
Newsletter of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

Monthly, Issue n°38, September 2019

Member Spotlight

EuRIC Board Member and Vice-President of EFR Mr. Daniel Houska, Committee Member and Consultant at SVDS and Head of Strategic Procurement and In-House Lawyer at Kvosrot Group CZ, Czech Republic

What are the biggest opportunities and challenges for recycling companies operating in the Czech Republic?

Many of the topics discussed on the European level are indeed relevant in the Czech Republic as well – take-back schemes, transboundary waste shipment (one has to wonder: do we operate within an internal market or not?), landfilling and waste-to-energy, to name a few. We looked very much forward to new Czech waste acts (draft acts are now about to be pushed through the Czech Parliament) that could've crowned the recent efforts made towards a circular economy by the European Commission, but the results have been quite pitiful so far. I'll give you two examples with regard to a hierarchy of waste: while increasing cost of landfill might keep some of the waste in a recycling value chain in fact it will just take waste-to-energy route as draft waste acts don't really create any necessary supplementary measures towards recycling. Another example could be waste-to-energy facilities that – when driven by market forces only – only accept waste of high calorific value in the winter months; in the summer months it all goes to landfills instead. To cut a long story short, recyclers are supposed to operate in an unlevel playing field yet deemed to fulfil other sustainable (environmental) goals as well; leaving us under such circumstances to the invisible hand creates a race-to-the-bottom environment and is upsetting.

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



I believe it's the best platform for information exchange. The level of expertise a member can get at any given time is second to none in the recycling industry. Given the reputation EuRIC has built up over the recent years we can approach

the local authorities as partners and, on the other hand, present practical experience from our local perspective to EuRIC that can reshape the advocacy as one can easily observe the policy and regulatory trends at European and national levels as a whole.

What are your priorities as Board Member of EuRIC and Vice-President of EFR?

In my opinion it's important to steer a growth as new branches are being constituted on the go. We've been very successful in growing our know-how and attracting new members/broadening our scope but my mind is equally focused on accommodating our long-term members in 'traditional' branches because without them there would be no EuRIC in the first place.



EuRIC activities



European Recycling Conference 2019 / Paris, 19 September 2019

It's that time of the year again! The third European Recycling Conference took place last week in Paris and was closely linked to FEDEREC JTN. The conference has counted no less than 150 registered participants and worked with an exceptional line up of speakers! The night has ended with a luxurious networking gala dinner on the River Seine. We hope you had a great time, managed to make new contacts and gained valuable insight into the actualities of the recycling industry. The presentations and photos will soon be available on our website. We would like to thank the speakers, FEDEREC and all the participants for a successful ERC 2019! We are already looking forward to seeing you next year in Madrid! Keep your eyes open as the details are coming soon.



seeing you next year in Madrid! Keep your eyes open as the details are coming soon.



EuRIC participates to bvse's Annual Conference and 70. Anniversary / Bonn, 18 September 2019

Policy Officer Julia Blees participated to bvse's annual conference, which also marked the association's 70. anniversary. In his speech, bvse President Bernhard Reiling made clear that today, as 70 years ago, the situation is clear: "Nobody represents the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises unless they themselves take over. That is the lesson of our 70-year-old association history and that is also the success story of the bvse", explained the president to 230 participants.

EuRIC signs Circular Plastic Alliance Declaration / Brussels, 20 September 2019

EuRIC has co-signed the Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA) Declaration during the High-level event organized by the European Commission. Sophie Sicard, Vice-President of EPRB represented EuRIC during the event held in Brussels and signed the declaration. EuRIC looks forward to work within the Circular Plastics Alliance to ensure that the European market for recycled plastics will grow steadily in the future.



EuRIC kicks off Textile Recycling Branch / Brussels, 27 September 2019

EuRIC has successfully held the first meeting to kick off its Textiles Branch with more than 20 representatives from different Textiles reuse and recycling Federations and companies from various European countries. The European Commission representatives present during part of the meeting welcomed the initiative. EuRIC would like to thank all participants for the fruitful discussions and

looks forward to continue the work on textiles led by Julia Blees.



Observer to Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste / September 2019

In September 2019, EuRIC has become an observer to the Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste. The Partnership was established by the 14th meeting of the Parties (COP) to the Basel Convention in May 2019 and welcomes representatives from Parties to the Convention and others dealing with the different aspects of prevention, minimization and management of plastic waste. Over 100 representatives from Parties, regional centers, industry, civil society and academia have registered their interest to join the Partnership working group.

European institutions activities

European Commission

New Commissioners 2019 – 2024 / Brussels, 9 September 2019

The European Commission's president-elect Ursula von der Leyen [signed off](#) on her list of nominees for the next Commission and the Council [adopted](#) the list of persons whom it proposes for appointment as members of the Commission until 31 October 2024. This decision will now be forwarded to the European Parliament and published in the Official Journal of the EU. The new Commission is due to take office on 1 November 2019.

Public Consultation / Circular bio-based Europe / Brussels, 11 September 2019

The Commission has launched an [open public consultation on the European Partnership for a circular bio-based Europe](#) that aims to support sustainably driven innovation creating new local value from waste and bio mass. This consultation will run until 6 November 2019. The objective of this public consultation is to seek the views of EU Research and Innovation stakeholders and citizens on the 12 proposed Institutionalised European Partnerships under the future Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme (2021-2027), such as the Circular bio-based Europe initiative.

Public Consultation / Hazardous substances in EEE / Brussels, 13 September 2019

The Commission has launched an [open public consultation on the RoHS Evaluation](#) that will contribute to the evaluation of EU rules on certain harmful substances in electrical and electronic equipment. This consultation will run until 12 October 2019. During the collection, treatment and disposal of the waste, the products may release harmful substances such as lead, mercury and cadmium. These hazardous substances may even be released during the use of the product. The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on how the restriction of hazardous substances in electronic products works in practice.

