
Newsletter of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

Monthly, Issue n°31, 17 December 2018

EuRIC activities

EuRIC's Annual Conference 2019 / Save the date / Brussels, 13.03.2019



The European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC) cordially invites you to its 2019 Annual Conference on 13 March 2019 entitled "*Implementing Circular Value Chains*". Powered by recycling companies and national federations, EuRIC's Annual Conference will play host to high-level EU policymakers and industry leaders.

For the 2019 edition, emphasis will be placed on circular value chains. Success factors, challenges and market or regulatory issues will be widely discussed in connection with the implementation of the Circular Economy Package and the Plastics Strategy. Priorities for the European recycling industry in the forthcoming years will also be defined in the context of the 2019 European elections.

[Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information on the conference's program and sponsorship opportunities on EuRIC's website](#)

Participation of EuRIC Secretariat to Ecomondo / Rimini, Italy / 6-8.11.2018



Emmanuel Katrakis and Mélissa Zill were invited to speak on several topics at the Ecomondo event in Rimini, Italy, in November, upon invitation of EuRIC members. One of the workshops concerned the assessment of the ecotoxicity criteria for waste (HP14), for which EuRIC brought the European perspective. The other workshop focused on ecodesign. EuRIC is grateful to AIRA and FISE-UNICIRCULAR for the organization of these workshops.

Participation of EuRIC to POLLUTEC / Lyon, France / 27-30.11.2018



Emmanuel Katrakis was invited to speak on several topics, including plastics recycling, the implementation of the revised waste legislation or the issues stemming of China's import ban affecting secondary raw materials. EuRIC is grateful to FEDEREC and POLLUTEC for their invitations.

Visit to Galloo's facilities / Menen, Belgium / 3.12.2018

EuRIC and a group of students from the French engineering school AgroParisTech visited the facilities of Galloo in Menen on 3 December. This visit was organised within the framework of a project on recycled plastics and regulated substances that EuRIC has commissioned to this group of students, who are specialising in toxicology and ecotoxicology. During the visit, Olivier François kindly explained all the treatment steps for WEEE and ELV. EuRIC warmly thanks Galloo and Olivier François for this visit and for the time invested to address the questions of the students.



Participation to year end assemblies of BVSE, BMRA, BDSV, FEDEREC, REPACAR, SVDS and VDM

EuRIC is grateful to BVSE, BMRA, BDSV, FEDEREC, REPACAR, SVDS and VDM for their invitations to their year-end assemblies, to which EuRIC participated, which were a testimony of the vital role of National Federations to serve the interests of recycling companies.

European institutions activities

Publications Office of the European Union

Implementing decision / Ship recycling / Authorised yards / Brussels, 06.12.2018

The [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2018/1906](#) has been published in the Official Journal of the EU. It adds a number of new yards to the list of facilities authorised to recycle end-of-life ships. The new yards are in Denmark, Italy, Finland, Turkey and the USA.

European Parliament

Recast of the POP Regulation/ Plenary vote / Strasbourg, 15.11.2018.

The European Parliament adopted a certain number of amendments to the original proposal from the European Commission (the Commission). The Parliament proposes to add DecaBDE to the Annex I of the Regulation, with a limit value of 10ppm, and to the Annex IV with a limit of 500 ppm for the sum of tetra, penta, hexa, hepta and decaBDE. Meanwhile the Council also indicated its position, which seemed to favor setting a 500ppm limit for the sum of tetra, penta, hexa, hepta and decaBDE in the Annex I in mixtures and articles. Trilogue negotiations on this file are currently ongoing, where the EU institutions try to agree on a final text.

Council

Rotating Council Presidency / Romania / Brussels, 01.01.2019

[Romania](#) will lead the rotating [presidency](#) of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2019, replacing Austria. Romania is the first country of the next trio made up of the presidencies of Romania, Finland and Croatia with the following 18-month [Programme](#) of the Council.

European Commission

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

European Strategy for Plastics - voluntary pledges / 20.11.2018

The Commission launched a campaign, calling stakeholders to submit voluntary pledges for recycled plastics, under the European Strategy for Plastics. The target is by 2025, to have 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics finding their way into new products in Europe. The campaign closed on 30 September 2018. [65 voluntary pledges](#) were submitted by companies and industry associations. As acknowledged by the [European Commission](#), on the demand side, only 5 million tons are expected so far, demonstrating that more will be needed to achieve the objective of a well-functioning EU market of recycled plastics.

