

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

Monthly, Issue n°19, 14 April 2017

**EuRIC top activities**

**EuRIC Annual Conference / Competitive recycling markets / Brussels, 28.03.2017**

EuRIC Annual Conference 2017 gathered nearly 200 participants on 28 March 2017. Sponsored by Veolia, Grupo Otua, Paprec Group, ANAMET Recycling, INRO Rohstoffhandel and by the recycling Federations APOGER, BDSV and FER, the conference played host 'high-level' EU policymakers and influential recycling industry leaders who discussed the various aspects of competitive recycling markets in Europe. It benefited from the press coverage of *Recycling International*, *MPE Media*, and EU-Recycling, our media partners.

The presentations from the speakers, a conference report and a photo gallery are available on [EuRIC webpage](#). In view of constantly improving the quality of our Annual Conference, we welcome any observation or suggestion you may have. You can write to us at: [euric@euric-aisbl.eu](mailto:euric@euric-aisbl.eu). EuRIC warmly thanks all participants, sponsors and media partners for making this event a success. We look forward to seeing you next year.



**Site visit by the European Commission representatives of Galloo / Menen, 26.01.2017**



A delegation of the European Commission from DG Environment and DG GROW visited, together with EuRIC secretariat, the recycling facility of Galloo, in Menen. This visit provided the opportunity to explain the different steps of the process of WEEE and ELV recycling followed, discuss about the challenges encountered by the recycling industry and bridge them with the current EU regulatory developments. EuRIC is very grateful to the Delegation of the European Commission and to the team of Galloo.

**European institutions activities**

Publications Office of the European Union

**DecaBDE / Restriction / REACH Regulation / Annex XVII / Brussels, 10.02.2017**

The [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/227](#) as regards the restriction of bis(pentabromophenyl)ether (DecaBDE) under the [REACH Regulation](#) has been published in the Official Journal of the EU (the OJEU). The REACH Regulation is applicable for products and not directly applicable for waste.

### **Corrigendum / List of waste / Waste Framework Directive / Brussels, 18.02.2017**

(I) A [Corrigendum to the Commission Decision 2014/955/EU](#) and (II) a [Corrigendum to the Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 1357/2014](#) have been published in the OJEU.

### **Trade defence instruments / Brussels, February - April 2017**

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

- (I) [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/220 amending Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 1106/2013 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of stainless steel wires from India;
- (II) [Notice](#) of the expiry of anti-dumping measures on steel ropes and cables from Ukraine and Moldova;
- (III) [Notice](#) of initiation of an expiry review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of steel ropes and cables originating in China;
- (IV) [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/272 initiating an investigation concerning the possible circumvention of anti-dumping measures on imports of certain seamless pipes and tubes of stainless steel originating in China by imports consigned from India;
- (V) [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/336 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of certain heavy plate of non-alloy or other alloy steel originating in China;
- (VI) [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/649 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain hot-rolled flat products of iron, non-alloy or other alloy steel originating in China;
- (VII) [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2017/659 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/141 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of certain stainless steel tube and pipe butt-welding fittings, whether or not finished, originating in China and Taiwan.

### **Commission opinion / Disposal of radioactive waste / UK / Brussels, 14.03.2017**

The [Commission opinion](#) relating to the plan to modify the disposal of radioactive waste arising from the Springfields Fuels Ltd site located in the United Kingdom has been published in the OJEU.

### **Committee of the Regions / Circular Economy Action Plan / Brussels, 21.03.2017**

The [Opinion](#) of the European Committee of the Regions on the EU action plan for the Circular Economy has been published in the OJEU. The opinion is only expressing the position of this advisory body.

