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

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### EuRIC activities

#### EuRIC's Annual Conference 2019 / Brussels, 13.03.2019

The European Recycling Industries' Confederation cordially invites you to its 2019 Annual Conference on 13 March 2019, entitled "*Implementing Circular Value Chains*". For this 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. More information about the **sponsorship opportunities**, the **conference program** and **accommodation** can be found in the [conference's webpage](#).



#### Visits to VDM, BDSV and bvse / Germany, 28-29.01.2019



Julia Blees, EuRIC's Policy Officer, visited VDM, BDSV and bvse's offices on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January. These visits were an excellent opportunity for a face-to-face exchange about the current and future challenges for the recycling of different streams in Germany. Julia Blees reported about key topics linked to the European list of waste and batteries. EuRIC kindly thanks VDM, BDSV and bvse for hosting Julia Blees.

#### International Circular Economy Meeting / San Sebastián, 30-31.01.2019



Emmanuel Katrakis and Ana Ledesma were invited to the International Circular Economy Meeting that took place on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January in San Sebastián, Spain. The event, which was organised by the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, with the support of EuRIC and FER, emphasized the importance of the circular economy as a key element to boost the economy and employment and to protect the environment. In his presentation, Emmanuel

Katrakis highlighted the essential role played by recyclers to make the transition from a linear to a circular economy. During this meeting, EuRIC's delegation also had the opportunity to visit Eko-REC's recycling plant, where



they process more than 5 million PET bottles per day, the University of the Basque Country, where they are currently working on several projects linked to marine litter recycling, and Ekotrade, a company dedicated to the integral management of construction and demolition waste. All of them showed great examples of approaches and methods to boost the circular economy through the recycling of different types of materials. EuRIC kindly thanks the Provincial

Council of Gipuzkoa and the meeting's organizers for having EuRIC as a guest.

#### European Recycling Conference 2019 / Save the date / Paris, 19 September 2019

The next edition of the European Recycling Conference (ERC), organized by EuRIC, will take place on 19 September in Paris, France. The 2019 ERC is taking place in the framework of FEDEREC's biggest fair, the 2019 Journée Technique, gathering more than 400 participants. More details about the program and venue will be soon published in EuRIC's website. Stay tuned!

## European institutions activities

### Publications Office of the European Union

#### **Imports of steel products / Safeguard measures / Brussels, 31.01.2019**

On 16 January, Member States approved the Commission's plan to adopt safeguard measures on imports of certain steel products, the Commission published the [implementing regulation](#) in the Official Journal of the European Union.

### European Parliament

#### **Directive on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships / Provisional agreement / Brussels, 12.12.2018**

The European Parliament and the Council managed to reach a provisional agreement on the file during the third round of trilogue negotiations which took place on 12 December. The European Parliament's plenary is provisionally scheduled to vote on the [provisional agreement](#) on the Commission's proposal on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships on 13 March 2019. If approved by MEPs in plenary, the deal will be submitted to the Council for adoption. The Council will adopt the text without debate (as an "A item" of the agenda) during a future Council meeting. Once this last procedural step is completed, the new Directive will be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force.

#### **Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment / ENVI Committee vote / Brussels, 22.01.2018**

The European Parliament's Environment (ENVI) Committee voted in favour of the [provisional agreement](#) on the Commission's proposal on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment on 22 January. Following the Committee's approval, the deal will be sent to the European Parliament's plenary for adoption during the plenary week of 25-28 March. If approved by MEPs, the Council will adopt the text without debate at a future meeting.

#### **Results of the ENVI Coordinators' meeting / Brussels, 21.01.2019**

Coordinators of the ENVI Committee met on January 21 to monitor the development of the urgent matters, both legislative and non-legislative, which would be finalized by the end of the legislature, i.e. May 2019. [Results of the meeting](#) was published by the European Parliament press on 30 January 2019. The next coordinators' meeting will take place on 20 February 2019.

### Council

#### **Basel Convention / Rules for exports of certain plastic waste / Proposal for a Council decision / Brussels, 24.01.2019**

The proposed [Council Decision](#) (ST 5679) on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal with regard to certain amendments of Annexes II, VIII and IX has been published. This proposal decision will in essence provide the mandate of the European Commission to take part and negotiate at the COP14 in May 2019.

