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## Newsletter of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

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Monthly, Issue n°14, 28 June 2016

### EuRIC top activities

#### EuRIC Environment & Regulatory Affairs (ERA) Working Group meets in Berlin

Leaders from National Federations from 11 Member States have met during EuRIC ERA Working Group meeting kindly hosted by [VDM](#) in Berlin on 2 June 2016. The excellent atmosphere contributed to a productive meeting mostly devoted to the circular economy package whose regulatory part amending EU's waste legislation is currently negotiated by the European Parliament and the Council.



EuRIC ERA Working Group, Berlin – 2 June 2016

#### Members Events' Section goes online: [www.euric-aisbl.eu/news-events/members-events](http://www.euric-aisbl.eu/news-events/members-events)

EuRIC Secretariat launched a webpage on EuRIC website featuring the events and conferences organised by Affiliated Members & Supporters. The first National Federations have already used the offered opportunity to advertise their events. To get your event published on EuRIC website in the calendar corner and on [EuRIC home page](#), you are much welcomed to send to the Secretariat ([euric@euric-aisbl.eu](mailto:euric@euric-aisbl.eu)) the relevant information including the date, the address of the venue and a short description.

#### Welcome on board

##### **New Members and Supporters**

It is a great pleasure for EuRIC to welcome the Italian Paper Recovery and Recycling Association [UNIRIMA](#) in its paper recovery and recycling branch, ERPA. At a time when the recycling industry is struggling with various difficulties and the EU legislation has a still-greater impact on the industry, it is the right moment to join forces at European level. It is with the same pleasure that EuRIC has welcomed the Bulgarian organisations *BULECOPACK* and *ECOCOLLECT* among its [Supporters](#).



G.Tarallo, UNIRIMA President & E. Katrakis, EuRIC Secretary General, Lucca, 20 May 2016

#### Circular Economy Package

##### **Draft Reports of the Rapporteur in the European Parliament / Brussels / June 2016**

The reports drafted by the Rapporteur [Simona BONAFÈ](#) amending the Commission proposals reviewing EU waste legislation were published early June. The Rapporteur has tabled amendments on the Framework [Directive 2008/98/EC](#) and, mainly in relation to the calculation method for recycling rates, on the [landfill, packaging, ELVs, WEEE and batteries Directives](#). The deadline for the Members of the European Parliament to table amendments is 30 June 2016, 12h CET. EuRIC is particularly active in advocating recyclers' interests in line with the positions agreed with its Membership.

## International Agreements

### Updated Guidance / Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) / OECD / Paris, April 2016

A draft publication "[Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) - Updated Guidance](#)" has been made available by the [OECD](#). The updated Guidance on EPRs, building on the [2001 OECD Guidance Manual](#), takes into account the developments which has taken place since the Manual was adopted in 2001. Among other things, it addresses some elements of EPR schemes, including EPR and competition.

### Resource Efficiency / Communiqué / G7 Meeting / Japan, 15-16.05.2016

A [Communiqué](#) has been issued by the G7 Ministers and high representatives on the occasion of the G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting held prior to the G7 Summit in Japan. Resource Efficiency and the 3Rs ("Reduce", "Reuse" and "Recycle") was one of the priorities. Afterwards, the G7 summit concluded with the adoption of a [Leaders' Declaration](#).

### Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea / Revision / Entry into force: 1 July 2016

The revised International [Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea](#) (SOLAS) will enter into force on 1 July 2016. It will introduce the requirement for the gross mass of a packed container to be verified by the shipper prior to loading on a ship, otherwise the container shall not be loaded on to the ship. This might also apply to the containers sent today, but due to be loaded on a ship after 1 July. More information is available on the International Maritime Organization [website](#).

## European institutions activities

### Publications Office of the European Union

#### Alignment with international agreements / Brussels, 18.05.2016

(I) The [Council Decision \(EU\) 2016/768](#) on the acceptance of the Amendments to the 1998 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Heavy Metals and (II) the [Council Decision \(EU\) 2016/769](#) on the acceptance of the Amendments to the 1998 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants have been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (the OJEU).