Brexit Preparedness / Brussels, 4 September 2019

The European Commission [has published](#) its 6th Brexit Preparedness Communication - reiterated its call on all stakeholders in the EU27 to prepare for a 'no-deal' scenario. In light of the continuing uncertainty in the United Kingdom regarding the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement and the overall domestic political situation, a 'no-deal' scenario on 1 November 2019, remains a possible, but undesirable, outcome.

EU funds / Support for SMEs

(i) Following the latest meeting of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Board of Directors, the [Juncker's European Strategic Plan for Strategic Investments](#) (EFSI) is now expected to trigger € 433.2 billion in investments. As of September 2019, the deals approved under the Juncker Plan amount to \$ 79.7 billion in financing and are located in all 28 Member States. Some 972,000 start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) are expected to benefit from improved access to finance.



(ii) The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Finland's state-owned specialised financing company Finnvera [have signed a deal](#) which will provide growth-seeking SMEs in Finland with nearly €190 million in fresh financing. The EIF will counter-guarantee Finnvera, which will guarantee lending by local banks, including Aktia Bank Plc, Fennia Mutual Insurance Company, Nordea Bank Abp, OP-Services Ltd, Oma Savings Bank Plc and Savings Banks' Union Coö.

Mergers / Commission clears joint venture between Toyota Tsusho and Maruti Suzuki

The [European Commission](#) has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over a newly created joint venture in India, by Toyota Tsusho India Private Limited (“TTIPL”) of India, its parent Toyota Tsusho Corporation (“TTC”) of Japan, and Maruti Suzuki India Limited (“MSIL”) of India. The joint venture will supply, dismantle and process end-of-life vehicles and market and sell scrap and other products generated from such activities in India.

Mergers/ Commission clears acquisition of Grupo Gallardo Balboa by KKR

The [European Commission](#) has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of control of Grupo Gallardo Balboa SLU of Spain by KKR & Co. Inc. of the US. Grupo Gallardo Balboa is the holding company of various steelmaking corporations that manufactures corrugated steel. KKR is a global investment firm.

European Parliament

Study on EU Environment and Climate Change Policies / Brussels, September 2019

The European Parliament [has released](#) a study on EU Environment and Climate Policies which outlines the state of play as well as current and future challenges.

European Parliament Delegation to the SDG and Climate Summits / New York, 23-25 September 2019

A 15-strong delegation of ENVI and DEVE Members participated in New York between 23 and 25 September to the [UN Summit on Sustainable Development Goals and the Climate Action Summit](#). The Climate Action Summit has been convened by UN SG António Guterres who called on all leaders to come up with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent, and to net zero emissions by 2050.

Council of the European Union

European Council publishes draft conclusions bioeconomy strategy mentioning circular economy / Brussels, 11 September 2019

The European Council [has published](#) the draft conclusions on the updated bioeconomy strategy “A sustainable bioeconomy for Europe; strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment”. The Council invites the Commission to secure policy coherence between the Bioeconomy and other policies, especially the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, integrated maritime policy, energy and climate, research policy, industrial policy, internal market policies and policies related to circular economy.

Court of Justice of the European Union

Plastics Europe v ECHA, Case T-636/17 / Luxembourg, 20 September 2019

In [Decision T-636/17](#), BPA has been identified as an endocrine disrupting substance for which there was scientific evidence of probable serious effects on human health. It is not only used as a precursor



in plastics production but it is also present in plastics and can affect recyclers when, as regulated, it is also contained in the recycled product.

ECHA

EU member states propose additions to REACH candidate list / Helsinki, 5 September 2019

ECHA [has published](#) EU member state proposals for the addition of four new chemicals to the REACH candidate list of substances of very high concern (SVHCs). Their inclusion, if approved by the agency's Member State Committee (MSC) or the European Commission following a public consultation, will bring up to 205 the total number of SVHCs on the list.

SCIP database on hazardous substances in articles / Helsinki, 9 September

The information requirements for the upcoming database on articles containing Candidate List substances (SVHCs) [are now published](#). Companies will need to submit information to the database from January 2021 onwards.

International Section

G7 Fashion Pact / Biarritz, 24 – 26 August 2019

Ahead of the G7 summit in Biarritz a new [Fashion Pact](#) was presented at the Presidential Palace. Thus far, 32 global fashion and textile companies, representing more than 150 brands and over 30% of the global market measured in production volume, have signed the Fashion Pact. They have committed to jointly achieving practical objectives in three essential areas to safeguard the planet: climate, biodiversity and oceans.

Basel Ban Amendment / Croatia, 6 September 2019

After Croatia's ratification, [the Basel Ban](#) will enter into force on 5 December 2019 and prohibit the export of hazardous wastes for 'final disposal' from Annex VII Countries to non-Annex VII Countries. The Ban will also prohibit export of hazardous wastes for recovery from Annex VII Countries to non-Annex VII Countries.

Studies

Newly published studies of interest for the recycling industry:

- (i) [Study to support the implementation of reporting obligations resulting from the new waste legislation adopted in 2018](#)
- (ii) [Study on investment needs in the waste sector and on the financing of municipal waste management in Member States](#)

Events

19th International Electronics Recycling Congress IERC 2020 / Salzburg, 23 – 24 January 2020

[IERC 2020](#) is the electronics recycling industry's leading event, bringing together more than 500 recycling professionals from around the globe: recyclers, technology and equipment providers, associations, NGOs, regulators, standardisation bodies and many more and will take place from 23 to 24 January 2020 in Salzburg.
