

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.



Why attend the European Recycling Conference 2018?

- **It's a one-day conference:** A complete and high-quality program is packed in just one day, which makes it practical and convenient for those who want to make the most of their time.
- **It offers unparalleled networking opportunities:** With a Networking Lunch and a Networking Gala Dinner included in its program, the ERC 2018 is the perfect opportunity to further develop your network and to create new partnerships.
- **An appealing program and high-level industry speakers:** The ERC 2018 offers you all the elements to keep you abreast of the latest business and regulatory developments related to recycling at European level.
- **Its location is just perfect:** Berlin, the capital of Europe's largest economy, is easily reachable from every place in Europe and beyond, which makes it very easy for you to join us at the ERC 2018.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER: Join us at the ERC 2018!

Registrations close on the **6<sup>th</sup> September end of business**, so don't miss your chance to register today: <https://www.euric-aisbl.eu/european-recycling-conference-2018#registration>

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## EuRIC activities

### EuRIC Secretariat visits recycling facility in Bratislava (Slovakia), 30.07.2018



EuRIC secretariat has visited, in Bratislava (Slovakia), the recycling facility of a Member of the Slovak Recycling Federation ANSDS, operated as a family business. This visit provided an excellent opportunity to see the broad EuRIC Membership base. EuRIC's aim has always been to represent the whole recycling industry, consisting of a large number of SMEs as well as large companies. This meeting served as a useful exchange about the main challenges stemming from legislation which can affect daily business activities as well as an opportunity to measure the major contribution to the local economy made by recycling SMEs. EuRIC is very grateful to Mrs. Katarína Špačková (ANSDS) for hosting the Secretariat.

### Call for EU Action on recycled content mandates for plastics / Brussels, July 2018

EuRIC, together with a wide coalition of 34 organizations and companies co-signed a [joint paper](#) calling for EU action on mandatory recycled content for plastics to boost the demand for recycled materials and close the Circular Economy loop. A strong demand for recycled plastics will only result from binding actions accompanied by economic measures to bridge the price gap between recycled and virgin plastics. EuRIC is a strong advocate for economic measures recognizing the environmental benefits that recycling brings to society, in terms of energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emission savings as well as preservation of natural resources.

## International activities

### Shipments of Plastics / Basel Convention / Geneva, 3-6 September 2018

Norway, in June 2018, introduced a [proposal](#) to amend the Basel Convention, which regulates international shipments of waste. Norway proposes to classify scrap plastics under Annex II, which covers "wastes requiring special consideration." Norway has also proposed removing entry B3010 for Solid Plastic Waste from Annex IX of the Basel Convention. This would mean that solid plastic waste would need to be shipped in accordance with prior written notification and consent controls. The proposal, together with other key topics (such as POPs) is on the Agenda of the 11. [meeting](#) of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, where it will be discussed, but no vote will take place.

## European institutions activities

### Publications Office of the European Union

### Waste Treatment BREF / BAT Conclusions / Brussels, 17.08.2018

The BAT Conclusions for the Waste Treatment BREF have been [published](#) in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU) in all the languages of the EU. Recycling companies, that fall under the scope of this BREF, have to be compliant with the [requirements](#) set in the BAT Conclusions in four years, at the latest (until 17 August 2022). It might be even earlier, depending on the requirements of national authorities. The full text of the BREF (containing the detail of the techniques mentioned in the BAT Conclusions) will be published in the coming weeks on the [website](#) of the EIPPCB.

### **Trade defence instruments / Brussels, July - August 2018**

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

(I) The [Commission Implementing Regulation](#) (EU) 2018/1013 imposing provisional safeguard measures with regard to imports of certain steel products.

### European Parliament

#### **Single-use plastics / Proposal for a new Directive / Draft report / Brussels, 10.07.2018**

The [draft report](#) from the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Frédérique Ries (ALDE) has been published on 10 July 2018. In Amendment 27, the Rapporteur proposed to include that beverage containers are made with at least 25% recycled content. [EuRIC issued a press release, co-signed with FEAD, to back this proposal.](#) The deadline for other MEPs to submit their amendments is 4 September.

