



## EuRIC ACTIVITIES

### EuRIC nomination as a Member of the Platform on sustainable finance / October 2020

The European Commission published, on 1 October 2020, the [list of members of the Platform on sustainable finance](#), following a highly selective process initiated in June 2018. The platform will advise the Commission on the development of technical screening criteria for the EU taxonomy which are essential to determine whether an economic activity qualifies as environmentally sustainable for investment purposes, as required by the [Taxonomy Regulation](#). EuRIC has been selected to be a [Member of that Platform](#) and looks forward to actively contribute to the missions of the Platform, which are of overarching importance.



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### EuRIC Working Group Meetings / Remote / September 2020

EuRIC organized several Working Group meetings remotely in the course of September 2020. Important issues, such as the upcoming Strategy for Textiles, the revision of Annex IV of the Basel Convention and the work of the Circular Plastics Alliance have been discussed. We would like to warmly thank our Members for their continuous active participation to our online meetings!

### METABUILDING project / Workshop / 23 November 2020

Since June 2020, EuRIC is a partner of the [METABUILDING project](#), which aims at boosting cross-sectorial innovation by joining forces with the construction, recycling, additive manufacturing, digital and nature-based solutions sectors. METABUILDING includes a 2.7 M€ budget program for funding innovative projects from those five sectors, in relation to construction. Within this framework, EuRIC and FEDEREC will organize a workshop in the partnership with the construction industry on 23 November 2020\*, in order to jointly define innovation challenges and prepare the calls for tenders.

\*The workshop will be conducted in French.





### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

#### **Public Consultation / Substantiating green claims / 27 August 2020**

The European Commission [has opened](#) a public consultation on substantiating green claims. It is important that claims on the environmental performance of companies and products are reliable, comparable and verifiable across the EU. Reliable environmental information would allow market actors – consumers, companies, investors – to take greener decisions. The public consultation is open until 3 December 2020.

#### **Publication / Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials / 3 September 2020**

The European Commission [has published](#) the Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials, the 2020 List of Critical Raw Materials and a foresight study on critical raw materials for strategic technologies and sectors from the 2030 and 2050 perspectives.

#### **Public Consultation / Sustainable products / 14 September 2020**

The European Commission [has opened](#) a public consultation on the sustainable products initiative for the revision of the Ecodesign Directive. The initiative will also address the presence of harmful chemicals in products such as: electronics & ICT equipment, textiles, furniture steel, cement & chemicals.

#### **Address / State of the Union / 16 September 2020**

In her [State of the Union address](#), President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen presented her vision for a Europe that emerges stronger from the pandemic and leads the way towards a new vitality. EuRIC [strongly welcomed](#) the address and Cinzia Vezzosi, President of EuRIC said: *“To speed up the transition towards a circular economy and meet the ambition set by the European Green Deal, it is instrumental to incentivize the use of secondary raw materials in manufacturing”*.

#### **Launch / European Green Deal Call / 17 September 2020**

The European Commission [has decided](#) to launch a €1 billion call for research and innovation projects that respond to the climate crisis and help protect Europe's unique ecosystems and biodiversity. The Horizon 2020-funded European Green Deal Call, which is open for registration, will spur Europe's recovery from the coronavirus crisis by turning green challenges into innovation opportunities.

#### **Adoption / ETS Guidelines / 21 September 2020**

The European Commission [has adopted](#) the revised EU Emission Trading System State Aid Guidelines in the context of the system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading post-2021. They will enter into force on 1 January 2021 with the start of the new ETS trading period, and replace the previous Guidelines adopted in 2012.

#### **Activation / SURE instrument / 22 September 2020**

The European Commission [has welcomed](#) the activation of the SURE instrument, which will provide up to €100 billion in financial support to help protect jobs and workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic. This follows the finalisation of national approval procedures and signatures by all Member States to provide for the guarantee agreements with the Commission worth a total of €25 billion.



### Survey / 'Flash Eurobarometer' on SMEs / 23 September 2020

The latest 'Flash Eurobarometer' survey on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) [has showed](#) that 62% of EU SMEs confront barriers to digitalisation and 70% of EU SMEs say they are facing at least one obstacle that prevents their enterprise from becoming sustainable. The results validate the importance of the new SME strategy in contributing to economic recovery in Europe after the coronavirus pandemic.



### COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Establishment / Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency / 11 September 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) a note on the establishment of the 'Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency' and on the approval of entering into negotiations.

### Publication / Note on Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021 / 17 September 2020

The Council of the European Union [has published](#) a note the European Commission's Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021. The Council concludes that it will be crucial that Member States engage as soon as possible in a broad policy dialogue including social partners and all other relevant stakeholders to prepare their recovery and resilience plans.



### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### Update on Covid-19 / ENVI Committee / 2 September 2020

The Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) [has given](#) an update to the ENVI Members on the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU. The worldwide COVID-19 situation update can be found on the [ECDC's website](#).

### Draft Opinion / Circular Economy Action Plan / 2 September 2020

The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade [has published](#) its draft opinion on the new Circular Economy Action Plan.

### Own Initiative Report / Circular Economy Action Plan / 25 September 2020

The European Parliament has published ENVI Committee's [draft own-initiative report](#) and ITRE's [draft opinion](#) on the New Circular Economy Action Plan.



## EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

### Briefing / Biodegradable and compostable plastics / 27 August 2020

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a briefing on the challenges and opportunities of biodegradable and compostable plastics.

**Press Release / Sharing of information on exports of harmful chemicals / 31 August 2020**

The European Chemicals Agency [has published](#) a press release about the growing of information sharing on exports of harmful chemicals.

EVENTS

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EURIC IN THE PRESS

*Please click on the logo to read the corresponding article.*

16/09/2020

EuRIC Statement in support of the State of the Union 2020