#### Trade defence instruments / Brussels, April & May & June 2016

The following measures concerning trade defence have been published in the OJEU:

(Ia) A [Notice](#) of initiation of an expiry review of the countervailing measures applicable to imports of certain stainless steel bars and rods originating in India; (Ib) a [Notice](#) of initiation of an expiry review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of certain coated fine paper originating in China; (Ic) a [Notice](#) of initiation of an expiry review of the countervailing measures applicable to imports of certain coated fine paper originating in China (Id); a [Notice](#) of initiation of an anti-subsidy proceeding concerning imports of certain hot-rolled flat products of iron, non-alloy or other alloy steel originating in China and (Ie) a [Notice](#) of the impending expiry of certain anti-dumping measures, specifically steel ropes and cables originating in China, Ukraine, Morocco, Moldova, and the Republic of Korea.

(II) A [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2016/865](#) initiating an investigation concerning the possible circumvention of anti-dumping measures imposed by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2384 on imports of certain aluminium foil originating in China by imports of slightly modified certain aluminium foil from China, and making such imports subject to registration.

(III) A [Judgement \(complete version\)](#) of the Court of Justice from 7 April 2016 dismissing two appeals in Cases C-186/14 P and C-193/14 P concerning a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain seamless pipes and tubes of iron or steel originating in China.

### **ELV Directive / Amendment to Annex II / 7th adaptation / Brussels, 19.05.2016**

Following a previous article in EuRIC newsletter (Issue n°11), the [Commission Directive \(EU\) 2016/774](#) amending Annex II to the [ELV Directive 2000/53/EC](#) has been published in the OJEU.

### **CLP Regulation / Alignment / UN Globally Harmonised System / Brussels, 14.06.2016**

The [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2016/918](#) amending, for the purposes of its adaptation to technical and scientific progress, the CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, has been published in the OJEU. The revision has been made to align the CLP Regulation to the 5<sup>th</sup> revised edition of the [United Nations' Globally Harmonised System](#) for the classification and labelling of chemicals.

### European Parliament

#### **Parliamentary resolution / China / Market Economy Status / Strasbourg, 12.05.2016**

The European Parliament has adopted a non-binding [resolution](#) on China's market economy status during one of its plenary sessions. The Parliament acknowledged the importance of the trade with China, but stressed that China is not a market economy. Thus, the Parliament urged the European Commission (the Commission) to oppose any unilateral granting of market economy status to China.

### Council

#### **Action Plan for a Circular Economy / Council conclusions / Brussels, 20.06.2016**

The Council has adopted [conclusions](#) on the action plan for a circular economy during the Environmental Council meeting on 20 June 2016. A number of conclusions are welcomed such as the need for eco-design or the emphasis on the importance of a well-functioning market for secondary raw materials. However, more attention will have to be paid to cross-border circulation of secondary raw materials and its simplification, which is a key priority insufficiently highlighted.

### European Commission

*\*\*\* Proposals – Communication & Action Plans – Statistics \*\*\**

#### **REACH Regulation / Hazardous substances / decaBDE / Brussels, 03.06.2016**

A [draft Commission Regulation \(EU\) .../...](#) amending Annex XVII to [REACH Regulation \(EC\) No 1907/2006](#) as regards bis(pentabromophenyl)ether (decaBDE) and its [Annex](#) has been presented by the Commission to the REACH Committee for discussion. The draft Commission Regulation intends to restrict the use of decaBDE. The Commission has opted for a maximum threshold of decaBDE of 0.1% by weight and included exemptions covering automobile spare parts. This threshold can affect operators recycling WEEE or ELVs in which the level of decaBDE (a brominated flame retardant) in the plastics fraction exceeds 0.1% by weight. The draft restriction is expected to be submitted to the REACH Committee for a vote on 6-7 July 2016 at the earliest.

#### **Chemicals legislation / Evaluation / Roadmaps / Brussels, 18.05.2016**

Following a previous article in EuRIC newsletter (Issue n°12), the Commission intends to evaluate the chemicals legislation and has published two roadmaps: (i) [Fitness check](#) on the most relevant chemicals legislation (excluding REACH) and (ii) [REFIT](#) (Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme) evaluation of the [REACH Regulation](#). The roadmaps aim at outlining the process that will lead to the evaluation of the European chemicals legislation. The Commission will focus on assessing the overall effectiveness, efficiency or relevance and identifying the burdens and gaps of this legislative framework.