### European Commission

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

#### **Interface / Chemicals, products & waste / Public consultation / Deadline: 29.10.2018**

The Commission has released a [public consultation](#), open until 29 October to gather stakeholders' views on the proposals put forward in the [Staff Working Document](#) published in January 2018. The aim of this initiative is to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation. [EuRIC will respond to this consultation \(see also EuRIC's response to the targeted stakeholders' consultation from July 2017\).](#)

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

#### **EU funds / Support for SMEs / July – August 2018**

- (i) An Agreement has been [signed](#) by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and Banco Santander to provide €500 million in loans to SMEs in **Spain**;
- (ii) A Financing agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIB and the National Bank of Greece to provide €200 million in loans to SMEs in **Greece**;
- (iii) An Agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIB and the state-owned investment company Tesi (Finnish Industry Investment) to provide €100 million in loans to SMEs in **Finland**.

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

#### **Merger / Acquisition of Aluminum Dunkerque / Liberty Industries / Brussels, 18.7.2018**

The Commission has [approved](#) the acquisition of Aluminum Dunkerque (France) by Liberty Industries France (France). Aluminum Dunkerque manufactures primary aluminium in France. Liberty House Group is active in the production, trading and recycling of steel and aluminium.

#### **State aid / France / Electricity from landfill gas / Brussels, 20.7.2018**

The Commission has [approved](#), under EU state aid rules, the aid that France plans to grant for the construction and operation of up to 60 megawatts (MW) of new power plants, generating electricity from landfill gas and for the modernization of existing plants. Since landfill gas is considered a renewable energy source, this will help France to increase the share of electricity from “renewable energy”.

**Merger / In-depth investigation / Wieland, Aurubis, Schwermetall / Brussels, 2.08.2018**

The Commission has [opened](#) an in-depth investigation to assess Wieland's proposed acquisition of Aurubis Rolled Products and of Schwermetall under the EU Merger Regulation. Wieland and Aurubis Rolled Products both produce rolled copper and copper alloys. Schwermetall produces pre-rolled strip made of copper and copper alloys. The Commission is concerned the takeover may reduce competition in the supply of key copper inputs to manufacturers.

**Merger / Acquisition of Tönsmeier / Schwarz group / Brussels, 20.08.2018**

The Commission has [approved](#) the acquisition of Karl Tönsmeier Entsorgungswirtschaft GmbH & Co. KG (KTE) and Tönsmeier Dienstleistung GmbH & Co. KG (TDL) of Germany by Schwarz group. Schwarz group is predominantly active in the food retail sector worldwide through its Lidl and Kaufland divisions. KTE is a fully integrated service provider in waste management, including collection, sorting, treatment and recycling of waste. TDL operates a waste-to-energy plant.

**Other EU bodies**

**Recycled rubber granules / REACH Restriction proposal / ECHA / Helsinki, 16.08.2018**

ECHA and the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) [proposed](#) a restriction under REACH, limiting the authorised concentration for eight PAHs to 17 mg/kg (for the sum of PAHs) in recycled rubber granules made from end-of-life tyres and used in artificial sports fields. The [restriction dossier](#) will be submitted to a six months public consultations where stakeholders can provide their feedback on the assessment made by the authorities.

## Studies

**Study / Circular economy and bioeconomy EEA / Brussels, 27.08.2018**

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has published a [Report](#) on the circular economy that aims to support the framing, implementation and evaluation of European circular economy policy. The report, entitled "The circular economy and the bioeconomy - Partners in sustainability", argues among other things for the extension of the lifetime of products and recycling materials to help retain material value and the functionality for longer time as well as to avoid unrecycled waste.

## Events

**EU Circular Businesses Conference / Brussels / 26 September 2018.**

The Circular Businesses Conference, co-organised with the Commission, takes place on 26 September in Brussels. The conference follows the recent publication of the EU roadmap "Towards an EU Product Policy Framework contributing to the Circular Economy" and features high-level speakers from the EU institutions. The programme and registration are available on the conference [website](#).

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