circular economy action plan	
16/03/2020	CEAP	Daily EU Environment & Chemicals Policy Brief
24/03/2020	European recyclers seek essential status	
25/03/2020	Coronavirus war needs recyclers onside, insists EuRIC	
25/03/2020	Euric: Statement on impact of COVID-19 for waste management & recycling industry	

EVENTS

IARC
2020

September 2 – 4, 2020
Geneva, Switzerland
www.icm.ch



11 JUNE
2020

EUROPEAN
RECYCLING
CONFERENCE

IFEMA
MADRID

POSTPONED to AUTUMN 2020
More information will follow soon.