### **Environmental legislation / Better implementation / Brussels, 27.05.2016**

The Commission has adopted a [Communication](#) on "Delivering the benefits of EU environmental policies through a regular Environmental Implementation Review" to tackle poor implementation of environmental law. The purpose is to establish the Environmental Implementation Review according to which, Member States will have to draft country-specific reports every two years. That way, significant implementation gaps should be identified and subsequently addressed during discussions between the Member States and the Commission. More information is available on DG ENV's [website](#).

### **Standardisation policy / New approach/ Brussels, 01.06.2016 (13.06.2016)**

The Commission has published a [Communication](#) on "European standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> century". One of the foreseen steps is an establishment of the [Joint Initiative on Standardisation](#) that should bring together stakeholders involved or affected by standardisation. More information, among others the [Proposal for a 2017 work programme for European standardisation](#), is available in the Commission [press release](#) and on DG GROW's [website](#).

### **CO2 emissions / Statistics / Eurostat / Luxembourg, 03.05.2016**

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, has published its [early estimates](#) of CO2 emissions from energy use. According to this, CO2 emissions in the EU have slightly increased compared with 2014.

### **Packaging waste / Statistics / Eurostat / Luxembourg, 07.06.2016**

The most recent packaging waste statistics have been published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU. According to the figures, 156.9 kg of packaging waste was generated per inhabitant in the EU-28 in 2013, with the highest value in Germany (210.4 kg) and the lowest in Croatia (46.7 kg). The most common types of packaging waste were paper and cardboard, glass, plastic, wood and metal. More information is available on the Eurostat's [website](#).

### **Shipments of waste / Electronic data exchange / Brussels, future initiative**

The Commission might come up with a draft measure establishing an electronic tool for the registration of waste shipments subject to **notification procedures** towards the end of this year. This draft measure would be subsequently presented to the Technical Adaptation Committee (TAC) for approval. If well-designed, this can be a step in the right direction as EuRIC has been repeatedly calling for streamlining complex waste shipment administrative procedures.

*\*\*\* Competition - State aid \*\*\**

### **Alleged aid / Steelmaking company / Italy / Brussels, 13.05.2016**

Following a previous article in EuRIC newsletter (Issue n°13), the Commission has extended the scope of the ongoing in-depth inquiry regarding alleged aids to Ilva - an Italian steelmaking company. The extension concerns an additional €300 million loan which could have breached EU state aid rules.

### **State aid / Non-ferrous metal producers / Brussels, 05.05.2016**

A [Commission Decision \(EU\) 2016/695](#) has been published where the Commission concluded that the State aid, Germany planned to implement as a support for the production of non-ferrous metals in 2009, is incompatible with the internal market. No recovery was ordered since the aid has not been paid out.

### **Investment aid / Approval / Paper manufacturing company / Brussels, 13.06.2016**

The Commission has [approved](#) €33 million investment aid to Hamburger Rieger GmbH, a German paper and plasterboard manufacturer, to be in line with EU state aid rules. However, the Commission has opened an in-depth inquiry into alleged aid to REHAU AG+Co, a polymer business based in Switzerland.

*\*\*\* Public consultations – Actions with a deadline for submission \*\*\**

**Public consultation / End-of-life vehicles / Deadline: 14 September 2016**

The Commission has launched a public consultation on potential measures to improve the implementation of certain aspects of the Directive on end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). The public consultation document puts particular attention on ELVs of unknown whereabouts but equally focuses on a broad range of issues (reporting / enforcement / incentives / POPs, etc.) faced by ELV recyclers. The consultation is available for responses from 22 June on DG ENV's [website](#). This public consultation is an important priority and EFR, EuRIC ferrous Branch, will prepare a detailed response to it in close coordination with Members' experts.

**Public consultation / LIFE Programme / Evaluation / Deadline: 9 September 2016**

The Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) entitled "Mid-term evaluation of the LIFE Programme". The LIFE Programme, whose impact is being assessed, is a financing tool of the EU aiming at contributing to the implementation and enforcement of the EU environmental legislation.

