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

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### Member Spotlight

**Alicia Garcia Franco, Director General, Spanish Federation for Recovery and Recycling (FER), Spain**

**In the last five years, how have opportunities and challenges changed for recycling companies operating in Spain?**

Over the last five years, our sector has continued to make investments to innovate its technology and improve its processes, as it has been doing for decades. Recyclers have become efficient and well performing operators that safely reintroduce raw materials into the economy. At the same time, there have been major normative changes, for instance through the development of European standards for WEEE, which will eventually spread to other waste streams; the implementation of different electronic registries or the approval/modification of an increasing number of legal requirements. I believe that it is at this point that our greatest challenges lie, we always need to adapt too quickly.

We have also struggled with

events which originated from outside of the EU, such as the restrictions on waste imports set by China; or within Spain, with many pending issues that are not solved yet, such as illegal competition, costly administrative burden or the disparity between regions in waste management performance.

**As a Board member who actively participated to the foundation of EuRIC and who has continuously been elected Vice-President of EuRIC for a third time in a row, which are the biggest changes?**

The biggest changes that I have observed relate to EuRIC external capacity. From a project that began with enormous enthusiasm and scarce resources, it has been possible to achieve great degree of influence vis-a-vis the European institutions in just five years. Today, I have no doubt that there will always be a representative from EuRIC at every major



event about recycling and also at every European *fora* where waste management legislation is discussed. In my opinion, this is our greatest achievement, putting EuRIC at the center of all the debates about recycling of different waste streams and about circular economy.

This could not have been achieved without the hard work of EuRIC Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis, his resolution and commitment. At the moment we still have a modest but healthy budget, four fully



operational material-based-branches and 5 staff members. Those have been giant steps in a very short time and we still have many forwards.

### **What do you see as the main benefits of being a Member of EuRIC?**

I would always recommend to be EuRIC member since we all operate in a system where about 80% of the legislation of a Member State comes from the Community *acquis*. Today, in an increasingly global world, it is clear to anyone that the decisions that mostly affect our companies are made in Brussels. Therefore, the main benefit of being a member of EuRIC is that our needs reach the decision-makers before any

compromise is irreversibly agreed. Another major benefit of belonging to EuRIC is that other national associations from other European countries are represented in the Confederation. Thanks to the space provided by EuRIC we can share with our foreign peers our common challenges and seek for shared and coordinated solutions.

### **If you were appointed European Commissioner responsible for the environment what would be your first measure to further boost recycling in Europe?**

Without any doubt, I would carry out an extensive programme to reduce the excessive administrative

burden that weigh on all recycling operators. I would also incentivize on site visits at recycling facilities for all the functionaries who work for the waste unit. This could ease mutual understanding between the political dimension and the productive level. I strongly believe that hands on experiences are crucial to show how the waste management sector really operates and what are the main challenges that we encounter during our daily works. I am confident that such approach would allow for better and closer to reality law-making, and that it would ensure EU legislation to serve citizens protection as well as businesses interest.

## **EuRIC activities**

### **European Recycling Conference 2019 / Registrations are opened / Paris, 19 Sept. 2019**

The next edition of the [European Recycling Conference \(ERC\)](#), organized by EuRIC, will take place on **19 September** in Paris, France at the unique location of the Air and Space Museum at Paris – Le Bourget Airport. The 2019 ERC is taking place in the framework of FEDEREC's biggest fair, the 2019 Journée Technique, gathering more than 400 participants. The conference will be followed by a Gala Dinner organized on a river cruise that will lead ERC attendees through the most iconic places of Paris. **Register now to take advantage of Early bird rates on [EuRIC website](#).**





### **EuRIC Board meeting. Brussels, 29 May 2019**

EuRIC's newly elected Board Members met in person for the first time in Brussels after EuRIC leadership elections in March 2019. Among the various items on the agenda were discussed the priorities of the recycling industry for the years to come with a new European Parliament and Commission in place as well as the strategy to continue the structured development of EuRIC needed to meet the opportunities and challenges faced by the European recycling sector.



## **European institutions activities**

### Publications Office of the European Union

#### **Strength in unity: Commission makes recommendations for the EU's next strategic agenda 2019-2024 / Sibiu, 9 May 2019**

Ahead of the meeting of EU leaders in Sibiu, Romania, on 9 May 2019, the European Commission set out the next strategic agenda for 2019-2024, including a number of policy recommendations for future orientations and priorities. A press release is available [online](#). All files are available [here](#).

#### **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation (recast) / Brussels, 24 May 2019**

The Council has published the last version of [POPs Regulation](#). Thanks to the work done in coordination with our members we have ensured a POPs concentration limit enabling quality recycling. [Some Member States](#) have already reacted to the Regulation and entrusted the mandate to the Commission to revise threshold values for polyBDEs in the next two years. Twenty days after the Regulation is published in the Official Journal of the EU, it will be directly applicable in the Member States.

#### **Single-Use-Plastic (SUP) Directive / Brussels, 12 June 2019**

The [SUP Directive](#) has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union. EuRIC actively contributed so that recyclers observations were duly taken into account by the codecisors, who finally introduced mandatory targets for minimum content of recycled plastic in beverage bottles for 2025 (25%) and 2030 (30%).

