



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Could you tell us about the Slovak recycling association and its establishment?

The Association of Independent Processors of Secondary Raw Materials was established in 2013 as an association of entrepreneurs and companies whose main activity is the purchase, collection, processing and trading of metals and secondary raw materials. As Slovak (and European) legislation does not have a defined term of secondary raw materials, our companies deal with metal materials or metal waste, both from industrial production or from natural persons, in accordance with the relevant legislation.

The impetus for the establishment of ANSDS was the proposal of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic for a comprehensive change in environmental legislation, which would limit the purchase of metal waste from natural persons (from households) which would have significantly affected the activities of our companies and resulted in their bankruptcy. As there was no association in Slovakia representing these companies until 2012, the establishment of the association was unanimously agreed and the association subsequently began its activities in September 2013. The priority of the activities of the newly established association was to communicate with the Slovak Ministry of Environment to maintain a well-functioning system of collection and purchase of metal waste from households and small companies in the long run. We finally succeeded and the effectiveness of the new Waste Act from 1 January 2016 brought only the tightening of the conditions for the



Katarína Špačková
Chair of the Slovak recycling association ANSDS

purchase of certain specific types of metal waste, and the preservation of cash payments, which saved the entire system of operation of metal waste purchase facilities.

At present, ANSDS unites more than 70 companies and entities throughout the Slovak Republic, which have a total of about 200 facilities for the collection and purchase of metal waste. For a country which is as small as Slovakia compared to other EU countries, it is a real success.

What is ANSDS' mission and main activities?

The main mission of ANSDS is to maintain and support a functioning system of collection and purchase of metal waste. We actively cooperate with the Ministry of Environment in the preparation of waste legislation, we organize trainings and seminars, in which we inform participants about planned and current



legislative and practical changes and provide professional assistance especially in keeping records of waste. Since the basis of every business is information, our effort is to obtain it and at the same time to inform our members. The representation of our membership base is nationwide and we are constantly striving to expand it.

An important step for ANSDS was the EuRIC membership, thanks to which we have a constant overview of the planned legislative changes within the EU, which gives us enough room to prepare for their implementation in the legislation of the Member States.

How do you think EuRIC can support its Members in current times?

At present, the processing of steel as well as non-ferrous metals is in global crisis. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this situation and the prospects for improvement are not very positive. In Slovakia, steelmakers have existential problems, which result in a reduction of production, shutdown of furnaces and significant redundancies, which do not help starting the economy and also worsen the business environment in the sector.

The coronavirus crisis has significantly affected major customers such as car manufacturers or

construction. This worsens demand and leaves room for undermining the market for third-country importers, who usually don't have to comply with strict rules, which make European steel significantly more expensive. The biggest problem for the steel industry, which is our main customer, is the fact that the EU's environmental policy undermines its competitiveness since downstream industries located in non-EU countries are subject in most instances of far less strict rules or are often directly subsidized by their State. Cheap imports of semi-finished products directly affect the economic viability of our customers which in turn negatively affect the markets in which we operate. For instance, it is worrying that while world steel production has fallen by five percent in the first 5 months, it has risen by two percent in China. Despite pressure from Member States and producers, the European Commission is not taking firmer measures to support steelmakers and better protect this strategic value chain by adjusting import quotas from third countries, leaving them unchanged. We believe that EuRIC will do everything in its power to support the steel industry within the EU and further enhance circular steel value chains in Europe, which play a decisive role in achieving the targets set by the European Green Deal and contribute to Europe's raw material self-sufficiency.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ACTIVITIES



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Public Consultation / Empowering consumers / 30 June 2020

The European Commission [has opened](#) a public consultation on how to empower consumers in the green transition. The consultation runs until 6 October 2020.

Newsletter / Closing circularity gap / 1 July 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) a newsletter discussing that living sustainably within our planet's boundaries is a matter of global concern, with some countries now focusing on the development of a circular economy — where materials are reused as much as possible.