Waste Treatment BREF / Publication of the full text / EIPPCB / Sevilla, 22.10.2018

The [full text](#) of the BREF (including the description of the techniques) has been published on the [EIPPCB website](#) on 22.10.2018. So far only the BAT Conclusions were published. With the publication of this document, the review of the Waste Treatment BREF is now complete.

Ecodesign & Energy Labelling Consultation Forum / Membership / Brussels, 25.10.2018

EuRIC has been selected as an official member of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Consultation Forum (EELCF). So far, EuRIC was only invited to the EELCF on an ad-hoc basis and this selection comes as a recognition from the Commission of the relevance of EuRIC inputs in the Ecodesign debate, where more and more requirements on material efficiency are considered.

Commission implementation report / EU waste shipments / Brussels, 22.11.2018

The Commission has published the latest review of how well EU waste shipment rules have been applied across Europe in its Implementation [Report](#), its comprehensive Annexes ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)) as well as in the [Commission staff working document](#) accompanying the Report. This three-annual report, for the period 2013-2015, is based on questionnaires filled-in by Member States and cover the main aspects of implementation of the waste shipment legislation.

Statistics / Plastics Packaging / Recycling / Brussels, 29.11.2018

Eurostat - the statistical office of the European Union has published [statistics](#) on recycling rates of plastic packaging waste in the EU. The [data](#) are displayed for each Member State in years from 2005 to 2016.

New initiative / Circular Plastics Alliance / Brussels, 11.12.2017

The Commission has [launched](#) an alliance to reduce plastics littering and increase the share of recycled plastics. The goal of the Circular Plastics Alliance is a close cooperation between different players in the plastics value chain in order to boost recycling of plastics. This new initiative should contribute to meeting the goals set out in the [European Strategy for Plastics](#).

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

Interface / Chemicals, products & waste legislations / Brussels, 29.10.2018

The public consultation on the options to address the interface between chemicals, products and waste legislations ended on 29.10.2018. EuRIC provided a response to the consultation and published a [position paper](#) on its website. The Commission is now reviewing the contributions before putting forward concrete proposals to address the issues at the interface between the different pieces of legislation.

Industrial Emissions Directive Review / Brussels, 06.11.2018

The Industrial Emissions Directive review process has started with the publication of a [Roadmap](#). It will be followed by a publication of a public consultation in 2019 with a 12-week period for response, targeted stakeholder consultation and complemented by workshops. The public consultation will gather feedback from stakeholders on several aspects of the Industrial Emissions Directive, including the process to elaborate and review the BREFs.

EU Product Policy Framework / Circular Economy / Deadline: 24.01.2018

The Commission has released a [public consultation](#) entitled “Towards an EU Product Policy Framework contributing to the Circular Economy”. The focus is on the way how to design, produce, use and discard products in order to move in moving from linear to circular economy. The deadline for response is 24 January 2019. EuRIC will respond to this consultation, which follows a previously submitted [roadmap](#).

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

Mergers / DS Smith / Europac / Acquisition subject to conditions / Brussels, 15.11.2018

The Commission has [approved](#) the acquisition of Europac by DS Smith, both manufacturers of paper and packaging products. The decision is conditional on the divestment of a number of production plants in Portugal and France. The reason for the condition of divestment is that the Commission was concerned that the proposed acquisition would significantly reduce competition in some Member States.

Mergers / Aperam / VDM / In-depth investigation / Brussels, 30.11.2018

The Commission has [opened](#) an in-depth investigation to assess the proposed acquisition of VDM by Aperam under the EU Merger Regulation. Aperam and VDM are the two leading nickel alloy producers in Europe and the transaction may lead to a reduced competition and a dominant position.

Mergers / Mondi / Joint venture / Brussels, 30.11.2018

The Commission has [approved](#) the creation of a joint venture by Mondi Štětí, ECO-INVESTMENT, both of the Czech Republic and Holzindustrie Maresch of Austria. The joint venture will be active in the construction and operation of a sawmill in the Czech Republic. Mondi Štětí supplies corrugated base paper and market pulp and manufactures kraft paper.