## European Parliament

### **Circular Economy Package / Vote in the plenary session / Brussels, 14.03.2017**

The European Parliament [has adopted](#) its position on the revision of the EU waste legislation during a plenary session on 14 March 2017. The adopted reports on (i) [waste](#), (ii) [packaging and packaging waste](#), (iii) [landfill of waste](#), (iv) [end-of-life vehicles, batteries and waste electrical and electronic equipment](#) are another step in the revision process. As soon as the Council also adopts its position, the “trilogue” negotiations between the Parliament and the Council (+ the European Commission) will start. EuRIC has published a [statement](#) on the outcome of the Parliament’s vote.

### **Summary / Workshop / Secondary Raw Materials / Brussels, March 2017**

As a follow-up to the Workshop on secondary raw materials in the European Parliament (reported in Issue n°18 of EuRIC Newsletter), ENVI Committee has published a [summary](#) providing a detailed overview about the whole event and the presentations held by the speakers.

### **Conflict Minerals Regulation / Vote in the plenary session / Brussels, 16.03.2017**

The European Parliament has [adopted](#) its [position](#) on the proposal for a regulation setting up a Union system for supply chain due diligence self-certification of importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold from conflict areas during a plenary session on 16 March 2017.

## Council

### **Environment Council / Informal meeting/ Malta, 25-26.04.2017**

The Environment Ministers of the EU Member States will hold an informal [meeting](#) under the Maltese Presidency in the Council. One of the topics to be discussed is the circular economy package, in particular given the European Parliament has already adopted its position during the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

## European Commission

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

### **Waste Treatment BREF / Final Technical Working Group meeting / Sevilla, 19-24.03.2017**

The final Technical Working Group meeting took place in Sevilla from 19-24 March, gathering close to 100 representatives from the Member States, NGOs and industry associations to discuss and agree on the BAT Conclusions of the Waste Treatment BREF. After this final meeting, the European IPPC Bureau has proposed to hold a webinar to discuss a new "BAT 26bis" about diffuse emissions from shredders, tentatively planned on 26 April. Once the draft WT BREF is completely finalised, it will be submitted for a vote by the Committee set under the [Industrial Emission Directive \(IED\) 2010/75/EU](#). After the vote, the WT BREF will be published in the OJEU, expected around mid-2018. The recycling sites subject to IED permits will then have four years to comply with the new legal provisions.

### **Anti-competitive practices / Cartel / Lead-acid car batteries / Brussels, 08.02.2017**

The European Commission (the Commission) has fined Campine, Eco-Bat Technologies and Recylex a total of €68 million for fixing prices for purchasing scrap automotive batteries, in breach of EU antitrust rules. Johnson Controls, also participating in this cartel, has not been fined. More information is available in the Commission [press release](#).

### **WEEE / Calculation / EEE placed on the market / WEEE generated / Brussels, 13.02.2017**

The draft [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) establishing a common methodology for the calculation of the weight of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) placed on the market of each Member State and a common methodology for the calculation of the quantity of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) generated by weight in each Member State has been [approved](#) in the comitology procedure on 13<sup>th</sup> February. It is expected that the draft Regulation will be published soon in the OJEU. During the February meeting, the Commission also presented to the Member States the preparation of an implementing act establishing the format for the registration and reporting of EEE producers. According to the Art. 16 of the [WEEE Directive](#), Member States shall draw up a register of EEE producers.

### **Roadmap / Implementation of EU law / Action plan / Brussels, 15.02.2017**

The Commission has published a [roadmap](#) on an Action Plan on Environmental Compliance Assurance. This initiative strives to set out actions to support Member States in how they promote, monitor and enforce compliance, by economic operators and other obliged subjects, with EU environment law.

### **Roadmap / Environmental Technology Verification / Brussels, 15.02.2017**

The Commission has published a [roadmap](#) on the Evaluation of the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Pilot program. ETV is a tool that should help innovative environmental technologies access the market. It consists of quality tests assessing the performance of a technology by third parties. ETV is also part of the Green Action Plan for SMEs and the Circular Economy Action Plan.