Public Consultation / RoHS / 3 July 2020

The European Commission [has opened](#) a public consultation on hazardous substances used in electrical and electronic equipment that are restricted under EU rules. The feedback period was from 3 July to 31 July 2020.

Communication / Brexit “readiness” / 9 July 2020

The European Commission [adopted](#) a communication to help national authorities, businesses and citizens prepare for the inevitable changes that will arise at the end of the transition period. Changes will occur to cross-border exchanges between the EU and the UK as of 1 January 2021– irrespective of whether an agreement on a future partnership has been concluded or not.

New Rules / EU Climate Benchmarks / 17 July 2020

As part of the European Commission’s sustainable finance agenda, new rules [have been adopted](#) which set out minimum technical requirements for EU Climate Benchmarks, as well as a number of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) disclosure requirements.

Newsletter / Chemicals in plastics / 21 July 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) a newsletter about researchers who used advanced techniques to analyse 34 widely used consumer products made from eight different plastics — including packaging such as refillable water bottles and products such as table mats and floor covering.

Public Consultation / Carbon Border Adjustment / 22 July 2020

The European Commission [has opened](#) a public consultation on the carbon border adjustment mechanism. The consultation runs until 28 October 2020.

WaysTUP! Project / Biowaste / 28 July 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) information on the WaysTUP! Project which discusses turning urban biowaste into a resource as major key to a circular economy.

Agreement / Plastic tax / 28 July 2020

The European Commission has presented a plastic tax on nonrecycled plastic waste, which will be implemented on 1 January 2020. The plan includes a 0.8 Euros per kilogram levy on nonrecycled plastic packaging waste to be paid by Member States into the EU budget. As a next step, further details on the tax will have to be worked out in a specific law and approved by the European Parliament and Council of the EU which may be based on this [Eurostat guidance](#).



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Press release / Agreement on sustainable recovery / 22 July 2020

The Council of the European Union [has agreed](#) its position on an instrument to support implementation of reforms for a sustainable recovery. As part of its measures to foster the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, the EU will support member states' reform efforts to stimulate growth and put their economies back on track.

Report / Industrial emissions / 27 July 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) a report on the exercise of power of the European Commission to adopt delegated acts pursuant to Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

MEP call / Dangerous chemicals / 29 June 2020

MEPs call on European Commission to step up action against dangerous chemicals. The ENVI Committee [has said](#) that the upcoming new EU chemicals strategy for sustainability must better protect our health and the environment.

Motion for resolution / Chemicals Strategy / 6 July 2020

The European Parliament [has published](#) a motion for resolution on the upcoming EU Chemicals Strategy. It for example stresses that the Strategy should fully reflect the precautionary principle and the principles that preventive action should be taken, as well as cornerstone principles of the European chemicals legislation such as the placing of the burden of proof on manufacturers, importers and downstream users, and that it should effectively apply those principles. [Amendments to the motion have also been published.](#)



European
Environment
Agency

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

Briefing / Building Sector / 9 July 2020

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a briefing on greater circularity in the buildings sector can lead to major cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. According to the EEA, improving efficiency and reuse of materials to construct houses and other buildings can open significant new opportunities to further reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY (ECHA)



Public Consultation / Restriction of microplastics / Deadline: 20 September 2020

ECHA [has published](#) a public consultation on restricting the use of intentionally added microplastic particles in consumer or professional use products of any kind. There is also a [consultation guidance](#) available that describes the relevant information that should be submitted.



04/09/2020 12:00 – 12 :45
 EuRIC Webinar: The new CEAP in a Post-Crisis
 Situation: A Recycler's Perspective



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Please click on the logo to read the corresponding article.

07/07/2020	European federations demand boosting of technical plastic recycling	
07/07/2020	EERA and EURIC in joint-call on technical plastics recycling	
08/07/2020	Technical plastic recyclers appeal for help	
08/07/2020	Boosting technical plastics recycling – A matter of urgency	
31/07/2020	Textiles recycling groups urging Kenyan officials to finalize secondhand clothing importation guidelines	

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