### European Commission

*\*\*\*\* Funds & Mergers \*\*\*\**

#### **EU funds / Support for SMEs**

(i) The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Banque Internationale à Luxembourg (BIL) extend InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility agreement; EUR 20 million available for innovative SMEs and small mid-caps [in Luxembourg](#).

(ii) The European Investment Bank (EIB) grants a loan of EUR 100 million via Funding Circle, a global loan platform to SMEs [in Germany and the Netherlands](#).

#### **Mergers / Commission approves Liberty House Group purchase of ArcelorMittal's divestment businesses**

The European Commission has approved Liberty House Group as a suitable purchaser of several ArcelorMittal steel plants, sold under commitments made by ArcelorMittal in order to buy Ilva. More information will be available in the public [case register](#) under the case numbers M.8444 and M.9172.

### **Mergers / Commission clears acquisition of Hansol Denmark and R+S Group by Iconex**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Hansol Denmark ApS of Denmark and R+S Group GmbH of Germany by Iconex LLC of the US. Both Hansol Denmark and the R+S Group are active in the conversion and supply of lightweight thermal paper for various end-products. More information will be available in the [public case register](#) under the case number M.9293.

*\*\*\*\* Implementing regulations & delegated acts \*\*\*\**

### **Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/665 of 17 April 2019 amending Decision 2005/270/EC establishing the formats relating to the database system pursuant to European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste**

The [new decision amending Decision 2005/270/EC](#) bring its provisions in line with the new recycling targets of Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste. This Decision should ensure a common calculation methodology and harmonized formats for reporting on packaging and packaging waste which should ease to monitor the implementation the Directive. Information should be integrated accordingly in all national databases.

### **Trade defense measures based on new anti-dumping methodology, Brussels 2 May 2019**

European Commission renewed its [anti-dumping](#) and [anti-subsidy](#) measures based on the [newly anti-dumping methodology](#) for imports from countries with significant market distortions. The measures aim to protect EU producers of organic coated steel, used mainly in the construction sector. The measures on Chinese imports put in place initially in 2013 will now be extended for another 5-year period.

### Court of Justice of the European Union

#### **Case C-689/17. Conti 11. Container Schiffahrts-GmbH & Co. KG MS "MSC Flaminia" v Land Niedersachsen. Judgment of the Court (Fifth Chamber) of 16 May 2019**

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) of the EU has pronounced a [judgement which clarifies the provision contained in Article 1\(3\)\(b\)](#) of Regulation 1013/2006 on shipments of waste, namely what residues are excluded from the scope of the regulation. It is the Court's opinion that when residues occur onboard and it is attributable to damage, it must be regarded as waste generated on board of ships, within the meaning of that provision. Such waste is therefore excluded from that regulation's scope until it is offloaded in order to be recovered or disposed of.

### European Chemical Agency

#### **RAC and SEAC opinions on PAH-content of granules from tyres' recycling**

ECHA committes' [opinion](#) for the proposed restriction of some PAHs (Polycyclic-aromatic hydrocarbons) in granules used as infill material in synthetic turf pitches or in loose forms on playgrounds. SEAC opinion is open for consultation until August 19<sup>th</sup> 2019. As these granules and mulches can stem from tyre's recycling, EuRIC is committed to prepare an answer to this consultation. A final decision from the Commission on the restriction of PAHs is expected in 2020, once SEAC opinion is finally adopted in September.



## Member States activities

### Italy

**Draft Regulation laying down standards governing end-of-waste status of absorbent hygiene products pursuant to Article 184-ter, subparagraph 2 of Legislative Decree No 152 of 3 April 2006.**

On May 15, 2019, Italian Ministry of the Environment signed the regulation scheme that governs the End-of-Waste status of absorbent products for the person. The [draft regulation](#) was notified to the EU Commission on 1 February 2019 for the mandatory screening of any technical regulation. Technical requirements are set out in annex 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Regulation.

## United Nations activities

Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

**14<sup>th</sup> COP of the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal / Norwegian proposal / Mixed plastic waste / Geneva, 9 May 2019**

The changes ([UNEP/CHW.14/CRP.40](#)) have categorized non-hazardous plastic waste that is not recyclable or is difficult to recycle as a waste requiring special consideration, and listed it in Annex II under the Basel Convention. This means contaminated and most mixtures of plastic wastes will require prior consent (notification procedure) from receiving countries before they are traded.

## Studies

**The Netherlands / National Institute for Public Health and the Environment / PFASs in food contact materials**

The aim of [the report](#) is to provide an overview of the available information on PFASs in Food Contact Materials (FCMs). The study outlines different legislations that are applicable to PFASs in FCMs in the EU, PFASs actual presence in FCMs and their migration potential. An approach to assess the risk of the cumulative exposure to a mixture of PFASs is also described.

## Events

**EU chemicals policy 2030: building on the past, moving to the future / Brussels, 27/28 June 2019**

High-level conference where the Commission would provide the outcomes of its recent evaluations and initiatives in the EU chemicals policies and all the relevant stakeholders could discuss opportunities and potential developments for the EU chemicals policy. More information and the registration link are available on the [Commission website](#).



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