



A thank you to our readers!

Today, EuRIC Secretariat publishes the 50. edition of its monthly Newsletter. This is the reason why we would like to look back at the beginnings of this Newsletter and to take a moment to thank you, our valued members & readers, for your continued loyalty. The first EuRIC Newsletter was published on 15 May 2015 and has since changed its layout several times and added several new categories, such as “Member Spotlight”, “EuRIC in the press” as well as an events section. However, one thing has remained unchanged over 50. editions, namely the fact that we provide the latest key information on EU regulatory, institutional and policy developments of interest for the recycling sector straight to your mailbox. We look forward to continue delivering the latest EU news for the recycling sector to you! To the next 50. editions and stay tuned for future improvements! Your EuRIC Secretariat

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

What will be your main priorities within the next few months as the newest member of EuRIC Board as well as EuRIC Vice-President?

This is a difficult question as it would imply that we are able to “pilot” or “control” the situation. Today, this is nearly impossible, the “environmental” question is permanently shaken by earthquakes of always greater magnitude. The number of strategies and initiatives, whose goals are supported by the recycling industry, be it the Plastics Strategy, the European Green Deal or the New Circular Economy Action Plan, not to mention the recast of the Basel Convention result in measures that have major impacts on our core business: upcoming international transboundary shipments, everlasting developments linked to POPs under the Stockholm Convention or the EU POP Regulation bring uncertainties on the non-toxic qualities of our recycled raw materials, the recast of the ELV Directive and the debate



regarding the incorporation of recycled materials which we all know are a must (particularly for plastics) in new objects, CO2 savings due to recycling, REACH... the list of topics popping up is long and keeps increasing at all levels of governance: worldwide, regional, national or sub-national!

I have been following the environmental regulation for nearly 40 years now: the piling-up process is accelerating continuously. Many people in our recycling industry are thinking: “one day, the old good time of freedom will be back”. This will not happen, our business is now fully driven by the regulation, and worse the gap between daily constraints of running complex industrial value chains and policy-makers is widening.

Hence, the increasing importance of trade federations, like EuRIC who keeps being at the forefront at European level.

So, to come back to the initial question “main priorities?”, I will say that we certainly have to concentrate on our industry representation organisation to face this permanent change of rule, it must be rethought continuously, and this is a key for our future. The fact that our industry is consolidating very rapidly makes this organisation question again more difficult; there are now big groups and still a lot of small companies, the instability is both internal and external, but we have no choice, we must face it, whatever time and energy it takes.

What are – according to your opinion – the most important issues for the recycling industry that EuRIC is currently working on?

EuRIC recently published a [list of top 5 priorities](#). If I must choose among them, I think that the most important objective may be the creation of a specific status for the recycled raw materials. Since the first directive on waste (1975), we have legally two status for whatever surrounds us, be it a monomaterial or polymaterial object: it is a “product” manufactured by the producer, or “waste” discarded by the owner.

Curiously enough, raw materials from mining avoid both possibilities and lay in a holy heaven of “natural” sanctity. When you know that the evil “asbestos” is a natural mineral raw material, you understand the foolishness of this situation. Because it is “natural”, it is good and safe. We must step out of this binary vision of the world.

Who can think a lead mineral ore is safe? Is petroleum so animal friendly?

There is definitely a blind spot in the legislation which we have to urgently bring to light. Raw materials are not in the REACH regulation (product regulation) because they are interim substances or a blend of substances that go only from mine to industrial installations; they never get in the hands of population, or consumers. It is evidently the same with recycled raw materials, they only go in industrial plants to be sources of new manufacturing. At this moment, the authorities are going astray on this subject, since they only have the “product” regulation on hand, they absolutely want to force recycled raw materials in this regulation: “If the only tool you have is a hammer, you will start treating all your problems like a nail.”