### **Report / Implementation of EU waste legislation / 2010-2012 / Brussels, 27.02.2017**

The Commission has published the [Report on the implementation of EU waste legislation](#) for the period 2010-2012. This report provides information about the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive, the Landfill Directive, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, the WEEE Directive, the Batteries Directive and the Sewage Sludge Directive all in one document.

### **Report / Implementation of the ELV Directive / Brussels, 27.02.2017**

The Commission has published the [Report](#) on the implementation of the ELV Directive 2000/53/EC covering two reporting periods 2008-2011 and 2011-2014. The report for example states that: “*use of recycled plastic materials in vehicles, though increasing, is still at a relatively low level*”. The fourth chapter of this report is devoted to unknown whereabouts and illegal dismantling of ELVs.

### **Inception impact assessment / Administrative cooperation / VAT / Brussels, 28.02.2017**

The Commission has published an inception impact [assessment](#) on Administrative cooperation between Member States in the field of VAT. This initiative explores the possibility of closer administrative cooperation with the aim to tackle revenue loss due to VAT fraud, evasion and tax avoidance.

### **European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform / Brussels, 09-10.03.2017**

The Commission has announced the creation of a European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform during a conference taking place in Brussels on 9-10 March 2017. The exact role of the stakeholder platform has not been clearly defined yet. More detailed information together with a call for application to be part of this platform is expected to be published on the Commission [website](#) in the coming months.

### **HP14 / Hazardous property of waste-ecotoxicity / Brussels, 19.03.2017**

The Council has approved the [Proposal for Council Regulation](#) amending Annex III to the [Waste Framework Directive](#) regarding hazardous property HP 14. The proposal includes (i) a reference that results of tests shall prevail over a chemical analysis and (ii) an extended deadline for implementation from 6 to 12 months. The approved text also includes a new recital 6a allowing possible future inclusion of multiplying factors in the calculation method. The Parliament has now 4 months to raise objections and if it does not, the Council Regulation will be adopted and subsequently published in the OJEU.

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

### **8<sup>th</sup> Technical update / Annex II / ELV Directive / Deadline: 18 April 2017**

The Commission has made the [draft Commission Directive](#) .../... (+ its [Annex](#)) amending Annex II to the ELV Directive 2000/53/EC publicly available. The stakeholders can [express](#) their views until the deadline of 18 April 2017. The ELV Directive obliges vehicle manufacturers to ensure that materials and components of vehicles do not contain lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium with the exemption listed in Annex II of the ELV Directive. The aforementioned draft Commission Directive aims to amend exemptions 2(c), 3 and 5 regarding the use of lead.

### **Roadmap / Monitoring Framework for the Circular Economy / Deadline: 03 May 2017**

The Commission [has published](#) a [roadmap](#) on Monitoring Framework for the Circular Economy. The roadmap is open for comments with the deadline of 3 May 2017. This initiative has the aim to assess whether policies and actions at EU and Member State level are contributing to the objectives set out in the ["EU action plan for the circular economy"](#). The idea is to introduce a set of indicators capturing the present and past performance of the EU. The monitoring will cover areas such as security of supply for key raw materials, waste management, trade in secondary raw materials in the EU and with non-EU countries, and the use of recycled materials in products.

**Call for experts / Circular Economy Finance Support Platform/ Deadline: 9 May 2017**

The Commission is establishing a Circular Economy Finance Support Platform together with the European Investment Bank. A [call for experts](#) has been launched with a deadline of 9 May 2017. The Platform will enhance the link between existing financing instruments and potentially develop new instruments for circular economy projects. It will bring together banks, institutional investors and other stakeholders, such as innovators. The aim is to raise awareness of circular economy investment opportunities and analyse new projects and their financial needs.

**Public Consultation / Non-cash means of payment / Deadline: 24 May 2017**

The Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on combatting fraud and counterfeiting on non-cash means of payment. The deadline for response is 24 May 2017.

