
Newsletter of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

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European Recycling Conference / Berlin, 10 September 2018



The European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC), in partnership with **BDSV, VDM & BVSE**, hosts the second edition of the *European Recycling Conference* on 10 September 2018 in Berlin, at the heart of Europe.

The conference will feature high level Keynote speakers, an Open General Assembly of EuRIC and sessions covering commodity specific issues on ferrous and non-ferrous metals or paper. In parallel, the conference will offer plenty of time and space for networking boosted by a matchmaking platform.

The ERC 2018 attendees will also have the chance to enjoy the most emblematic views of Berlin at a Gala dinner on a river cruise that will lead them through some of the most iconic places of Berlin.

Confirmed sponsors include [Aurubis](#), [Metallverwertungsgesellschaft](#) & [Gervasi Ecologica](#).

More information about the [program](#), [online registration](#), [accommodation](#) and [sponsorship opportunities](#) are available [here](#).

*** Register before 30 June 2018 to benefit from Early Bird Rates.**



In cooperation with



International activities

United States / Tariffs on steel and aluminium / 31.05.2018

The United States imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium on exports from the EU, Canada and Mexico. This decision terminates a two-month exemption from the tariffs granted for the EU. US Commerce Secretary has announced during a briefing that a 25% tariff on steel imports and a 10% tariff on aluminium imports from the EU will go into effect as from 1 June 2018. The reaction from Brussels as well as more information is available in the European Commission (Commission) [press release](#).

WTO / Committee on Import Licensing / China / Waste import ban / 20.04.2018

The European Union, the United States, Canada, South Korea, Japan and Australia [expressed](#) once again concerns over measures, imposed by China, affecting imports of waste / secondary raw materials, at the 20 April meeting of the Committee on Import Licensing. The European Union initiated the discussion at the meeting, requesting China to provide a complete list of products subject to import licences, a detailed description of import procedures applicable to waste products, and clarification on whether China intended further amendments to the measures currently in force. China said it was carefully reviewing the questions and will provide a written response as soon as possible.

Basel Convention / Survey / Electronic notification / Deadline: 22 June 2018

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention requested the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to prepare a document containing options on how to move forward on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents. For this reason, a [survey](#) has been launched for concerned stakeholders to provide recent information about their experiences with existing electronic approaches. Questionnaires are to be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 22 June 2018.

European institutions activities

Publications Office of the European Union

Implementing Decision / List of ship recycling facilities / Brussels, 04.05.2018

The [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2018/684](#) amending the former Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2323 updating the European List of ship recycling facilities has been published in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU).

Trade defence instruments / Brussels, May 2018

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

- (I) The [Notice](#) of initiation of a partial interim review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of certain seamless tubes and pipes originating in Ukraine;
- (II) The [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/724](#) on certain commercial policy measures concerning certain products originating in the United States of America;
- (III) The [Notice](#) of initiation of an anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of hot-rolled steel sheet piles originating in the People's Republic of China.

Council

Revision of EU Waste legislation / CEP / Adoption / Brussels, 22.05.2018

The Council [adopted](#) the Waste Directives on 22 May 2018, after the Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed its agreement on 17 May and after the European Parliament positive vote in plenary on 18 April. This concludes the revision process of the EU Waste Directives: (i) the [Waste Framework Directive](#), (ii) the [Packaging Directive](#), (iii) the [Landfill Directive](#) and (iv) the [WEEE/ELV/Batteries Directives](#) will be published in the OJEU. Subsequently, Member States will have two years to implement the provisions of the Directives into their national legislation. EuRIC shared the view of the recycling industry in a recently published [press release](#).

European Commission

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

Single-use plastics / Legislative proposal / Brussels, 28.05.2018

The Commission has published a new [Proposal](#) (& [Annex](#)) for a Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. The main aim of the proposal is to ban several single-use plastic products from the market. For products alternatives, the focus is on limiting their use through a national reduction in consumption, design & labelling requirements and waste management/clean-up obligations for producers. More information is available in the Commission's [press release](#).

