
Newsletter of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

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Member Spotlight

EuRIC President Cinzia Vezzosi, President of the Metals Division of the Italian Federation ASSOFERMET.

What are the biggest opportunities and challenges for companies operating in Italy with regards to recycling?

The challenges are three-fold. From a value chain approach, producers and recyclers must find the framework to have structured discussions to ensure that products are designed not only to meet consumers' needs but also to ease their recyclability. From a more technical viewpoint, it is crucial to build a truly internal market for recycling and improving the interface between waste, products and chemical legislation. From a market-based point of view, the right mix between measures that push the supply of raw materials from recycling, (e.g. more separate collection) and measure that pull the demand for recycled materials (e.g. modulation of fees paid to take-back schemes based among others on products' recyclability).

As President of EuRIC and a Board member who actively participated to the foundation of the confederation, what do you see as being the main benefits of being a Member of EuRIC?

EuRIC stands for the European Recycling Industries' Confederation. EuRIC Members are National Recycling Federations representing more or less 6000 recycling companies processing different waste streams across Europe (metals, paper, plastics, glass, etc.). EuRIC advocates the interests of leading recycling companies of all sizes before EU institutions. EuRIC also offers a unique networking opportunity via its annual



conference, the next one taking place in Paris on 19 September 2019 in Paris.

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

It is absolutely crucial to render the entire European legislation applying to the recycling value chain more circular by, for example, simplifying waste shipment procedures to build a truly internal market for secondary raw materials or tackling major administrative and operational barriers to recycling. Single-Use Plastics Directive could work as an example since it was the first time that EU legislation set a requirement providing the right market signal to boost circularity in a sector (e.g. mandatory recycled content targets to pull the demand for recycled plastics in beverage bottles placed on the market).

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](#).**



European institutions activities

Publications Office of the European Union

Commissioner for the Environment Karmenu Vella / 'Virtuous Circle' Circular Economy / Mission on Waste Management / Budapest, 24 June 2019

In its [speech, Commissioner Vella](#) identifies the main challenges, solutions, strategies and opportunities to design, develop and implement successfully the actions of the circular economy package of 2015.

Official Journal of the European Union

Directive on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships / Brussels, 7 June 2019

Directive (EU) 2019/883 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships was published in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#) on 7 June 2019. This Directive aims to prevent discharges of waste from ships by improving the availability and use of adequate port reception facilities and the delivery of waste to those facilities. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 28 June 2021.

Implementing Decision laying down rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data on waste / Brussels, 20 June 2019

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1004 of 7 June 2019 laying down rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of data on waste was published in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#) on 20 June 2019. Article 7 of this Implementing decision establishes two different reporting formats for pre- (Annex iv) and post- 2020 (Annex v) periods to monitor the attainment of prepare for re-use and recycling targets. Secondly, Articles 8 and 9 set a new timescale for Member States to submit their quality check reports (i.e. within 18 months from the end of the reference year).



Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation (recast) / Brussels, 20 June 2019

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation (recast) was published in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#) on 20 June 2019. Twenty days after the publication, it will be directly applicable in the Member States. [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.

Regulation on market surveillance and compliance of products / Brussels, 20 June 2019

Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 on market surveillance and compliance of products was published in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#) on 20 June 2019. This Regulation will apply from 16 July 2021. In addition to strengthening market surveillance and providing a framework for controls at the EU border, this Regulation seeks to improve product compliance controls at the EU borders by laying down rules and procedures for economic operators. These new measures will apply especially on online sales.

European Commission

Public Consultation / Sustainable Batteries / Brussels, 13 June 2019

The Commission has launched a [public consultation on EU requirements for sustainable batteries](#) that could contribute to the evaluation of EU rules on waste batteries and accumulators. This consultation, will run until 8 August 2019. Based on the results of the evaluation, the new Commission will decide whether a legislative proposal revising or amending Directive 2006/66/EC should be presented.