#### **Stockholm Convention / Annex A – Eradication / PFOA / 06.02.2019**

The proposed [Council Decision](#) on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as regards the proposals for amendments of Annexes A and B has been published. This proposal decision will in essence provide the mandate of the European Commission to take part and negotiate at the COP 9 in May 2019.

## European Commission

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

### **Early warning / Waste Framework Directive / Recycling target / Brussels, 24.09.2018**

On 24 September 2018 the European Commission published the [latest review of EU waste rules implementation in Europe](#), presenting challenges and ways forward. 14 Member States have been identified as at risk of missing the 2020 target of 50% preparation for re-use / recycling. For each of these countries the Commission presented early warning reports. More information is available on the European Commission [website](#).

### **Stockholm Convention on POPs / 3<sup>rd</sup> European Union Implementation Plan / Brussels, 04.01.2019**

The Commission's Staff Working Document and Report on the EU Implementation Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) were published on 4 January 2019. The [Staff Working Document](#) outlined 30 actions to be taken under the obligations of the Stockholm Convention affecting the EU's treatment of POPs. The [Report](#) gave a general overview of the international agreements addressing POPs and a brief summary of the Staff Working Document.

### **Letters of formal notice / Estonia / Romania / WEEE Management / 24.01.2019**

The Commission has sent letters of formal notice to Estonia and Romania over shortcomings in their enactment of EU rules on WEEE (Directive 2012/19/EU). A letter is being sent to Estonia because of shortcomings that include incomplete definitions of key terms, a lack of clarity in the obligations to be imposed on producers, and a failure to require proof if waste of electrical and electronic equipment is exported to countries outside the EU. The Commission is sending a letter of formal notice to Romania because of inaccurate provisions and incomplete reflection of EU legislation, inconsistencies regarding collection facilities, and no specific provision requiring that all separately collected waste of electrical and electronic equipment undergo proper treatment. Estonia and Romania have two months to reply; otherwise, the Commission may decide to send a reasoned opinion.

### **Reflection paper / Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030 / Brussels, 30 January 2019**

The [reflection paper](#) is part of the debate on the future of Europe and pursues EU's commitment to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Paper puts forward three scenarios to stimulate the discussion. The eventual outcome would likely be an overarching EU SDGs strategy guiding the actions of the EU and its Member States, including more policy coherence and global action.

### **Expected draft Commission Delegated Regulation / Shipments of WEEE / Equivalent Conditions / Brussels, January 2019**

The Commission has awarded to [Austrian Environmental Agency](#) the service contract for an external study in support of the development of a delegated act setting out criteria for the assessment of equivalent conditions concerning the treatment of waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in non-EU facilities. The project would last for 12 months, until the end of 2019.

### **Stakeholders group / Circular Plastic Alliance / Brussels, 05.02.2019**

30 stakeholder organisations have gathered for the first meeting of the Circular Plastics Alliance, which took place at the European Industry Days, on 5 February 2019 in Brussels. Vice-President Katainen chaired the first meeting, A list of member organisations and an indicative timeline are available on the [European Commission website](#).

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

### **Public Consultation / End-of-Life Vehicles legislation evaluation / Q1 2019**

The commission is currently undertaking an evaluation of EU legislation concerning ELVs. Following the publication of the [Evaluation Roadmap](#) in October 2018, the Commission is expected to launch an online public consultation in the first quarter of 2019.

### **Future Initiative / Batteries / Ecolabel, Ecodesign & GPP / Brussels, 09.01.2019**

The Commission is currently considering the feasibility of establishing EU ecodesign requirements for batteries. The Commission presented a [roadmap](#) explaining the scope and the objectives of a possible initiative on sustainable batteries on 9 January 2019. The Commission also launched a preparatory study that was officially launched in September 2018 and it is expected to run until May 2019. Stakeholders had until 6 February to submit their comments to the Commission on the content of the roadmap. The Commission is also expected to launch an online public consultation in the first quarter of 2019.

