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Circular Economy Newsletter

Breaking Europe's recycling in the name of saving it

Is Europe really facing a scrap metal crisis, or it's just a convenient policy narrative? With possible additional EU recycled metal export restrictions looming, the future of recycling is on the line. Will the EU sacrifice its own recycling industry to bail out domestic manufacturers under the guise of decarbonisation?

[Read EuRIC's article here](#)

| EuRIC's EU policy monitoring



Metals

scale penalises recycled materials, undermines circularity benefits, blurs the line between high- and low-carbon steel, distorts markets, and risks greenwashing. EuRIC calls for scientifically sound, transparent LCA methodologies and mandatory local recycled content targets to effectively reduce CO₂ emissions and support circularity.

[Read our latest position](#)



Waste Shipments

EuRIC recently participated in a workshop on facilitating EU-India trade in recycled materials - particularly metals, paper, and textiles - as part of an EU Delegation in India / EEAS project aimed at ensuring sound implementation of the EU Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR). Following EuRIC's recommendations, the project's survey on the main concerns around the EU-India trade impacts has been opened to EU exporters and includes questions on the new WSR audit obligation. Broad participation from recycling companies is encouraged to help shape the project's focus in line with the sector's interests.

Waste shipments – interoperability of systems for electronic submission and exchange of information and documents: The European Commission has taken [EuRIC's concerns](#) into account in the EU Implementing Act on interoperable electronic systems under the EU Waste Shipment Regulation. Notably, the Commission addressed EuRIC's key issue with subsequent operations, as outlined in points 14 and 15 of part B of annex II in the final draft. Additionally, the redraft of Article 9 now provides more flexibility by no longer mandating the EORI number. However, the 5 working days deadline in Article 7 remains unchanged. The final text was adopted by comitology on 16 April, and it is now with DG Translation, pending publication.



ELVs

for vehicle design and the management of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). Looking ahead, the European Parliament will hold a joint meeting of the IMCO and ENVI Committees in May 2025 to vote on the draft Report and its amendments. Plenary adoption is expected in June 2025, which will establish the European Parliament's negotiating position on the proposal.

At the same time, the Council will continue refining its compromise text, with further meetings planned to reach a stable agreement. Once consensus is reached, the compromise text will be voted on by Member States' Ministers. If approved, it will become the Council's negotiating position (General Approach). Finally, trilogues between the European Parliament, the Council, and the Commission will begin once both institutions have finalised their positions, with these negotiations expected to start in the second half of 2025.

EuRIC has published a joint statement with FEAD highlighting the urgent need for a strong, fair, and transparent regulatory framework to make the automotive sector truly circular. As discussions on the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulation (ELVR) continue, the statement calls on policymakers to introduce independent oversight, avoid overreliance on EPR schemes, and ensure producers cover full recycling costs. To drive investment and boost the use of recycled materials, EuRIC and FEAD also advocate for maintaining the 25% recycled content target for plastics and introducing a mandatory target for recycled steel.

[Read our joint statement](#)



Chemicals

The ENVI Committee meeting, held in late April, included an update on PFAS, though Commissioner Roswall was absent. Commission representatives responded to MEPs' questions, revealing a possible difference in approach between DG ENV - urgently pushing for restrictions - and DG GROW, which emphasised a more measured, risk-based process. The Commission noted that new evidence on PFAS would have led to stricter limits in the Drinking Water Directive had it been available earlier, suggesting future developments might lead to tougher restrictions.

The restriction process is said to be moving as quickly as possible, but progress is pending the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) technical assessment. Importantly, the

The Commission confirmed that PFAS regulation will proceed under the current REACH framework and is not tied to the upcoming REACH revision - despite earlier CARACAL discussions suggesting some overlap. They aim to finalise the REACH revision by Q4 2025. The Commission also expressed support for Member States developing their own PFAS restrictions, though this was not clearly formalised. Meanwhile, critical uses such as in pesticides are being regulated under other legal frameworks to avoid delays.



Textiles

As the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) advances its work on developing End-of-Waste (EoW) criteria for textiles, EuRIC has published a statement calling for a practical, market-oriented approach. We need a framework that supports flexibility, fosters innovation, and remains accessible—especially for SMEs. Recycling should be enabled, not hindered. Excessive administrative complexity risks delaying progress and discouraging innovation. EuRIC calls for the EoW criteria to be designed to propel the circular economy forward—not hold it back.

