



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

EuRIC MTR was officially launched in March 2020. Why did you decide to actively participate in the foundation of the Branch?

The initiative to found EuRIC MTR (Mechanical Tyre Recyclers) arose from the need for an industry association, through which mechanical tyre recyclers could join forces and speak with one voice. Different issues relating to tyre recycling have been fiercely – yet not factually – debated in the media; and a substantiated, evidence-based response from sustainable tyre recyclers was called for.

At the time, no such organisation existed. Existing alternatives represented too many – and potentially conflicting – target groups. A forum where mechanical tyre recyclers could meet and find common ground and consensus on standpoints was much needed.

What do you expect EuRIC can do to support the mechanical tyre recycling industry in Europe?

As a well-established umbrella organisation, EuRIC is a most efficient platform for such community of interests. Apart from providing a suitable niche where European mechanical tyre recyclers can speak with one voice, the EuRIC membership also offers the advantages of easy access to and close connections with similar industries. This window to like-minded partners for discussion may prove powerful in different matters.

Moreover, the resources of the secretariat made available to the EuRIC MTR branch are a decisive factor making EuRIC attractive as an umbrella organisation. Highly qualified personnel making



Poul Steen Rasmussen
Group CEO, Genan;
EuRIC MTR President

sure, that initiatives are realised are a must, if EuRIC MTR is to succeed as an industry association.

Our expectations are that EuRIC can facilitate this maiden voyage that we have embarked upon by setting up EuRIC MTR. When competitors, it takes time to get to know each other as partners and colleagues – to get to trust each other and share experience in full compliance with antitrust regulations.

Fact is that mechanical tyre recyclers help solve a huge, global problem – taking what would otherwise be a waste problem, turning it into a valuable resource. Comprehensive LCA analyses unquestionably show that the recycling of end-of-life tyres saves vast amounts of CO2 emission – for the benefit of both climate and environment. Tyre recycling is indeed a good story – and EuRIC can help us tell this story.

What are the biggest opportunities and challenges for tyre recycling companies at the moment?

One of the main markets for ELT granulate is the infill market, i.e. the application of rubber granules as shock-absorbing infill for artificial turf. With ECHA's restriction proposal for intentionally added microplastics, the future of this market is challenged, as recycled ELT granules are typically 0.8 – 3 mm in size and thus per definition microplastics.

Needless to say, sustainability is paramount to tyre recyclers. We have no interest in solving one environmental problem by creating another. But with adequate containment measures and responsible behaviour, the amount of ELT infill spreading from an artificial turf pitch to the aquatic environment can be reduced to next to nothing.

EuRIC MTR works to put focus on the need for such containment measures. In terms of performance and natural ball behaviour, ELT granulate is unarguably the number one infill solution. And as long as clubs are required to construct and maintain their pitches in a way to ensure that granules stay on the pitch, there is no reason why players should not continue to play on high-performance ELT infill – all year round. For the benefit of public health, the climate and the environment.

If the application of ELT granulate as infill material for artificial turf was banned, then what should happen with worn-out tyres? Should they be incinerated, causing huge amounts of detrimental CO2 emission?

The recycling of end-of-life tyres helps solve a huge, global waste problem. Worn-down tyres are

turned into a valuable resource with exceptional product properties – and vast amounts of CO2 are saved. But we must of course take sustainability even further and ensure that infill material then stays on the pitch. And with best practice measures, it really isn't that difficult...

Another topic where EuRIC MTR members will benefit from speaking with one voice is the matter of "end-of-waste" criteria.

When tyre recyclers process end-of-life tyres, tyres are separated into their original components: rubber, steel and textile fibres. These products are not waste. On the contrary, these products are clean, valuable and sustainable materials ready to be used in a wide range of production processes. Yet, in some markets, we are challenged by import restrictions, as these products are still classed as waste. A clear definition of when end-of-life tyres cease to be waste would be most helpful – for us as manufacturers as well as for our environmentally conscious customers who wish to substitute virgin raw materials with recycled alternatives with excellent product properties.