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

### **EU funds / Support for SMEs / December 2018 – February 2019**

- (i) The European Investment Bank Group, formed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Investment Fund (EIF), have granted BBVA a EUR 60 million synthetic guarantee that will be used to provide up to EUR 360 million to finance new investment projects of [Spanish SMEs](#).
- (ii) The European Investment Bank (EIB) is lending EUR 22.3 million to Garanti Bank Romania to support [businesses in Romania](#). EUR 5 million of the loan amount is devoted to female entrepreneurs, matched by another € 5m from Garanti Bank.
- (iii) The European Investment Fund (EIF) and HBOR are launching [CROGIP], a EUR 70 million-investment programme to support fast-growing SMEs and mid-caps established and operating [in Croatia](#).

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

#### **Court of Justice of the European Union / Case T-544/13 RENV Dyson v Commission / vacuum cleaners / Energy labelling / 08.11.2018**

British company Dyson, which makes bagless vacuum cleaners, has succeeded in overturning the European Union law on energy labelling of vacuum cleaners as the legislation was found to discriminate against the company's products. [Judgment of the General Court of 8 November 2018](#) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 7 January 2019.

#### **Court of Justice of the European Union / Case C-506/17 / European Commission v Slovenian Republic / Landfilling of waste / 28.01.2019**

The Republic of Slovenia is ordered to pay the costs of failing to fulfil its obligations under Article 14(b) - approving a site-conditioning plan - and Article 14(c) - laying down a transitional period for the completion of the plan - of Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC. [Judgment of the Court of 28 November 2018](#) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 28 January 2019.

### Other EU bodies

#### **Committee on the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling of Energy-using Products / Ecodesign / Household Refrigerators & Freezers / December 2018**

Member State experts voted in favour of the [draft measure setting EU ecodesign requirements for household refrigerating appliances](#) at a meeting which took place on 10 December 2018.

## Studies

### **EMAS / Waste management sector / 2018**

The Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) has published the [final report](#) containing best environmental management practices (BEMPS / EMAS) for the waste management sector. This report describes a set of best practices with high potential for broad uptake by local authorities in charge of waste management and waste management companies. Based on the information provided in this JRC's final report, the Commission would draft a Decision adopting the EMAS sectorial reference document.

### **PAH migration from plastic and rubber articles / 2018**

In 2019, CENCENELEC/BTWG 13 'Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in rubber and plastic' will deliver a work programme in response to Standardization [Request M/556](#) referring to compliance to maximum content criteria of eight restricted PAHs under REACH which are classified as carcinogenic 1B. This work programme is preceded by a scoping study that identifies existing methods to determine the total content for PAHs in articles with rubber and plastic components. The study was expected to be completed by end of 2018 and is already [available online](#).

### **JRC Technical Report / Circular economy and product policy / 2018**

[This report](#) aims to: (i) provide an overview of EU policies addressing material efficiency aspects, and (ii) investigate interactions between product policy tools, such as Ecodesign and the Energy Label, and other policy instruments. This also includes an appraisal of how different policy tools could be integrated to handle material efficiency aspects of products. Furthermore, examples of material efficiency requirements in different product policy instruments (Ecodesign, Energy Label, GPP and Ecolabel) are provided, as well as guidance about how the level of ambition of criteria may be varied, depending on the policy objectives (e.g. mandatory vs. voluntary legislation).

### **Ease of disassembly of products to support circular economy strategies / 2018**

Up to date, there is no standardised method to evaluate the ease of disassembly. [The article](#) proposes a robust method "eDiM" (ease of Disassembly Metric), to calculate the disassembly time. The presented case study demonstrates how the proposed method can be used in a policy context and how the calculated disassembly times per category can provide insights to manufacturers to improve the disassemblability of their products. The results also demonstrate how the proposed method can produce realistic results with only limited detail of input data.

## Events

### **22<sup>nd</sup> bvse International Recovered Paper Conference / Düsseldorf, 21.03.2019**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Recovered Paper Conference, organized by bvse, will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March at Maritim Hotel Düsseldorf Airport, in Düsseldorf. For more information about this event, click [here](#).

### **26<sup>th</sup> Annual ETRA Conference on Tyre Recycling 'Responding to Market demands of the Circular Economy' / Brussels, 20-22.03.2019**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual ETRA Conference on Tyre Recycling 'Responding to Market demands of the Circular Economy' is a three-day event that will take place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 at the NH Collection Hotel, Grand Sablon, Brussels. The Conference is the culmination of a year-long series of ETRA-led activities and events that celebrated ETRA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a European Association. For more information about this event, click [here](#).