[Read our statement](#)

On 30 April, the European Commission, the Polish Council Presidency, and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) co-organised a COP17 Basel side-event titled "What Role for the Basel Convention to Ensure Sustainability of Global Trade in Textile Waste(s)?". At the [panel](#), several speakers—particularly from the Environmental Investigation Agency and Bangladesh—criticised the global trade in used textiles and textile waste, calling for stricter controls under the Basel Convention, such as applying the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure or classifying textile waste as hazardous due to its synthetic content. The European Commission (DG ENV) clarified that no new measures will be proposed at COP17 but encouraged input ahead of OEWG-15 in 2026 and COP18 in 2027, with all options still open. Representatives from Chile and Zambia raised concerns about the impact of secondhand textile imports on local industries and suggested unsorted used textiles should be treated as waste. The Basel Action Network advocated limiting trade codes B3030 and B3035 to clean, natural-fibre textiles only.



Tyres

MEPs of the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI) will meet on 13 May 2025 to confirm the text of the provisional agreement on the Commission's proposal aimed at preventing plastic pellet losses and reducing microplastic pollution. This agreement, which follows trilogue discussions, will focus on addressing the release of microplastics, including those from tyres, textiles, and paint.

The Commission's strategy, first presented in January 2018, aims to tackle the environmental challenges posed by plastics across the entire value chain. Specific to tyres, the Commission is considering measures to reduce microplastic pollution by introducing minimum design requirements for tyres, such as improved abrasion and durability, along with possible labelling and information requirements. The strategy also includes developing methods to assess microplastic losses from tyres, with targeted research and development funding to support these efforts.



Construction & Demolition

EuRIC is part of the coalition launching the Green Public Procurement for Construction initiative at the European Parliament on Wednesday, 21 May, from 16:30 to 18:00. The event, hosted by two MEPs, will gather stakeholders from the construction value chain and will include a presentation, a panel discussion (with EuRIC as a speaker), and a networking cocktail.



Batteries

EuRIC has actively participated in preparing the [Industry Guidance for Collecting, Handling, and Treating Waste Lithium Batteries](#), which provides good practice examples to mitigate risks and support health and safety across the waste lithium battery chain, while referencing legal obligations where relevant



Ecodesign

The European Commission adopted on 16 April the [2025–2030 Working Plan for the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation](#) (ESPR) and the Energy Labelling Regulation. The plan outlines priority product groups to be targeted with ecodesign and energy labelling requirements over the next five years - promoting more sustainable, repairable, circular, and energy-efficient products across the EU. This aligns with the goals of the Clean Industrial Deal and the Competitiveness Compass.

Priority products include steel and aluminium, textiles (with a focus on apparel), furniture, tyres, and mattresses - chosen for their high potential to contribute to the circular economy.



Net-Zero

CBAM: As part of the Clean Industrial Deal, the European Commission has announced it will conduct a review of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in Q3 2025, with a focus on assessing an extension of the mechanism to additional sectors and products. Currently, the CBAM only covers sectors like steel and aluminium, excluding scrap.

The Commission's Informal Expert Group on CBAM is scheduled to meet on 15 May 2025. The group will discuss the Commission's proposal to simplify Regulation (EU) 2023/956 (CBAM Regulation).

CISAF: The European Commission is developing a new State Aid Framework - the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework ([CISAF](#)) - to support the objectives of the Clean Industrial Deal (CID), with adoption expected in June 2025. The CISAF will establish clear rules on how Member States can design state aid measures in line with EU internal market rules, while also aiming to simplify and accelerate approval procedures. A public consultation on the draft CISAF was open until 25 April.

EuRIC has co-signed a letter to Executive Vice-Presidents Teresa Ribera and Stéphane Séjourné, urging the European Commission to include explicit support for circularity measures under the Clean Industrial State Aid Framework (CISAF). While the Clean Industrial Deal rightly prioritises circularity to strengthen Europe's resource efficiency, reduce CO₂ emissions, cut costs, and enhance resilience, the current CISAF draft

increase material circularity to 24% by 2030, jeopardising both its climate and industrial objectives. EuRIC and its partners call on the Commission to make circularity a core pillar of Europe's industrial transformation, ensuring the Clean Industrial Deal delivers on its full promise.

Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act: The European Commission has opened a call for feedback on the Impact Assessment for the Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act, a key initiative under the Clean Industrial Deal that aims to accelerate the decarbonisation of Europe's energy-intensive industries.

The initiative, planned as a regulation in late 2025, seeks to address permitting delays, support priority decarbonisation projects, and foster European lead markets for low-carbon industrial products. The public consultation is open until July 9. More information on the Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act can be found [here](#). More information on the Commission's call for feedback [here](#).



Sustainable Finance

The EU Platform on Sustainable Finance has officially [concluded](#) its mandate, following the final webinar on its final report. Over the past two years, the Platform has played a key role in shaping the EU Taxonomy and the broader sustainable finance framework. Its mission focused on simplifying reporting requirements while ensuring alignment across the EU's sustainable finance tools, enhancing the effectiveness of the EU Taxonomy, and developing robust technical screening criteria for economic activities. The Platform also introduced a methodology for the first monitoring of capital flows into sustainable finance and advanced work on transition finance by providing clarity on transition products, credible transition plans, and their alignment with the Taxonomy.

Its website will remain online as a resource for policymakers, market participants, and stakeholders involved in sustainable finance. While some workstreams are still ongoing, the groundwork is firmly in place for the next Platform and future initiatives. A new mandate for the Platform will be launched soon.

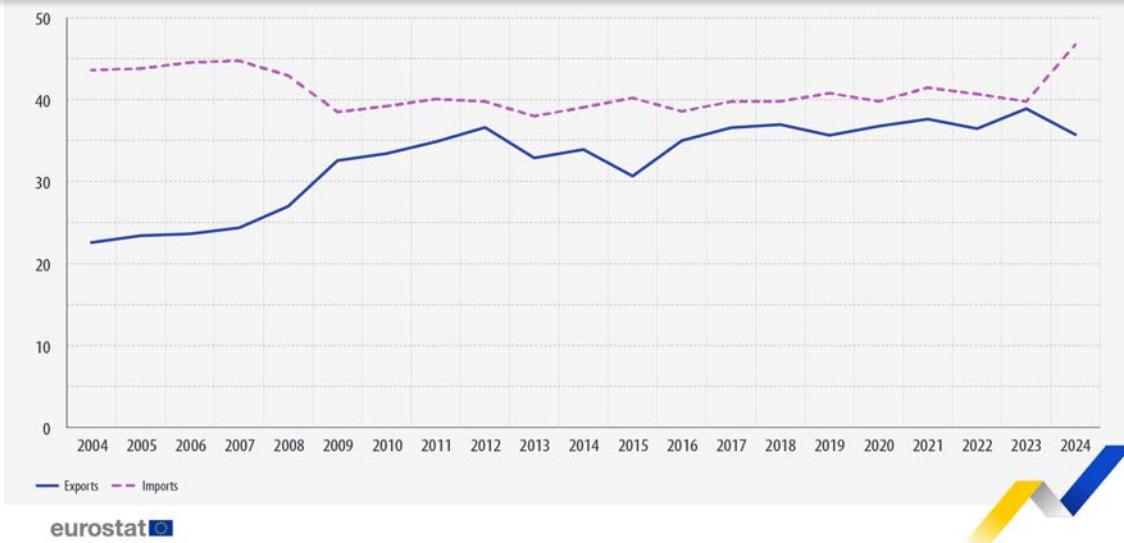


On 30 April, COREPER I examined several key environmental and circular economy files. These include the End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) Regulation proposal, with guidance provided for further work; a Presidency debrief on the outcome of the Green Claims trilogues; and the final compromise text of the Regulation on preventing plastic pellet losses.

Highlights



Can circularity move from a big idea to real action as Europe faces climate change, supply risks, and global tensions? With the Circular Economy Act coming soon, EuRIC shares key proposals to boost material autonomy, support recycling, cut emissions, and make Europe's industries stronger and greener. EuRIC's policy recommendations were recently shared with Europe's Environment, Water Resilience & Competitive Circular Economy Commissioner, Jessika Roswall, during a meeting with EuRIC President Olivier Francois, Vice-President Peter Hodecek, Secretary General Julia Ettinger, and Senior Technical Manager Maria Vera Duran.