Since 2006, the famous REACH year, we have been turning around this unsolvable problem. All raw materials, recycled or not, must be considered in a specific branch of regulation, otherwise we will maintain a binary world with the mining materials free of most constraints and the recycled materials parked in a legal ghetto. This must end.

To conclude: I am not afraid of the future, even in these troubling times. Recycling is the enabler of the transition towards a circular economy and this fact won’t change. The future will be as we decide collectively it would be. The problem is in “collectively”: too many stay behind their walls, hoping things will not change and doing little to share their dreams about the future: “Nothing happens unless first we dream”. Since Dawn, humanity was dreaming of free flight, Leonard drafted the first flying machine, and finally Clement Ader and the Wright brothers made it real: EuRIC plays a major role in shaping our future, we have to work hard to paint it bright, bring together the entire recycling community and keep playing a key role in speeding up the transition towards a more circular economy.



Online Round-table on plastics in the Circular Economy / 30 September 2020
 EPRB Vice-President, Sophie Sicard-Lemaire joined Jan Huitema, MEP and Rapporteur of the EP Own-Initiative on the new CEAP, Lars Fogh Mortensen (European Environment Agency) & Justine Maillot (Rethink Plastic) to talk about plastics and the circular economy. Have a look at the most recent [Online Policy Roundtable of the European Parliamentary Research Service](#).

EuRIC participation to International E-Waste Day / 14 October 2020

EuRIC actively supported the International E-Waste Day in 2020 again which was developed in 2018 by the WEEE Forum. The day is used to raise the public profile of e-waste recycling and encourage consumers to recycle their e-waste with the resulting increase in e-waste recycling rates on the day itself and into the future. Thanks to all!



EuRIC participation to BIR World Recycling Convention Week / 12 – 16 October 2020

EuRIC Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis and EuRIC Senior Policy Officer Julia Bles participated to the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) World Recycling Convention Week which took place remotely during the week of 12 October 2020. Emmanuel gave an overview of the future of textiles re-use and recycling in Europe and Julia updated participants on the latest information with regards to the review of the Waste Shipment Regulation.

EuRIC working group meetings / October 2020

EuRIC has held several working group meetings during the course of October. EuRIC ERA WG members discussed a wide range of issues from end of waste to sustainable finance whereas our WEEE and EFR-ESG Members focused on WEEE treatment standards and the revision of the ELV Directive.



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ACTIVITIES



Adoption / Chemicals Strategy / 14 October 2020

The European Commission [has adopted](#) the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. The Strategy is the first step towards a zero-pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment announced in the European Green Deal.



The Strategy aims at boosting innovation for safe and sustainable chemicals, and increase protection of human health and the environment against hazardous chemicals. EuRIC Waste & Chemicals Task Force actively work on topics linked to the newly published Strategy.

Publication / 8th Environment Action Programme / 14 October 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) a proposal for an 8. Environment Action Programme. The proposal aims to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and regenerative economy, which gives back to the planet more than it takes. It recognizes that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on the healthy ecosystems within which we operate.

Publication / Renovation Wave / 14 October 2020

The European Commission [has published](#) its Renovation Wave Strategy to improve the energy performance of buildings. The Commission aims to at least double renovation rates in the next ten years and make sure renovations lead to higher energy and resource efficiency. This will enhance the quality of life for people living in and using the buildings, reduce Europe's greenhouse gas emissions, foster digitalization and improve the reuse and recycling of materials.

Survey / Designing buildings using circular economy approaches / 15 October 2020

The European Commission [has opened](#) a survey seeking a wide range of views, from builders and property investors to architects, planners and public authorities. In particular, we would like your say on issues such as financing, design, regulations, and construction product information in relation to the circular economy. The European Commission has developed the [circular economy principles for building design](#) earlier this year.

Launch / Level(s) / 15 October 2020

The European Commission [has officially launched](#) Level(s) – the European Framework for Sustainable Buildings - closely affiliated with the goals of the European Green Deal for a sustainable building sector, and part of the actions described in the new Circular Economy Action Plan and the Renovation Wave Strategy. It contributes to President von der Leyen's initiative of a new European Bauhaus.