- In parallel, the Commission has [opened](#) a feedback period for all interested parties to provide opinions on the proposal “action on single use plastics” with the deadline on 24 July 2018.

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

EU Product Policy Framework / Roadmap / Brussels, 07.05.2018

The Commission has published a [roadmap](#) “Towards an EU Product Policy Framework contributing to the Circular Economy”. This initiative aims at optimizing the interactions between the different policy tools existing to address products (e.g. the Ecodesign Directive, the RoHS Directive etc.). Stakeholders can provide their [feedback](#) on the initiative until 4 June 2018.

Waste Shipment Regulation / Stakeholder consultation / Deadline: 29 June 2018

A [stakeholder consultation](#) has been launched for selected stakeholders who regularly come into contact with operational aspects of the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR). The stakeholder consultation consists of a number of questions related to the Commission’s ongoing WSR evaluation. The deadline for response is 29 June 2018. The responses will be considered by the consultants, selected by the Commission, when preparing a study to assess whether the WSR meets its objectives. This stakeholder consultation is a follow-up on the public consultation that has already taken place. EuRIC will prepare a detailed answer to this consultation jointly with its Members.

7th Environment Action Programme / Public consultation / Deadline: 26 July 2018

The Commission has published a [public consultation](#) on the Evaluation of the 7th Environment Action Programme. The deadline for providing feedback is 26 July 2018. The Environment Action Programmes guide the development of EU environment policy. The 7th Environment Action Programme is a framework for EU environmental policy-making up to and beyond 2020.

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

LIFE Programme / Funding for companies / Call for proposals / Brussels, 18.04.2018

The Commission has launched the [2018 call for proposals](#) under the LIFE programme. This programme provides financial funds for projects contributing to the environment. One section is specifically devoted to resource efficiency. From 18 April 2018 on it is possible to send applications presenting diverse projects and call for funding. A major change has been introduced this year regarding the deadlines. For "[Traditional Projects](#)" under the LIFE sub-programme for Environment, the application consists of [two stages](#). The deadline for the first stage is 12 June 2018, much earlier than it used to be. In case you are considering to apply for funding, please feel free to contact EuRIC Secretariat for support and coordination purposes at the following e-mail address: pcech@euric-aisbl.eu.

EU funds / Support for SMEs / April – May 2018

- (i) A guarantee agreement has been [signed](#) by the European Investment Bank Group and the Bank BBVA providing €98 million in loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in **Spain**;
- (ii) A guarantee agreement has been [signed](#) by the European Investment Fund (EIF) and UniCredit to provide €340 million in loans to innovative companies in **Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania**;
- (iii) A guarantee agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and Caixa Geral de Depósitos to provide €200 million in loans to SMEs in **Portugal**;
- (iv) A guarantee agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and CVI Dom Maklerski to provide €200 million in loans to innovative companies in **Poland**;

**** Mergers - State aid - Competition law ****

Mergers / Acquisition of Ilva / ArcelorMittal / Brussels, 07.05.2018

The Commission has [approved](#) the acquisition of Ilva by ArcelorMittal. The decision is conditional on the divestiture of a remedy package to preserve competition on European steel markets. The decision follows an [in-depth review](#) of the deal, which combines ArcelorMittal, the largest producer of flat carbon steel in Europe and worldwide, with the main assets of Ilva, notably its steel plant in Taranto, Italy.

Mergers / Acquisition of Powerflute / Mondi / Brussels, 24.05.2018

The Commission has [approved](#) the acquisition of Powerflute Group Holdings Oy of Finland by Mondi Finland Services Oy, belonging to the Mondi Group of Austria. Powerflute operates an integrated pulp and paper mill in Kuopio of Finland. Mondi is a vertically integrated global packaging and paper group.