Eurostat has [published new data](#) on the trade of recyclable raw materials, revealing that in 2024, EU exports to non-EU countries dropped by 8.2% to 35.7 million tonnes, following a record high of 38.9 million tonnes in 2023. Despite the decline, export volumes were still 58.5% higher than in 2004. Meanwhile, imports into the EU rose significantly in 2024, reaching 46.7 million tonnes—up 17.5% from the previous year and 7.2% higher than in 2004.



The graphic features the EURIC logo at the top left. Below it, the text reads: "EU RECYCLERS' KEY POLICY ASKS FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACT". A "READ MORE HERE" button with a hand cursor icon is at the bottom left. To the right, a circular graphic shows various images related to recycling and the circular economy, including a ship, a factory, a person, a landscape, and a judge's gavel.

[Read our key policy asks](#)

EuRIC 2024 Annual Report

[READ IT HERE](#) 



Our Annual Report for 2024 is out! 🎉 What a year it has been for the EU recycling industry!

Our annual report summarises the collective achievements of EuRIC members, partners, sponsors and the Secretariat in 2024, in the fields of waste shipments, metals, e-waste plastics, paper, tyres, textiles, ELVs, CDW, ship recycling, ecodesign, and sustainable finance.

[Discover our Annual Report](#)

**NO
ADDITIONAL
EXPORT RESTRICTIONS
ON RECYCLED STEEL
& METALS**



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH ✕ Recycling must not be collateral damage!

For decades, metal recyclers have built a world-leading circular economy, turning waste into resources and creating 310,000+ local, green jobs. But now, under the Steel and Metals Action Plan, parts of the steel and aluminium industries are pushing for even stricter

Sign our petition to stop additional unfair export restrictions and keep Europe's recyclers and circular economy alive!

[SIGN OUR PETITION](#)

Events

EU Green Week



EuRIC is hosting an **online side event** to the **EU Green Week**. The webinar, scheduled for 19 June 2025, will focus on the challenges and opportunities facing Europe's tyre recycling industry. Key topics will include boosting demand for recycled materials, tackling trade barriers, advancing end-of-waste criteria, and integrating digital product passports (DPPs) to enhance recyclability. With regulatory changes and the need for decarbonisation, the webinar aims to address critical issues impacting the EU circular economy.

[Register now for our free event](#)



We're excited to announce that Eko-Flor Plus, Croatia's largest private company for municipal waste collection, sorting, composting, and the management of bulky and construction waste, has joined EuRIC's European Recovered Paper Branch (ERPA) as a partner.

Discover [Eko-Flor Plus.](#)

Sponsored Content



TEXTILES RECYCLING EXPO

4-5 June 2025 • Brussels, Belgium

REGISTER FOR **FREE** TODAY!

Textiles Recycling Expo premiering on 4-5 June in Brussels!

Join global leaders in textiles recycling at the Textiles Recycling Expo on June 4-5, 2025, in Brussels, Belgium. This free-to-attend, two-day event will bring together industry innovators, recyclers, manufacturers, and sustainability experts to explore the latest technologies, exchange insights, and drive collaboration. With a comprehensive conference program and expert-led panels, the expo is your gateway to the future of sustainable textiles.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and lead in transforming the textiles industry.

Register for your free ticket today!



ICBR 2025 is the international platform for reviewing the challenges faced by the Battery Recycling Industry on a global basis. For 30 consecutive years, ICBR has brought together the international community of experts and decision makers of the entire Battery Recycling value chain, including battery recyclers and manufacturers, collection organizations, OEM's, policymakers, materials and services providers and many more.

[**Read more and register here!**](#)



EuRIC is proud to join the E-Waste World Conference & Expo 2025 as both Media Partner and Speaker! Don't miss Isabelle Radovan, EuRIC's Junior Policy Advisor, who will share key insights on WEEE policy developments and industry challenges at the E-Waste World Conference & Expo on 11 June 2025!

Register now for your FREE Expo Pass or reserve your conference [seat](#).

Events



The LIFE programme, the EU's funding tool for environment and climate action, has launched its 2025 call for proposals. With a €5.4 billion budget, it includes a sub-programme on Circular Economy and Quality of Life, supporting projects on waste recovery and circular practices (e.g., recycled content, digital product passports). CINEA will host online #EULife25 Info Days from 13–15 May 2025 to guide applicants.

An info pack summarising key details is available [here](#).



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