Public Consultation / REACH / 19 October 2020

The European Commission [has opened](#) a public consultation to amend certain aspects of the legislation on the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals (REACH Regulation). The purpose is to clarify unclear or inconsistent wording and to update data requirements so that endocrine disruptors, which can have harmful effects on the body's endocrine (hormone) system, can be more easily identified and assessed. The consultation is open from 19 October 2020 to 16 November 2020.

Inception Impact Assessment / ELV Directive / 22 October 2020

The European Commission [has opened](#) feedback with regards to the revision of the ELV Directive. This proposes improved collection, treatment and recycling of ELVs. It aims to ensure consistency with European Green Deal objectives by encouraging the car industry to adopt a sustainable model for the design and production of cars. The feedback period is open from 22 October 2020 to 19 November 2021.

European Green Week / 19 to 22 October 2020

Europe's biggest yearly environmental event EU Green Week [took place](#) this year in a fully virtual format from 19 to 22 October. It focused on how biodiversity can contribute to society and the economy, and the



role it can play in supporting and stimulating recovery in a post-pandemic world, bringing jobs and sustainable growth, in line with the European Green Deal.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Conclusions / Covid-19 & Climate change / 15 October 2020

The Council of the EU [has published](#) conclusions on Covid-19 and climate change. The Council among others welcomed the progress achieved so far on overall coordination at EU level against COVID-19.

Conclusions / EU-UK relations / 15 October 2020

The Council of the EU [has published](#) conclusions on future EU-UK relations. The Council reaffirmed the Union's determination to have as close as possible a partnership with the United Kingdom.

Conclusions / Pandemic contingency plan for freight transport / 23 October 2020

The Council of the EU [has published](#) conclusions calling on the Commission to swiftly draw up a pandemic and other major crisis contingency plan for the European freight transport sector.

Background Brief / Environment Council / 23 October 2020

The Council of the EU [has published](#) a background brief on the Environment Council that took place on 23 October 2020 in Luxembourg. It outlines that the Environment Council will begin with a discussion on the European climate law with the aim of making as much progress as possible at this stage.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Press release / ENVI exchange with Frans Timmermans / 28 September 2020

The European Parliament [has published](#) a press release as regards ENVI Committee's exchange of views with EVP Frans Timmermans. During the exchange, Timmermans presented the Commission's plan to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, as announced on 17 September in the State of the Union speech by the President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

Press release / Chemicals Strategy / 15 October 2020

The ENVI members of the European Parliament [have welcomed](#) the new EU chemicals strategy for sustainability. MEPs were particularly glad to see that important issues such as phasing out of non-essential use of PFAS chemicals, sustainability by design, better protection of vulnerable groups, zero tolerance on non-compliance and the commitment to measure the so-called cocktail effect of chemical products already from 2021.



Press release / World Standards Day / 14 October 2020

CEN, CENELEC and ETSI, the three official European Standardization Organizations, [have joined](#) the international standardization community in celebrating World Standards Day. By focusing on the environment, this year's edition aimed to raise awareness on the potential of standards to help tackle the climate crisis.

Report / Moving towards zero pollution / 15 October 2020

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a report entitled 'EEA Signals 2020 – Towards zero pollution in Europe' which presents an overview of air, water and soil pollution as well as other angles to the topic, based on previously published EEA information and data.

EVENTS



EURIC IN THE PRESS

Please click on the icon to read the corresponding article.

16/10/2020	“Business as usual” still a distant prospect for many textiles recyclers	
20/10/2020	Stakes are high for recyclers in Basel Convention’s Annex IV review	
21/10/2020	EuRIC Raises Concerns That Green Deal May Lead to Scrap Export Ban	
22/10/2020	Scrap export ban under Green Deal questioned by EuRIC	
28/10/2020	A l'heure de l'économie circulaire, le recyclage recule	