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

Judgment / Packaging and packaging waste / Luxembourg, 27.04.2018

Following the request for a preliminary ruling, the Court of Justice delivered its [judgment](#) on 15 March 2018, [published](#) in the OJEU on 14 May 2018. The dispute concerns fees for economic operators placing products and all packaging on the market. Specifically, the question referred to the Article 15 of [Packaging Directive 94/62/EC](#). The Court ruled that: *"the Article 15 and the 'polluter-pays' principle which it implements do not preclude national legislation, such as that at issue in the main proceedings, which imposes a contribution on an economic operator which does not make any alteration to the packaging which it places on the market, calculated on the basis of the difference in weight between, on the one hand, the quantity of packaging waste corresponding to the minimum targets for energy recovery and recycling and the quantity of packaging waste actually recovered or recycled"*.

Studies

Final report / WEEE compliance promotion exercise / Brussels, 26.04.2018.

The [final report](#) of the study on WEEE compliance promotion exercise has been published on 26.04.2018. This study reviews the WEEE management practices and policies in Member States and provides recommendations to support the achievement of the requirements and targets set in the revised version of the [WEEE Directive](#).

Report / Circular consumer electronics / Ellen Macarthur Foundation / April 2018

The Ellen Macarthur Foundation has published a [Report](#) on "Circular consumer electronics: an initial exploration". This paper provides reflections on what a circular economy approach could look like for the consumer electronics industry. It is built on over 40 interviews with companies and researchers. The paper focuses on smartphones, laptops, tablets and smart home devices. It attempts to explore how electronics could fit within a circular economy and actions by the industry to accelerate the transition.

Study report 'Application of IED Article 15(4) derogations' / Brussels, 18.05.2018

The final report of the [study](#) on the 'Application of IED Article 15(4) derogations' has been shared by the Commission. The article 15(4) of the IED Directive allows to set less stringent emission limit values when delivering permits to companies under the scope of the IED, under specific conditions. This study in particular explores how Member States have used this derogation.

Report / Investment Agreement / EU – China / May 2018

The final [report](#) of the "Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) in support of an Investment Agreement between the European Union and the People's Republic of China" has been published by the Commission. The report assesses how the investment provisions under negotiation could affect economic, social,



human rights and environmental issues in the EU and in China. The report touches upon some issues connected with waste and recycling.

Events

4th Global Entreps Awards & #5GCitizens 2018, Brussels, 18-19 June 2018

The International Board of Entrepreneurs & Business People (ENTREPS) organizes in cooperation with the Commission the [4th Global Entreps Awards & #5GCitizens 2018](#), a high level conference and matchmaking platform on technological transformation of Europe's industry and sustainable development. The conference will feature high level speakers tackling a number of key issues. EuRIC Vice-President, Ms. Alicia GARCIA-FRANCO, and Secretary General, Mr. Emmanuel KATRAKIS, will intervene to highlight the instrumental role of recycling to realize the circular economy and tackle climate change. Register online before 13 June 2018 via: <https://4th-entreprs-awards.b2match.io/signup>

Metals Recycling Event (MRE) / BMRA / NAEC, Stoneleigh, 11-12 July 2018

The next [Metals Recycling Event](#) (MRE) will be held on the 11th and 12th July 2018 at the NAEC, Stoneleigh, which is a few miles south-east of Birmingham Airport, the UK. MRE, organised in association with the BMRA, is the trade show dedicated to metals recycling. Whether you are a merchant, processor or involved in transportation, the MRE will bring the industry together under one roof creating new relationships and driving the industry forward. EuRIC will actively participate as a speaker to the MRE.

Open-ended Working Group / Basel Convention / Geneva, 3-6.09.2018

The next [meeting](#) of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention will be held in Geneva between 3-6 September 2018. Provisions linked to the management of waste containing POPs will be on the [agenda](#).

Miscellaneous

Privacy Policy / GDPR / EuRIC, 24.05.2018

The new General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") has come into force on May 25, 2018. The GDPR sets new obligations for organisations that collect and process data while granting individuals new rights regarding how their data is handled. The European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC) AISBL is committed to safely managing and protecting data of all people with whom we are in contact. EuRIC privacy and cookies policies available on [EuRIC website](#) provides more details on the type of information that we collect, how it is used and stored and how you can request that your information is updated, corrected or deleted, in line with the GDPR.

If you have questions regarding the processing of your personal data, you can always contact us:

- by email: euric@euric-aisbl.eu
- by post at the address below:

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