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

EU funds / Support for SMEs / October - December 2018

- (i) A guarantee agreement has been [signed](#) by the European Investment Fund (EIF) and the Groupe BPCE to provide EUR 700 million in loans to SMEs in **France**;
- (ii) A guarantee agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and the Cassa di Risparmio di Bolzano – Südtiroler Sparkasse to provide EUR 60 million in loans to SMEs in **Italy**;
- (iii) An InnovFin agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and the Vallis Capital Partners to provide EUR 150 million in loans to innovative SMEs in **Portugal**;
- (iv) A guarantee agreement has been [signed](#) by the EIF and the Austrian promotional bank Austria Wirtschaftsservice to provide EUR 48 million (and up to EUR 96 million) in loans to SMEs in Austria.

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

Infringement procedure against Spain / Landfills / Brussels, 08.11.2018

The Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Spain because of the existence of a large number of illegal landfills. The Commission urges Spain to close, seal or regenerate the landfills in order to bring them in compliance with the [Waste Framework Directive](#) and ensure that waste management is carried out without endangering human health and the environment. Spain has two months to reply. Otherwise, the Commission may decide to refer Spain to the Court of Justice of the EU. More information is available in the [November infringements' package](#).

Case law / Hazardous waste / Classification / Luxembourg, 15.11.2018

A preliminary question has been [referred](#) to the Court of Justice of the European Union regarding classification of waste. The question asks whether a producer of waste, to which a mirror code has been assigned, must carry out a prior classification when the composition of the waste is not known. According to the general advocate's [opinion](#), the producer is required to determine the composition of the waste and subsequently to determine, by calculation or examination, whether the waste contains a hazardous substance. The opinion of the general advocate is not the final decision, but it serves as an inspiration for judges when making a final judgement at a future date.

Other EU bodies

ECHA Database / Candidate list substances in articles / Workshop / Helsinki, 22.10.2018

ECHA organized a workshop in Helsinki on 22 October 2018 to present the outcomes of the public consultation held from 20 September to 9 October 2018, during which stakeholders were invited to comment on the proposal put forward by ECHA on the [ECHA Database](#) on Candidate List substances in articles. [Christer Forsgren](#) represented EuRIC at this workshop. As a follow-up, dedicated stakeholder focus groups working on technical aspects of the project will be established.

Report / EEA / EU Environment Action Programme / Copenhagen, 29.11.2018

The [Environmental indicator report](#) for 2018 has been published by the European Environmental Agency (EEA). This report gives an overview of the progress towards 29 environmental policy objectives of the 7th EU Environment Action Programme. It analyses e.g. waste generation or recycling of municipal waste.

Studies

Study / Evaluation of the Batteries Directive / Brussels, 8.10.2018

The Batteries Directive 2006/66/EC is currently in the process of being reviewed. The final report of the [Study](#) commissioned by the Commission points out the main issues to tackle within the revision of the Directive, which are linked with the collection and recycling rate as well as the adaptation of the Directive to the current technological developments. [EuRIC responded to a public consultation on this topic in the fall of 2017](#). A [preparatory study](#) is also ongoing concerning the Ecodesign for batteries.

Raw materials scoreboard / EIP on Raw Materials / Brussels, 19.11.2018

The [Raw Materials Scoreboard 2018](#) has been published by [DG Grow](#) of the Commission. The Raw Materials Scoreboard is part of the monitoring strategy for the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials and is published every 2 years. It provides data on mining of raw materials, but also includes a chapter on "Circular economy and recycling". In the subchapter on "Trade in waste and scraps", it states the "*If we are to improve the supply of secondary raw materials and encourage the circularity of the EU economy, we should be concerned about this growing trend in waste exports compared to imports*". [EuRIC disagrees with this statement which confuses waste and secondary raw materials which have been processed according to technical specifications as well as because for a number of secondary raw materials' streams, the EU supply structurally exceeds the demand in Europe.](#)

Study / Electric vehicles / Circular economy perspective / Copenhagen, 22.11.2018

The European Environment Agency published a [Report](#) assessing the environmental impacts of electric vehicles in the different phases of the life cycle, including at the end-of-life stage. This report is timely as both the Batteries Directive 2006/66/EC and the End-of-Life Vehicle Directive 2000/53/EC will be reviewed. Among other proposals, the report suggests to develop a set of basic standards (on materials use, design, location and shape of the battery pack) to make the recycling of batteries more efficient.