**Public Consultation / Restrictions on payments in cash / Deadline: 31 May 2017**

The Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) entitled "EU initiative on restrictions on payments in cash". The stakeholders are invited to express their views before the deadline of 31 May 2017. This initiative might eventually result in restrictions of cash payments because of the indicated reason to combat the financing of terrorism. EuRIC will assess whether to respond to this public consultation.

**Public Consultation / Fight against fraud in the field of VAT / Deadline: 31 May 2017**

The Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on the functioning of the administrative cooperation and fight against fraud in the field of VAT. The stakeholders can express their views before the deadline of 31 May 2017. Ahead of the public consultation, the Commission has published an inception impact [assessment](#) on the same topic. The initiative explores the possibility of closer administrative cooperation among the Member States with the aim to tackle revenue loss due to VAT fraud.

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

**LIFE Programme / Funding for companies / Event / Brussels, 31 May 2017**

The Commission will launch a [new call for proposals under the LIFE programme](#) on 28 April 2017, with the application deadline in September 2017. The LIFE programme offers funding for companies undertaking projects in the fields of waste management, circular economy or resource efficiency. An [information and networking event](#) on the 2017 LIFE funding opportunities will be held on 31 May 2017 in Brussels, offering more information about the funding opportunities.

**EU funds / Support for SMEs / February & April 2017**

- i) An InnovFin agreement has been [signed](#) by the European Investment Fund (EIF) and the British Business Bank providing GBP 30 million of loans to innovative companies in the **UK**;
- ii) A COSME agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and Fondo di Garanzia per le PMI providing €3,5 billion in loans to SMEs in **Italy** over the next two years;
- iii) An agreement has been [signed](#) by the European Investment Bank (EIB) providing SEK 900 million to support investment in local infrastructure in the **Nordic countries**;
- iv) An InnovFin agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and the DSK Bank providing €15 million of loans to innovative SMEs in **Bulgaria**;
- v) An agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIB and Česká spořitelna a.s. providing €100 million of loans to innovative SMEs in the **Czech Republic**;
- vi) An InnovFin agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and Confidi Systema! providing €26 million of loans to innovative SMEs in **Italy** over the next two years.

\*\*\*\* Mergers \*\*\*\*

**Merger / Paper manufacturers / Munksjö / Ahlstrom Corporation / Brussels, 14.03.2017**

The Commission has approved the proposed [merger](#) of Munksjö Oyj and Ahlstrom Corporation. Both Finnish companies are international manufacturer of paper for different uses and fibre-based products.

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

**Infringement procedure against Romania/ Illegal landfills / Brussels, 15.02.2017**

The Commission is taking Romania to the Court of Justice of the EU (the CJEU) for the alleged failure to close and rehabilitate 68 illegal landfills, in breach of the [Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC](#). Romania was obliged to close and rehabilitate those substandard municipal and industrial landfills by 16 July 2009. More information is available in the Commission [press release](#).

**Infringement procedure against Austria / Waste hierarchy / Brussels, 15.02.2017**

The Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Austria to bring its national law into conformity with the [Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC](#). In particular, the Austrian provisions on the energy recovery from waste into conformity with the waste hierarchy. After a reasoned opinion, Member States have two months to report corrective measures taken. Otherwise, the Commission may refer the case to the CJEU. More information is available in the [February infringements' package](#).

**Infringement procedure against Belgium / Waste management / Brussels, 15.02.2017**

The Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Belgium to update plans to prevent and manage waste in line with the [Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC](#) and the [circular economy](#). Belgium failed to revise, extend or replace the existing waste management plan for the Walloon Region. After a reasoned opinion, Member States have 2 months to report corrective measures taken. Otherwise, the Commission may refer the case to the CJEU. More information is available in the [February infringements' package](#).

**Infringement procedure against Italy / Waste management / Brussels, 15.02.2017**

The Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Italy to adopt and update plans to prevent and manage waste in line with the [Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC](#) and the [circular economy](#). Several Italian regions failed to revise their waste management plans adopted in 2008 or earlier. After a reasoned opinion, Member States have 2 months to report corrective measures taken. Otherwise, the Commission may refer the case to the CJEU. More information is available in the [February infringements' package](#).