EU funds / Support for SMEs

(i) The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Caixa Geral de Depósitos have signed a guarantee agreement under the COSME programme, providing €200 million financing to small and medium businesses (SMEs) in [Portugal](#);

(ii) The EIF and DBT Företagslån have signed a guarantee agreement under the InnovFin programme to mobilise €80 millions in favour of SMEs and mid-cap companies in [Sweden](#);

(iii) The EIF and Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws) have extended COSME Guarantee Facility agreement, providing additional €130 million financing to SMEs in [Austria](#);

(iv) The EIF and Banco BPM have signed an agreement allowing Banco BPM to make available €330 millions in loans to small and medium enterprises in [Italy](#);

(v) The EIF and HSBC France have signed a guarantee agreement under the InnovFIN programme to mobilise €200 million financing to SMEs in [France](#);

(vi) The European Investment Bank (EIB) and HSBC France have signed a guarantee agreement under the InnovFIN programme, providing €500 million financing to SMEs and mid-cap companies in [France](#).

Mergers / Standard Steel, Sumitomo and Nippon Steel Cooperation

The European Commission has approved the case number [M.9384 acquisition of Standard Steel Holdings, Inc. by Sumitomo Corporation and Nippon Steel Corporation](#). Standard Steel forges steel wheels and axles for the transport sector. Sumitomo is an integrated trading and investing company. NSC is active in the manufacturing and supply of steel products.

Mergers / IXM and CMOC

The European Commission has approved the case number [M.9252 acquisition of IXM by CMOC Limited](#). IXM is a global trader that sells base metal concentrates and refined metals, such as copper, and by-products, such as blister precious metal concentrates and cobalt. CMOC is active in mining, processing, smelting, deep processing, research and development and trade of copper, gold and other precious metals.



Council of the European Union

Council conclusions on an EU Industrial Policy Strategy: a Vision for 2030 / Brussels, 27 May 2019

In its [Conclusions of 27 May 2019](#), the Council has called for a specific action plan for an EU integrated industrial policy strategy for 2030. The action plan should include concrete measures and a timetable for implementation. The importance of the circular economy is mentioned several times. The Council has stressed that this strategy should become a top priority for the next Commission. In addition, the Council invites the Commission to complement the industrial strategy by targeted sectoral actions.

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions 2019 COPs / Statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States / Brussels, 28 May 2019

The Council of the European Union published a [compilation of statements](#) as delivered at the Conference of Parties' meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland from 29 April 2019 to 10 May 2019. Unless indicated otherwise, statements were delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Council conclusions on the Sustainable Chemicals Policy Strategy of the Union / Brussels, 26 June 2019

In its [Conclusions of 26 June 2019](#), the Council has urged the Commission to develop a Union strategy for a non-toxic environment. This strategy should be in line with the sound management of chemicals and waste, and linked to current EU policies, in particular the Circular Economy. It should also take into account the Commission's communication on the interface between chemicals, products and waste and its follow-up consultation. Lastly, this strategy should include clear medium to long term objectives for a comprehensive long-term sustainable EU chemicals policy.

Court of Justice of the European Union

ClientEarth v Commission Case C-458/19 P (appeal) / 14 June 2019

Following the negative [judgment of the General Court on 4 April 2019](#), ClientEarth appealed the General Court's decision before the Court of Justice of the European Union on [14 June 2019](#). ClientEarth demands the Commission being responsible to carry out an internal review of the authorisation for uses of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) given to three waste recycling companies.

European Chemical Agency (ECHA)

REACH restriction (proposal) / Microplastics / Tyres recycling / Helsinki, 20 March 2019

ECHA has submitted a [restriction report](#) on the use of intentionally added microplastics in consumer or professional use products. Granulated rubber made from End-of-Life tyres, and used as sports turf infill, is in the scope of the restriction. In the definition of the restriction, it contains intentionally added micro-plastics. EuRIC is committed to answer ECHA's public consultation (open until August 20th), in order to help ECHA assessing the consequence of such a restriction for tyre recycling activities.

REACH restriction (SEAC opinion) / PAH-content of granules from tyres' recycling / Helsinki, 14 June 2019

ECHA 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 has been released. [SEAC opinion](#) is open for consultation until August 19th 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.

