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Circular Economy Newsletter

We are pleased to share the **77th** edition of the **EuRIC Newsletter** featuring the latest key information regarding EU regulatory, institutional, and policy developments of interest to the recycling sector.



EuRIC EVENTS

28/09/23 15:30
De Warande, Brussels

5th European Recycling Conference


Special edition

Hosted by:  



Early bird rates for the ERC are now available!

Join us on 28 September at De Warande (Brussels) as we dive into the future of car recycling. This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights, network with industry experts, and explore the latest economic and policy aspects resulting from the ongoing changes in the automotive industry.

 Register now to secure your spot at a discounted early bird rate!

[Agenda and registration](#)



EuRIC UPDATES



Position paper on EuRIC's reaction to the Net Zero Industry Act

EuRIC is in alignment with the Commission's view on the **importance of improving the investment environment** for the Union's **manufacturing capacity of technologies**. Indeed, they are key to achieving the Union's climate neutrality targets and ensuring that our decarbonized energy system is resilient while contributing to the reduction of pollution for the benefit of public health and the environmental well-being of the planet.

[Read the position paper](#)



Press release calling for a CRM Regulation that promotes circularity in Europe

European recyclers **warn of a plethora of poorly justified proposed amendments found in ITRE's draft report** on the EU COM proposal on Critical Raw Materials. While many tabled proposals highlight the need for transparency, others propose the addition of materials to the annexes without the existence of such argumentation. **European recyclers strongly believe that any proposal in EU legislation must be backed up by an assessment based purely on scientific evidence.**

[Read the press release](#)



Joint statement on the need to include preparation for re-use and recycling technologies in the Net Zero Industry Act proposal

EuRIC, FEAD, and INGKA GROUP - an IKEA retailer, set out their views on the Net Zero Industry Act proposal, **intending to increase the ambition of the Commission's proposal** to meet the ambitious but necessary targets of both the EU Green Deal and, hence, the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP).

[Read the joint statement](#)



Press release on the pre-requisites needed to ensure the PPWR delivers

Following the first compromise proposals on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) by the European co-legislators, the European Recycling Industries' Confederation is making an **urgent plea to EU decision-makers for ensuring that the PPWR delivers on closing the loop.**

[Read the press release](#)



Press release on EuRIC support for the Czech proposal to lower VAT for products with recycled content

EuRIC warmly welcomes the **proposal made by the Czech Republic to the Council to explore lower VAT rates** for products made of recycled materials and recyclates. **Replacing extracted raw materials with recycled materials brings significant and well-documented environmental benefits**, both in terms of resource efficiency and climate and energy savings. These **environmental benefits are not internalized in prices**, although they are often the most important factor in consumers' choices and public procurement.

[Read the press release](#)



EuRIC is recruiting a Junior Policy Advisor

EuRIC is currently looking for a full-time **Junior Policy Advisor** to join our team. The responsibilities include:

- Monitoring and analysing relevant political & legal developments that affect the recycling industry at European level;
- Drafting policy statements and positions as well as preparing responses to public consultations based on members' input;
- Advocating EuRIC positions before the European institutions and at relevant events;
- Organize relevant committees and working group activities.

The closing date for applications is **13 July**. Don't hesitate to spread the word!

[Read the job offer](#)



EuRIC participated in EWR Awards Ceremony

EuRIC Policy Director Julia Blees participated as a juror in the annual **European Week for Waste Reduction** (EWR) Awards Ceremony which took place on 1 June in Dublin. After previous careful consideration among all jurors, the names of the most outstanding awareness-raising actions on waste reduction were revealed during the ceremony. EuRIC congratulates all winners & finalists!

EuRIC participated in the Policy Hub event Julia Blees, EuRIC Policy Director, spoke at the **Policy Hub event** “Harmonised EPR for Textiles: Positioning the EU at the Forefront of a Sustainable Textile Market” on 6 June 2023 in Brussels. She shared the views of the textile reuse and recycling industry about EPR schemes and highlighted that the ecomodulation of fees must be aligned with the ESPR and that representatives from the end-of-life phase must be represented in the administration of an EPR scheme.



EuRIC visited the Comet Group recycling plant in Obourg

On 9 June, Emmanuel Katrakis, Secretary General, and Florence le Levreur, Communication advisor, visited the Obourg recycling site. The visit provided an opportunity to discover the entire **COMET Group** ecosystem and its many research and development activities notably the Multipick robotised sorting unit.