**Infringement procedure against Slovakia/ Landfill Directive / Brussels, 13.03.2017**

The Commission is taking Slovakia to the CJEU for the alleged failure to comply with the Article 14(a) to (c) of the [Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC](#). Slovakia authorised the operation of the Žilina-Považský Chlmec waste site without a site conditioning plan. More information is available in the [OJEU](#).

**Judgement / Waste management / Public contract / Luxembourg, 20.02.2017**

The CJEU answered the preliminary question, raised in a dispute between the company Remondis and the Region Hannover, in its [judgement](#) from 21 December 2016. The question referred to the EU rules on public procurement when awarding contracts for municipal waste services. In particular, it referred to the issue of what shall be considered as a [public contract](#) with the need to organise a tendering procedure. The CJEU stated that an agreement concluded by two regional authorities on the basis of which they adopt constituent statutes forming a special-purpose association with legal personality governed by public law and transfer to that new public entity certain competences previously held by those authorities and henceforth belonging to that special-purpose association, does not constitute a 'public contract'.

### **Judgement / Value added tax / ELVs / Second-hand goods / Luxembourg, 06.03.2017**

The CJEU answered the preliminary question, raised in a dispute between the company Sjelle Autogenbrug (trading in used motor from end-of-life vehicles) and Skatteministeriet (Ministry of Taxation, Denmark), in its [judgement](#) from 18 January 2017. The issue of the proceeding was whether used motors can be understood as 'second-hand goods' according to the [Directive 2006/112/EC](#) on value added tax (VAT), which was not acknowledged by the Danish authorities. The CJEU stated that used parts, from end-of-life vehicles purchased by a vehicle reuse undertaking from a private individual, intended to be sold as spare parts, constitute 'second-hand goods'.

### Other EU bodies

#### **Report / Evaluation / Recycled Rubber/ ECHA / Helsinki, 28.02.2017**

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has [published](#) a [Report](#) on Evaluation of the possible health risks of recycled rubber granules used as infill in synthetic turf sports fields. It concludes that the risk for players on these fields, including children, and for workers who install and maintain them is very low.

#### **REACH / Public consultation / Lead stabilisers in PVC / Deadline: 1 June 2017**

ECHA has proposed a [restriction](#) on the placing on the market of PVC articles containing lead compounds as stabilizers in concentrations greater than 0.1% by weight. A derogation for a period of 15 years from entry into force is proposed for articles containing recycled PVC if the concentration of lead does not exceed 1% by weight of the PVC material. A [public consultation](#) is held with a deadline on 1 June 2017 with specific questions relevant for recycling, among others about PVC waste exports outside of the EU.

## **Studies**

### **Study / Waste shipments / Electronic Data Interchange / Brussels, January 2017**

The Commission has published a follow-up [study](#) on the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for the submission of waste shipment documents in the notification procedure. The study defines the technical and organisational requirements of an EDI for the use of electronic tools when providing information on waste shipments. The scope of the study focuses on analysing a software solution with a sufficient level of technical detail to be able to eventually be subsequently developed. It aspires to have a single format proposed for all countries while offering a solution for those Member States who do not have any tool implemented yet and convertibility for those who use their own tools.

## **Events**

### **Workshop / EU action to combat marine litter / European Parliament / Brussels, 3.5.2017**

The ENVI Committee of the European Parliament will organize a [workshop](#) entitled "EU action to combat marine litter" on 3 May 2017. In order to attend this workshop, there is a need to have access to the European Parliament (no registration is needed).

### **EU-Latin America Dialogue on Raw Materials / Buenos Aires, 8-9 May 2017**

The Commission organises an event: "EU-Latin America Dialogue on Raw Materials: consolidating the cooperation" which takes place on 8 and 9 May in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The main purpose is to enhance the cooperation in the field of raw materials. More information is available on DG Grow [website](#).