Circular Plastics Alliance

Competitiveness Council / Information from the Commission to the Council / Boosting the European market for recycled plastics / Brussels, 27 May 2019

The Commission informed the Council about the [recent developments of the Circular Plastics Alliance](#), the voluntary industry agreement created to boost the internal market for recycled plastics (e.g. target of 10 million tons of recycled plastic into new products by 2025). The Commission invited interested Member States to a meeting held on 3 July 2019 with the members of the Circular Plastics Alliance. The aim of the meeting was to consider how Member States could support the implementation of the commitments.

Industry 2030 high level industrial roundtable

Final report / A vision for the European Industry until 2030 / June 2019

The Industry 2030 high level industrial roundtable was established by the European Commission in December 2017 to provide independent advice on future EU industrial policy action. [The report identifies specific recommendations](#) to boost the transformation of European industry, by stimulating innovation, strengthening the single market, and addressing regulatory obstacles.

Technical Expert Group (TEG) on sustainable finance

EU taxonomy for sustainable activities / 18 June 2019

On 18 June 2019, the TEG published its [Technical report on EU taxonomy](#), which sets out the basis for a future EU taxonomy in legislation, together with a [short summary](#). The report contains technical screening criteria for 67 activities across 8 sectors that can make a substantial contribution to climate change mitigation, worked examples and guidance for investors preparing to use the taxonomy. The TEG report on EU taxonomy is accompanied by a [call for feedback running until open until 13 September 2019](#).

Member States

Germany

Mergers / REMONDIS SE & Co. KG & DSD - Duales System Holding GmbH & Co. KG. / 11 July 2019

The Bundeskartellamt has [prohibited the proposed acquisition](#) by REMONDIS SE & Co. KG of all the shares in the dual system DSD - Duales System Holding GmbH & Co. KG. [In mid-April](#) the Bundeskartellamt informed the parties that it took a critical view of the proposed merger. The prohibition decision is not yet final. The parties have a month to appeal against the decision to the Düsseldorf Higher Regional Court.



Studies

European Commission / Material dependency of national energy development plans

Researchers have addressed for the first-time [material dependency effects on a nation's energy development plans](#), with the UK and Turkey as case studies. The study approach can be used to develop scenarios and track the source and availability of valuable scarce resources. An important extension of this study should include the effect of recycling policies on material dependency. Material dependency on other nations highlights the need to manage the use of material resources as efficiently as possible, in order to meet increasing energy demand.

European Commission / Biodegradable plastics / End-of-Life treatment

Scientists have tested the behavior of polyactic acid (PLA) and other five [biodegradable plastic](#) polymers in managed waste treatment conditions and simulated environmental conditions. They suggest that the best treatment for biodegradable plastics is industrial composting. Results of the study also show that biodegradable plastic should not be considered as a silver bullet for plastic pollution. If improperly managed at end-of-life, biodegradable plastic still contributes to pollute the environment.

European Commission Joint Research center / Recovering critical and other raw materials from landfills and mining waste

[The JRC report](#) delivers on action #39 of the Circular Economy Action Plan. It shows that the recovery of critical raw materials from waste is not yet a common practice in the EU, and is not always economically viable. Lessons learnt from the practices include awareness that it is very unlikely that recovery processes can target one or just a few specific materials of great interest and disregard other elements or bulk matrixes. A harmonised legislative framework within the EU appear to be crucial for the large-scale deployment of recovery practices.

European Environmental Agency / Preventing plastic waste in Europe / EEA Report No 2/2019

The EEA report '[Preventing plastic waste in Europe](#),' provides a state-of-play of plastic waste prevention in Europe. It mapped and analysed efforts across EEA Member Countries to address plastic waste generation through prevention measures. The EEA assessment identified 173 waste prevention measures either implemented in countries or planned for implementation. With the exception of national actions, such as a levy on plastic carrier bags, the majority of the identified prevention measures consist of voluntary agreements and information activities.