Each year, approx. 20 million tonnes of tyres are scrapped world-wide. Laid flat and lined up, these tyres would reach 32 times around the Equator. This huge amount of tyres is an immense waste problem – and with increasing traffic, volumes of end-of-life tyres are currently growing by approx. 4% each year. Environmentally friendly recycling is thus a must!

For EuRIC MTR, the network of umbrella organisation EuRIC offers the opportunity to unite for mutual benefit and increased clout, so we can reach decision makers at the highest level and pave the way for sustainable recycling – not only of tyres, but of all types of waste.



COVID-19 Task Force / Video Conference / 19 May 2020

EuRIC organized another video conference to discuss the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in most European countries to exchange the latest information for the recycling industry. EuRIC would like to warmly thank all Members for continuing to provide frequent information on the topic.

ERA WG Meeting / Video Conference / 26 May 2020

The second ERA WG meeting of 2020 took place on 26 May 2020 via video conference due to the corona virus crisis. Nevertheless, 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 review of the Waste Shipment Regulation, legacy lead in PVC and the EU Green Recovery Plan.



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ACTIVITIES



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Commission meetings on waste / Meeting documents / 11 March 2020

The European Commission has published [meeting documents](#) from the meeting of the Committee on Waste on Packaging and Packaging Waste as well as the [minutes](#) of the Expert Group on Waste on single used plastics which both were held on 11 March 2020.

Standardisation / Plastic caps & lids / 28 April 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) a draft standardisation request as regards plastic caps and lids of single-use plastic beverage containers with a capacity of up and including three litres for those to remain attached to the containers during the product's intended use stage.

REACH Committee / Summary record / 30 April 2020

The European Committee [has published](#) summary records of the REACH Committee meeting which has been held on 30 April 2020.

Project website / Ecodesign & Energy labelling / 6 May 2020

The European Commission has launched a preparatory study that will inform and assist the Commission in preparing the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2020-2024 as part of the implementation of the Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC and Energy Labelling Regulation (EU) 2017/1369. On 6 May, a new project website [has been launched](#).

Public Consultation / Waste Shipment Regulation / 7 May 2020

The European Commission [has opened](#) the Public Consultation on the review of the Waste Shipment Regulation. The review will also explore ways to reduce the export of waste, for example through a better inspection system and measures against illegal shipments. The consultation runs from 7 May to 30 July 2020, midnight, Brussels time.

Public Consultation / Sustainability strategy on chemicals / 9 May 2020

The European Commission [has opened](#) the Public Consultation on a strategy for sustainability in chemicals. It will simplify and strengthen EU rules on chemicals, and review how EU agencies and scientific bodies can work together towards a process where substances are only reviewed by one agency. The consultation runs from 9 May to 20 June 2020, midnight, Brussels time.

Final report & recommendations / EPR schemes / 10 May 2020

The European Commission has published the [final report](#) as well as [recommendations](#) on the Study to Support Preparation of the Commission's Guidance for Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes.

JRC guidance / GPP criteria for textiles / 11 May 2020

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre [has published](#) a guidance document on EU Green Public Procurement (GPP) Criteria for Textile Products and Services.

Guidance / Separate collection of waste / 14 May 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) a guidance document on the separate collection of municipal waste. The document is divided into several parts and highlights in particular the separate collection of bio-, plastic-, textile- and hazardous household waste.

Recovery Plan / COVID-19 / 14 May 2020

Commission President von der Leyen [gave a speech](#) at the European Parliament plenary debate on the Recovery Plan, setting out the architecture and main features of the Recovery Plan for Europe. A draft working document related to the green aspects of the Recovery Plan [has also been leaked](#).

Mergers / Commission clears acquisition of Viridor by KKR

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Viridor Limited ("Viridor") of the UK by KKR & Co. Inc. ("KKR") of the US. Viridor is active in renewable energy and waste management services. KKR provides asset funds and other investment products to investors and capital markets solutions. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9833](#).

