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## Circular Economy Newsletter | April 2024

We have summarised for you all the latest news on the EU files affecting the recycling industry, highlighted events you cannot miss, recommended must-read articles and provided a recap of our advocacy efforts for the recycling industry's interests.

***Before you scroll down,  
register for EuRIC's e-waste recycling event!***

The European Commission's Director of Circular Economy, **Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea** and the European Environment Agency's Circular Economy expert **Ioannis Bakas** will be there to deliver the keynote speech and presentation. Our event is a **unique opportunity for networking and insights from top EU officials and leading environmental experts.**

**REGISTER NOW**

A promotional banner for an event. The background is white with orange and grey accents. On the left, there's a stylized illustration of a person in a white protective suit. In the center, a large white circle contains the text 'Plug into sustainability' and 'E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below this, the date '3 JUNE 2024' is written in a large, bold, black font, with 'BluePoint Brussels, 14:00 - 18:00' in a smaller black font underneath. On the right, there's a white bin filled with e-waste (laptop, mouse, keyboard) and the EuRIC logo. The text 'Hosted by EuRIC' is written above the logo. The overall design is clean and modern.



## Right to Repair/Ecodesign

**Right to Repair Directive (R2R):** On 23 April, the European Parliament adopted the “right to repair” directive with 584 votes in favour, 3 against and 14 abstentions. The new rules clarify manufacturers' obligations and encourage consumers to extend a product's lifecycle. The aim is to reduce waste and bolster the repair sector by making repairs more cost-effective and accessible. Extending the lifespan of products and promoting reparability, reduces electronic waste and paves the way for more recyclability. Repairable products are often designed with disassembly and recycling in mind, making it easier to extract valuable materials for reuse in manufacturing processes. Read more details [here](#).

**ESPR:** During their last plenary session MEPs also gave the nod to the provisional agreement on the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation. The **final text** requires online marketplaces to comply with the ESPR, introduces a Digital Product Passport (DPP), enhances transparency, empowers consumers' sustainable choices and facilitates product repairs and recycling.

EuRIC strongly welcomes these provisions, which pave the way for making products in the EU more environmentally friendly, circular and energy efficient throughout their lifecycle, but while we applaud the measures to increase transparency, and welcome the ban on the destruction of unsold products, we deplore that the ban fails to consider the role of recycling. Recycling should not be considered destruction; it's a resource recovery process, crucial for extending the lifecycle of materials.

[Read more in our statement](#)



## E-waste

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) amending Directive entered into force on 8 April 2024. Member States will have until 9 October 2025 to transpose the Directive into national law.



## Critical Raw Materials

In 2024, the Commission is expected to request standards for the recycling of permanent magnets. As part of its **2024 Annual Union Work Programme (AUWP)**, the Commission set out its intention to present a draft Commission Implementing Decision requesting EU standardisation organisations (ESOs) to develop standards for the recycling of permanent magnets. The expected Commission Implementing Decision would request ESOs to develop new European standards to improve the processes for the circular design, production, reuse and recycling of vehicles and their components. A detailed timeline for the adoption of such standards is expected to be communicated in due course.

💛 On 25 April, the European Commission and China agreed on a new joint roadmap on circular economy. The roadmap includes specific actions on plastics, battery value chains & remanufacturing. In particular, both sides agreed to extend the Memorandum of Understanding for five years and to jointly develop a Circular Economy Roadmap supporting its implementation. The roadmap will be implemented throughout 2024 and reviewed at the next High-Level Dialogue on Circular Economy, where priorities and potential new activities to include in the roadmap will be agreed upon. Read more [here](#).

💛 The United States still hopes to reach a critical minerals agreement with the European Union that would allow electric vehicle batteries made by European manufacturers to qualify for certain tax breaks provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, a top U.S. trade official told Politico in early April.



## Batteries

In a joint position paper, EuRIC and FEAD have jointly urged the European Commission to outline clear guidelines for removing and replacing portable and LMT batteries. Understanding how to remove and replace a battery is the first step towards proper disposal, contributing to achieving collection targets and speeding up the recycling process, thereby advancing a circular economy.

[Read our joint position paper](#)



## Textiles

During the Environmental Council of 25 March, the delegations of France, Denmark and Sweden **urged** the Commission to subject textile waste to the control mechanisms of the Basel Convention in an effort to address the issue of increasing textile waste. This call threatens the textile value chain's circular economy efforts and could potentially lead to reusable and recyclable textiles being incinerated or landfilled. We've released a position paper explaining why.