ERA Working Group in Berlin

On 20 June, EuRIC executives from across Europe gathered in Berlin today to discuss the top priorities for the recycling industry. From the Waste Shipment Regulation to the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, the Waste Framework Directive, and many other topics, the day's agenda was packed, and fruitful discussions took place. EuRIC wishes to thank again its German member, **VDM**, for hosting the meeting.

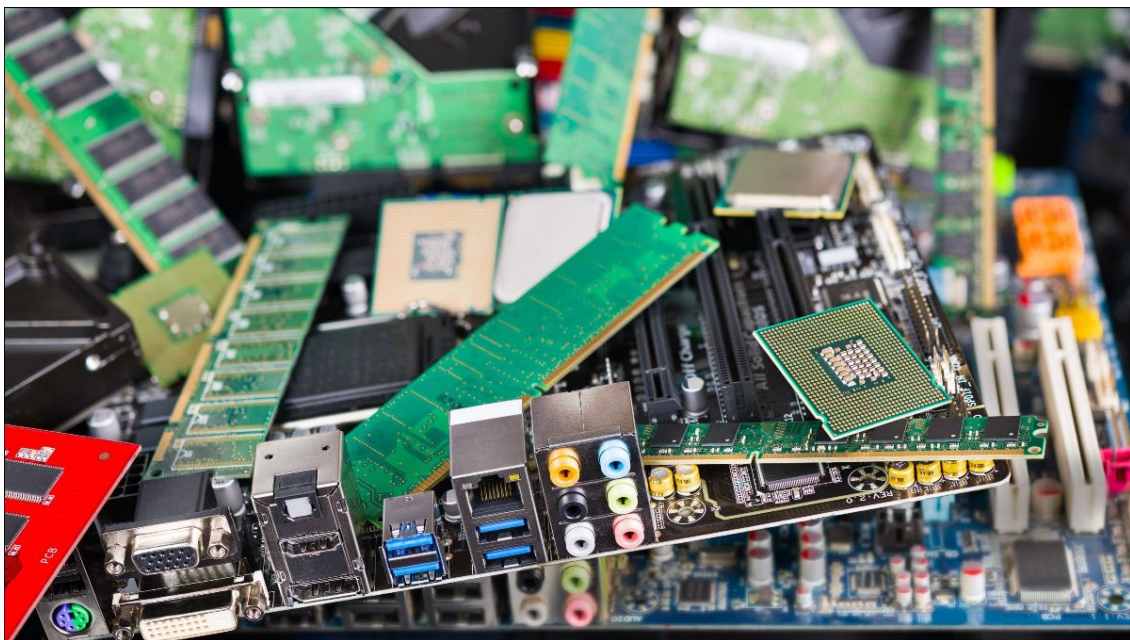




On 22 June, EuRIC Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis spoke at the **IARC**, the international platform for discussing the latest developments and challenges in the circular economy and automotive recycling. Along with representatives from across the value chain, he participated in a panel discussion on the implications of the upcoming ELV revision for the industry and other stakeholders.



POLICY UPDATES



Public consultation on WEEE

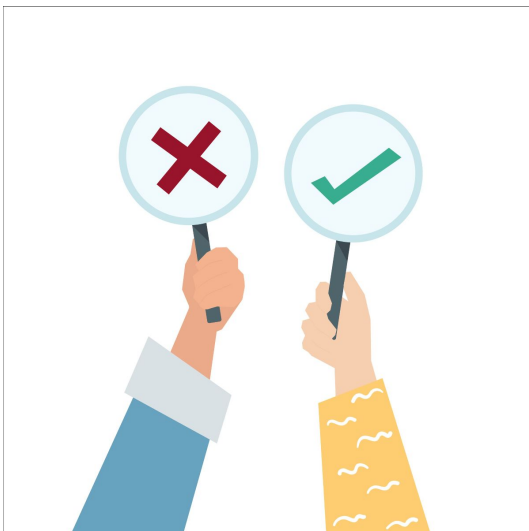
European Commission opens **public consultation on waste from electrical and electronic equipment from 16 June 2023 until 22 September 2023** (midnight Brussels time). The public consultation aims to gather evidence and feedback from a wide range of stakeholders who have had a role in implementing the WEEE Directive and/or otherwise engaged by its targets and objectives.