*\*\*\*\* EU funding and non-financial support \*\*\**

**Funding / LIFE programme / 2016 Call for proposals / Brussels, 19.05.2016**

Entities registered in the EU are invited to present proposals for the 2016 Call for proposals for LIFE Action Grants. The funds will be granted to environmental projects under the EU LIFE programme. There are two sub-programmes: (i) Environment and (ii) Climate Action; and these are further divided according to different types of projects to be funded, one part being devoted to LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency. A limited guidance is provided in an [orientation document](#) to help applicants distinguish between the EU funding programmes. The deadline for application is in September. More information is available on the LIFE programme's [website](#). EuRIC encourages recycling companies to consider applying for this grant well in advance and is ready to provide further information. Should you consider applying for LIFE, please inform EuRIC Secretariat for coordination purposes.

**EU funds / Support for SMEs / April & May 2016**

- i) An InnovFin and COSME agreements have been [signed](#) by the European Investment Fund (the EIF) and Raiffeisen-Leasing Polska S.A. providing €160 million in loans to SMEs in **Poland**.
- ii) Several agreements have been signed by the EIF and (iia) Vækstfonden in **Denmark**; (iib) Seventure Partners in **France**; (iic) N+1 Capital Privado in **Portugal and Spain**; (iid) Almi Företagspartner and Svensk Exportkredit in **Sweden**, providing loans to innovative SMEs.
- iii) A COSME agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and Diorama Investments providing €125 million in loans to SMEs in **Greece**. Another agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and ProCredit group, providing €20 million in loans to innovative Greek SMEs over the next two years.
- iv) An agreement has been [signed](#) by the European Investment Bank (the EIB) and Instituto de Crédito Oficial to finance infrastructure projects in **Spain**, including environmental and social facilities.
- v) An InnovFin agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and Alba Leasing providing €80 million in loans to innovative SMEs in **Italy**.
- vi) The EIB [approved](#) eight more projects for a financing volume of €9.3 billion, under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). There are currently [64 approved investment projects](#) under EFSI.
- vii) An InnovFin agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and the British Business Bank providing c. €38 million in loans to innovative SMEs in the **United Kingdom**.
- viii) A COSME agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and Equa Bank providing c. €66.5 million in loans to SMEs in the **Czech Republic**.
- ix) An InnovFin agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and NRW.BANK and six regional promotional institutions providing €110 million in loans to innovative SMEs in **Germany** over the next two years.

### **Horizon 2020 / Environment project funding / Brussels, 10.05.2016**

31 new environment projects [will be funded](#) through the [Horizon 2020](#) programme, the EU Research and Innovation funding programme. The projects, concerning e.g. waste recycling or natural resources, will run for three to four years. A new round of calls for proposals will be launched in [October 2016](#). To consult older projects, please refer to the [catalogue of projects funded in 2014/15](#).

### **Innovation Deals / Regulatory barriers to Circular Economy / Brussels, 26.05.2016**

The Commission has launched an initiative called "[Innovation Deals](#)" aiming at reducing barriers to innovation in the field of Circular Economy. A [call](#) for expressions of interest has been published to find projects seeking to introduce a circular economy-related product or service to the market, but struggling to overcome regulatory obstacles. Up to five expressions of interest will be selected to become Innovation Deals. These will have the possibility to closely cooperate with public authorities to identify the regulatory barriers. The call for expressions of interest will be open until 15 September 2016. The Commission does not provide any funding for the implementation of the selected projects. More information is available in the Commission's [press release](#).

### Commission's Infringement procedures & Court of Justice of the European Union

#### **Infringement procedure against Romania / Waste management / Brussels, 26.05.2016**

The Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Romania to draw up a waste management plan in line with the objectives of the [Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC](#). Romania had a waste management plan for 2003-2013, but then failed to adopt a new one. After a reasoned opinion, Member States have two months to report transposition measures taken. The Commission may then refer the case to the Court of Justice of the EU. More information is available in the [May infringements' package](#).

#### **Action against Slovakia / Directive on the landfill of waste / Luxembourg, 16.06.2016**

The Commission is [taking](#) Slovakia back before the Court of Justice of the European Union while proposing a fine as Slovakia has failed to comply with the Court's judgement ([C-331/11](#)) declaring that the landfill in Žilina–Považský Chlmec is in breach of the [Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste](#). The Court of Justice will decide whether to impose the proposed penalty. More information about Commission's Infringement procedures is available in the [June infringements' package](#).