### Read more in our position paper

In response to their call, EuRIC has been highly vocal about the wrongful nature of this request and the potential implications its implementation could have on Europe's reuse and recycling industry. The latter is already grappling with insufficient demand for recycled materials, a situation further exacerbated by the recent provisions of the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) revision. The new rules for waste shipments already impose stricter measures on exports. When combined with a potential obligation for a prior notification procedure, they could precipitate the collapse of the reuse and recycling industry in Europe.

In a statement that was circulated widely in the media, **EuRIC warned that the industry responsible for sorting discarded textiles for reuse and recycling is on the brink of collapse across Europe**. If textiles can no longer be collected and sorted in Europe, all industry efforts to create a sustainable textile value chain in a circular economy would be in vain.

### Read our statement

**Ecolabel (Textiles and Footwear Review):** Commission Provides Information on State of Play of Expected Revision of Ecolabel Criteria: In 2024, the Commission is expected to continue its preparatory work ahead of the expected revision of the Ecolabel criteria for textiles and footwear set out respectively in Commission Decision 2014/350/EU and Commission Decision (EU) 2016/1349. The EU Eco-labelling Board (EUEB) met on 18 April 2024 and the EC made available a presentation on the expected revision on 24 April 2024.



## Waste Shipments

The **final text** of the revised Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) has been published in the EU's official journal. The new rules aim to ease shipments of waste for reuse and recycling in the EU, to support the transition to a circular economy, ensure that waste exported from the EU is managed in an environmentally sound manner in the destination countries, and step up enforcement to counteract illegal shipments of waste.

[Read our reaction to the final WSR adoption](#)



## Packaging

On 24 April, the European Parliament **approved** new EU rules to reduce, reuse and recycle packaging waste in the EU. The regulation, which aims to tackle constantly growing waste, harmonise internal market rules and boost the circular economy, was approved with 476 votes in favour, 129 against and 24 abstentions. The text will now undergo a lawyer-linguist review and following June's elections, it will go to the Parliament and the Council for final endorsement. You can find the adopted text **here**. Reacting to the vote, EuRIC has issued a comprehensive Press Release praising the final text and acknowledging the challenges and the thorny issues for its achievement, as well highlighting some remaining concerns.

[Read more in our press release](#)

The latest EPRS European Parliamentary Research Service briefing on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) is available online! Read the briefing **here**.



## Plastics

During the Parliament's last plenary session, EU lawmakers rejected Jutta Paulus' **motion for a resolution** objecting to the Commission's proposed method for calculating recycled

plenary vote, despite both MEPs' and our [industry's calls](#) warning that the proposed fuel-exempt use mass balance approach would unlevel the playing field between recycling technologies. We have issued a Press Release reacting to the vote result and highlighting the need for legal safeguards that will ensure the complementarity of chemical recycling, in cases where plastic waste cannot be recycled mechanically.

The proposed method by the Commission could allow the set recycled targets to be manipulated through creative reporting methods using a flexible mass balance system. This system could allow not only plastics but also other materials to be counted towards recycling targets without necessarily promoting packaging circularity. EuRIC has been [actively advocating](#) for the priority of mechanical recycling and has repeatedly warned against SUPD's approach. In a joint letter with other associations, NGOs and companies, EuRIC urged MEPs to greenlight Paulus' motion and challenge the EC's approach, citing the risks of greenwashing and unfair competition.

[Read more in our press release](#)



## Net-Zero

On 25 April, the European Parliament [approved](#) the Net-Zero industry Act, which aims to make the EU internal market fit for industrial decarbonisation, by supporting the manufacturing of key technologies needed for EU's climate and energy objectives. The legislation was adopted with 361 votes to 121, with 45 abstentions. It will now have to be formally adopted by Council in order to become law.



## Other EU files

### Green Claims Directive:

The Council of the EU has published a compromise text by the Belgian Presidency on the Green Claims Directive. Read the compromise text [here](#).


The directive would oblige companies to provide robust and verifiable scientific evidence for their environmental marketing claims before labelling products as “biodegradable”, “less



greenwashing, attention is still needed on labelling, verification, and addressing hazardous substances.

## | EuRIC EVENTS

### Highlights from our tyre recycling event!

Highlights from EuRIC's tyre recycling event  **Reinventing the Wheel: Advancing Tyre Recycling**, which gathered the whole value chain to send a strong message to policymakers!

What are the key requirements for tyres circularity?