[Read more and give feedback](#)



Plastic Treaty

On 16 June, the Council of EU published a **note on information** from Presidency and Commission on the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution by the end of 2024. This high-level meeting organized by the United Nations took place in Paris from 29 May to 2 June.



Spain assumes the Presidency in the second half of 2023, from 1 July to 31 December. The Spanish Presidency has established **four priorities** for its semester:

1. Reindustrialise the EU and ensure its open strategic autonomy
2. Advance in the green transition and the environmental adaptation
3. Promoting greater social and economic justice
4. Strengthening European unity



The European Commission published the “Waste Early Warning Report” identifying Member States at risk of not meeting the 2025 preparing for re-use and recycling target for municipal waste, the 2025 recycling target for packaging waste, and the 2035 municipal waste landfilling reduction target. **Nine Member States are on track to meet the 2025 targets:** Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

On 13 July, the European Environment Agency (EEA) announced the publication of two briefings. These briefings "**Environment and climate pressures from household consumption in Europe**" and "**Conditions and pathways for sustainable and circular consumption in Europe**" analyse developments in Europe's consumption volumes and look into opportunities for making household consumption more circular and sustainable.



Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence

- European Parliament publishes adopted **amendments** on proposal for Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence.

Textiles

- European Parliament publishes **press release** and **adopted text** of Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles.

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

European Parliament publishes:

- Committee on Industry, Research and Energy's (ITRE) amendments (**1,2,3**) to draft report on proposal for PPWR.
- Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection's (IMCO) amendments (**1,2**) to draft report on proposal for PPWR.

Construction Products

- European Parliament publishes **voting results** on Committee on Internal Market and Consumer (IMCO) draft report on proposal for Regulation laying down harmonised conditions for marketing of construction products (CPR).

Waste electrical and electronic equipment

- Council of EU publishes **outcome of proceedings** on mandate for negotiations with European Parliament on proposal for WEEE directive.
- European Parliament publishes Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI)'s **draft report** on proposal for WEEE directive.

Ecodesign

phones.

- European Parliament publishes **adopted text** of Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) report on establishing framework for setting eco-design requirements for sustainable products.

Critical Raw Materials

- European Parliament publishes Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) **amendments** to draft opinion on sustainable supply of critical raw materials.

Batteries

- European Parliament publishes **press release** from plenary debate and vote on Regulation on Batteries and Waste Batteries.
- Council of EU publishes **note** on European Court of Auditors' Special Report on EU's industrial policy on batteries.



EU- FUNDED PROJECTS & OPPORTUNITIES

GREEN ASSIST

The expert advice to make your investment **greener**

APPLY TODAY

#GreenAssist



New advisory initiative aiming at building a pipeline for green investment projects

and delivered under InvestEU with funding from the LIFE programme.

This initiative aims to provide **free, on-demand and customised advisory services for project promoters who develop green investment projects** in environmental and non-environmental sectors.

You can apply to GREEN ASSIST if you are developing a project (of any size and scope) that:

- aims to help the environment, but is facing technical challenges (for example, an idea to improve energy efficiency);
- aims to help the environment, but is facing business challenges (for example, review of business models, cashflow analysis and identification of funding sources);
- has a business case, but is aiming to improve its environmental impact.

[Download the info sheet](#)



CIMPA teams up with other 6 EU-funded projects on plastics circularity

Under the umbrella “Circular Plastics Cluster” **CIMPA joins forces with six other EU-funded projects to promote the innovative solutions that are being developed to boost plastic recycling and circularity.** The Circular Plastics Cluster aims to boost

As one of the first activities, **the cluster shared a booth during the Plastic Recycling World Expo**, which took place on 14-15 June in Essen (Germany). The project partners were able to present their project results as well as introduce the cluster and upcoming joint activities to the visitors. In addition, members of the cluster spoke at various sessions of the conference. Maria Vera from EuRIC took part in an industry debate on the use of recycled plastics in packaging.



ABSoleEU project

Alejandro Navazas, EuRIC Scientific and Policy Advisor participated in the 3rd Project Meeting of **ABSoleEU Project** in Gothenburg (Sweden). EuRIC is part of the Advisory Board of this project which is an initiative funded under the EU's Horizon Europe Programme. It is simultaneously a multilateral collaboration that **aims to pave the way to circularity for the ubiquitous plastic ABS**, found in durable products from toys and other consumer goods to automotive components, and therefore revolutionise the current state of the art of ABS recycling in Europe and beyond.



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