### Other EU bodies

#### **Guide / Testing standards / CENELEC / Brussels, April 2016**

The European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) has published a [Guide for addressing environmental issues in testing standards](#). The Guide does not describe how sampling should be done, but it rather aims at reducing the environmental impact of testing.

## **Member States**

#### **Hazardous waste classification / Report / Nordic cooperation / Copenhagen, 12.05.2016**

The Nordic Council of Ministers has published a [Report](#) entitled "Hazardous waste classification: Amendments to the European Waste Classification regulation - what do they mean and what are the consequences?". The objective of this project was to provide guidance on the classification of specific waste streams and to evaluate methods or tools for the assessment of hazardous properties. The report particularly focuses on the hazardous properties "irritant (HP4)", "corrosive (HP8)" and "ecotoxicity (HP14)". The last property was temporarily left open in the revised legislation for assessment of hazardous properties in 2014. It is currently being addressed by the European Commission and Member States's experts on the basis of a [Study](#) dedicated to HP 14, a topic on which EuRIC is very active given its potential impacts on re-classification of metal waste and residues.

### **EU LIFE+ Programme/ Cross border crime/ Brussels, 17-19.05.2016**

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has [performed](#) targeted interventions aimed at tackling cross border criminal activity in the waste industry. The operation is part of SEPA's ongoing [LIFE SMART Waste project](#), a five year project funded by the [EU LIFE+ Programme](#), to develop innovative strategies how to disrupt waste crime.

## **Studies**

### **Eco-design / WEEE / Recyclability / Brussels, 27.04.2016**

A [Draft report of the Feasibility study](#) for setting-up reference values to support the calculation of recyclability / recoverability rates of electr(on)ic products has been published by the Joint Research Centre of the Commission. In line with the Action Plan for the Circular Economy, the Commission aims at linking product design and recycling, in particular by promoting the recyclability of products. To assess the recyclability of products, the study attempts to develop a method to calculate reference values on recycling and recovery rates and to evaluate the activities needed to collect the relevant data. The calculated recyclability and recoverability rates of products can be used as one of the indicators of the material efficiency of a product and integrated into products' environmental assessments.

### **Circular Economy / Climate change / Delft, June 2016**

A short [study](#) on circular economy and climate change has been published by [CE Delft](#) and commissioned by the Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging. The publication shows the environmental benefits connected to the transition to a Circular economy in terms of CO2 emission savings.

### **Construction & Demolition waste / Recycling target / Brussels, August 2016**

A study entitled 'Resource Efficient Use of Mixed Waste' is being developed by BIO by Deloitte and other consultants on behalf of the Commission. The study investigates the current construction & demolition waste (CDW) management situation in the Member States and identifies obstacles to recycling. One of the aims is to revise the 70% recovery target for CDW while also addressing backfilling, specifically its precise definition. The study should be finalised in August 2016. Subsequently, the Commission might present an initiative on CDW management. More information is available on DG ENV's [website](#).

## **Events**

### **Workshop / European Commission / Hazardous chemicals / Brussels, 29.06.2016**

The European Chemicals Agency and the Commission (DG GROW and DG ENV) will organise a [Workshop](#) on socio-economic analysis in applications for authorisation and restriction under [REACH](#) on 29.06.2016.

### **MRE and CARS Events / Registration opened / Donington Park Circuit, Derby, UK, 13-14.07.2016**

The Metals Recycling Event (MRE) and co-located Complete Auto Recycling and Secondary Materials (CARS) trade show will take place on 13 and 14 of July 2016 in Donington Park Circuit, Derby, UK. EuRIC is among the [supporters](#) of these events and will intervene during the conference part dedicated to the EU circular economy. More information is available on [MRE's](#) and [CARS'](#) websites.

### **Conference / Green economy / Slovak Presidency / Bratislava, 6.-7.09.2016**

On the occasion of leading the rotating Presidency of the Council, Slovakia will organise a [Conference](#) "Transition to the green economy" on 6-7 September 2016 in Bratislava. The conference will bring together policymakers from various EU countries and other stakeholders to have an open debate about key green economy issues. The [registration](#) is open, but subject to a fee.