These include improved ecodesign of tyres, mandatory recycled content targets either in new tyres or other applications, and chemical legislation for recycled materials from tyres based on risk assessment rather than the precautionary principle, all fostered by harmonised EU-wide End-of-Waste criteria. Collaboration between industry and policymakers is essential to tackle the economic uncertainties and the ill-suited overregulation that currently undermine the industries' sustainability efforts and the EU's circular economy goals.



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**Upcoming events**

**JUNE 3** EuRIC WEEE - Plug Into Sustainability: E-waste Recycling **REGISTER NOW**

**SEPT 26** 6th European Recycling Conference x EuRIC 10th anniversary

**EuRIC**  
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**Make sure you join the conversation at key EuRIC events taking place in the coming months!**

 **3 June - EuRIC WEEE - Plug Into Sustainability: E-waste Recycling!**

Register [here](#)

 **26 September - 6th European Recycling Conference (ERC) x EuRIC 10th anniversary!**

More information [here](#).

Register now and be part of the conversation!

[Discover our events & register](#)

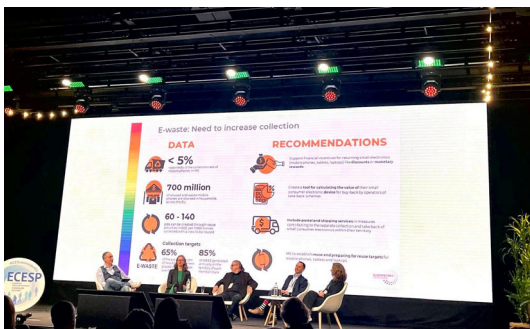




**Introducing Philippe Doliger and the Boer Group:** There's no better way to introduce Philippe Doliger, our new Policy Advisor covering the textiles and paper branches, than by immersing him in the world of textile reuse and recycling in action. On 24 April, Philippe visited **Gebotex**, the oldest sorting company within the Boer Group Holland, situated at Kilkade in Dordrecht. Gebotex's core activities consist of purchasing, sorting, packaging, and exporting used textiles worldwide. Mariska Boer, the President of EuRIC's Textile Reuse and Recycling Branch, explained the sorting and recycling process in detail.



**What happens in Vegas, does not stay in Vegas:** It circulates around the world, echoing Europe's message on the topics that will impact the recycled materials industry. In mid-April, EuRIC's Secretary General Julia Bles presented EU recyclers' priorities and the megatrends at the EU level, during #ISRI2024, the world's largest event for the recycled materials industry. And the best news? ISRI, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, the world's biggest recycling association, has rebranded as the Recycled Materials Association (ReMA).



**EuRIC at WCEF 2024:** How can circular business models cater for Critical Raw Materials?" Rikarnto Bountis, our Senior Technical Advisor, addressed this pivotal question at the World Circular Economy Forum WCEF. His key message? There

## Interesting reads



The latest edition of the **magazine from FER**, the Federación Española de la Recuperación y el Reciclaje's is now available, featuring an in-depth interview with EuRIC's Secretary General Julia Blee! Read all about EuRIC's 2024-2029 priorities, how we're responding to the EU's regulatory tsunami, and the upcoming challenges and opportunities for Europe's recycling industry, [here](#).

A heartfelt thank you to our Spanish member for this excellent opportunity to share our insights and views!



The European Commission has published its Ecodesign Impact Accounting (EIA) Overview Report for 2023, which collects, elaborates and sums data for all products regulated under Ecodesign, Energy Labelling, ENERGY STAR\* and Tyre Labelling.

The accounting covers 340 products from 41 product groups, organised in 12 functional groups: space heating, space cooling, water heating, ventilation, lighting, electronics, food preservation, cooking, cleaning, industry components, transport (tyres) and energy sector (utility transformers).

## | Updates from the CIMPA Project



EuRIC organised with the support of the Commission, the Innovation Forum 4 Plastics that took place on 19 April in Brussels, in line with the WCEF. It was a clustering event that will gather EU funded projects and plastic recycling stakeholders to discuss innovative solutions and policy developments to foster the circularity of plastic value chains.

**Missed our event? Read the Press Release!**



[Read the press release](#)

[Explore CIMPA's website](#)

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International Automotive  
Recycling Congress

# iarc 2024

June 19-21, 2024  
Antwerp, Belgium

[Register now](#)

## ***IARC 2024 agenda is out!***

The program for IARC 2024 is now live!

Two days of dynamic presentations and debates covering topics directly influencing the industry's present and future. Profit from the early bird until April 30, 2024 and register now!

**Discover the agenda [here](#).**



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