Mergers / Commission clears Aurubis' acquisition of Metallo

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, Aurubis' acquisition of Metallo, a large copper scrap refiner. The Commission concluded that the merger would not adversely affect competition in the European Economic Area or any substantial part of it. The full press release is available [online](#).

Note / Food contact plastics / 12 May 2020

The Council of the EU has published a note on the [Annex](#) and [Commission Regulation](#) on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

Amendment / CLP Annex VI / 19 May 2020

The Council of the EU [has published](#) an amendment of Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.

Briefing / Newsletter on COVID -19 / 22 April 2020

The ENVI Committee and others [have published](#) a newsletter on the COVID-19 crisis. This newsletter on COVID-19 aims to keep the ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE and IMCO committees updated about the main EU recent developments and responses to the current crisis.

Draft Motion / Sustainable chemicals / 28 April 2020

The European Parliament has published [amendments](#) and a [draft motion](#) for a resolution on chemicals strategy for sustainability.

Petition notice / Secure re-use of WEEE / 28 April 2020

The European Parliament's Petitions Committee [has published](#) a petition on secure re-use of IT and electronic waste.

ENVI Committee / Meeting / 4 May 2020

The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (EMVI) [has met](#) on 4 May. The meeting started with an exchange with ECDC Director Dr Ammon who briefed Members on the fight against the pandemic in the EU and on future scenarios. ENVI Members also debated the opinion to a resolution on the recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the UK.

Labelling scheme / Tyres / 13 May 2020

The European Parliament [has approved](#) the new tyre labelling scheme on 13 May. The new rules will enter into force on 1 May 2021.

Article / Climate neutrality during COVID-19 / 11 May 2020

The European Environment Agency (EEA) [has published](#) an article on climate-neutrality ambitions in Europe in times of COVID-19. Considering its potential to affect key economic sectors, the coronavirus crisis is expected to reduce some of the impacts of economic activities on the environment and climate.

Report / Drivers of change for Europe’s environment and sustainability / 19 May 2020

The EEA [has published](#) a report named ‘Drivers of change of relevance for Europe’s environment and sustainability’ which provides an in-depth characterisation of developments that range from demographic shifts to leaps in technological innovation and from global competition for natural resources to changes in geopolitical landscape and people’s lifestyles. It also shines light on their potential implications for major policy processes such as the [European Green Deal](#) in the EU, the [UN Agenda 2030](#) and Sustainable Development Goals.



EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

Guidance / Back to the workplace after COVID-19 / 24 April 2020

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) has issued a [guidance](#) on coming back to work after the coronavirus. The European Commission attached the greatest importance to ensure that workers can return to the workplace in a safe and healthy environment.



EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)

Guide / Circular Economy / 18 May 2020

The European Investment Bank (EIB) [has published](#) an updated version of its Circular Economy Guide. The Guide aligns with the European Commission’s recently adopted Circular Economy Action Plan, one of the main pillars of the European Green Deal. It also integrates the findings of the report “Categorisation system for the circular economy” drafted by the European Commission’s Expert Group on Circular Economy Finance, in which EIB experts took a leading role.

EVENTS



Please click on the icon to read the corresponding article.

06/05/2020	Joint open letter of EuRIC, FEAD and CEWEP for a green recovery	
06/05/2020	European associations call for post-COVID-19 green action	
11/05/2020	Green deal should be 'motor' of European recovery, says coalition	
13/05/2020	What does industry think of the European Commission's safer recycling plans?	
13/05/2020	Waste and recycling trade bodies urge European Commission to focus on 'Green Deal' for post-covid 19 recovery	
14/05/2020	Survey on the corona crisis and its consequences (p.19)	
26/05/2020	Report: Characterisation of fires caused by batteries in WEEE	
26/05/2020	WEEE fires caused by batteries 'increasing'	
27/05/2020	Battery menace costs recyclers millions	
27/05/2020	WEEE fires 'heavy burden' for industry	