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Circular Economy Newsletter



We are pleased to share the **January 2023** edition of the **EuRIC Newsletter** featuring the latest updates from us as well as regulatory & policy developments of interest to the recycling sector.



EuRIC UPDATES



EuRIC Board and team join forces to brainstorm on EuRIC priorities

Together with external facilitators, members of the EuRIC Board and team met for two days of interactive brainstorming.

We reflected on EuRIC's growth over the past eight years and discussed the future direction of EuRIC, especially the major legislative files that will have a long-term impact on the recycling industry. We also worked on refining EuRIC's official Vision.

We will continue brainstorming and fine-tuning ideas in collaboration with Presidency and Board.

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Director of DG Environment visits EuRIC member recycling facility

EuRIC had the privilege to welcome the Director of the DG Environment in charge of circular economy, Mr Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, to visit a prominent recycling facility of one of its member companies, Galloo.

The site visit was an opportunity to showcase recycling in action by demonstrating how old metal appliances can be turned into high-quality recycled metals and plastics.

The recycling facility in Menan, Belgium, just across the border with France, is a leading specialist in recycling metals, WEEE and ELVs. EuRIC is grateful to Mr Ciobanu-Dordea for his time and the constructive discussions.



Pivotal European Parliament vote on Waste Shipment Regulation

The European Parliament has adopted its resolution on the Waste Shipment Regulation. This plenary vote follows a vote by members of the Environment Committee's (ENVI) of the rapporteur's report on 1 December. The consolidated version of the European Parliament

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Reacting in a press release (see below), EuRIC applauded the establishment of **mandatory recycled content targets for plastics** but regretted the failure to adopt targets for **metals** and **paper**. EuRIC condemned the **one-size-fits-all** approach to exports which means that the same restrictions apply to **low-quality mixed plastic waste** as to **high-value raw materials from recycling**.

In a separate letter (see below), EuRIC also specifically addressed the ban on plastic waste exports calling for five concrete actions that will facilitate, rather than impede, the recycling of plastic waste. You can consult press coverage in Politico of EuRIC's position on plastic waste exports [here](#).

[Consult the letter >>>](#)[Consult the press release >>>](#)

Clothing reuse has a 70 times lower environmental impact reveals new study

A new life-cycle assessment (LCA) commissioned by the EuRIC Textiles branch has confirmed the significant CO2 and water savings of reusing textiles compared to producing new clothing. The study revealed that the environmental impact of reusing textiles is **70**

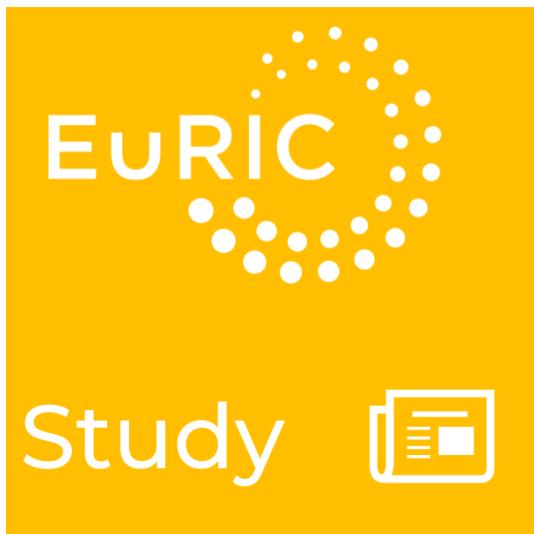
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lower, even when accounting for global exports for reuse including transport

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More specifically, the study revealed that a massive **3kg of CO2** is saved for each high/medium-quality clothing that is reused. While only a mere **0.01%** of the water used to produce new clothing is required for reuse. This study also emphasised the importance of recycling, in particular its potential to tackle the rising amounts of low-quality and non-reusable clothing.

You can consult the study and press release announcing the findings below.

[Consult the study >>>](#)[Consult the press release >>>](#)

PAHs assessment back on the table for recycled rubber

PAHs in recycled rubber are once again under scrutiny by EU legislators. The European Commission has made a formal request to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to reassess the risks to children from PAHs in granules and mulches in playgrounds and other domestic applications such as gardening and landscaping. This is contrary to a final decision made on 21 July 2021 setting a concentration of 20 ppm for the sum of the 8

PAHs

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An initial screening assessment of risks will be sent to the Commission by the end of February 2023. If uncontrolled risks are identified, a proposal for restrictions may be prepared.

EuRIC will be in contact with ECHA to request further information on their investigation. In the meantime, if you have any relevant information on PAHs you wish to share with EuRIC, please contact Alejandro Navazas by email at anavazas@euric-aisbl.eu.

You can consult the European Commission's formal request to ECHA by clicking on the button below.

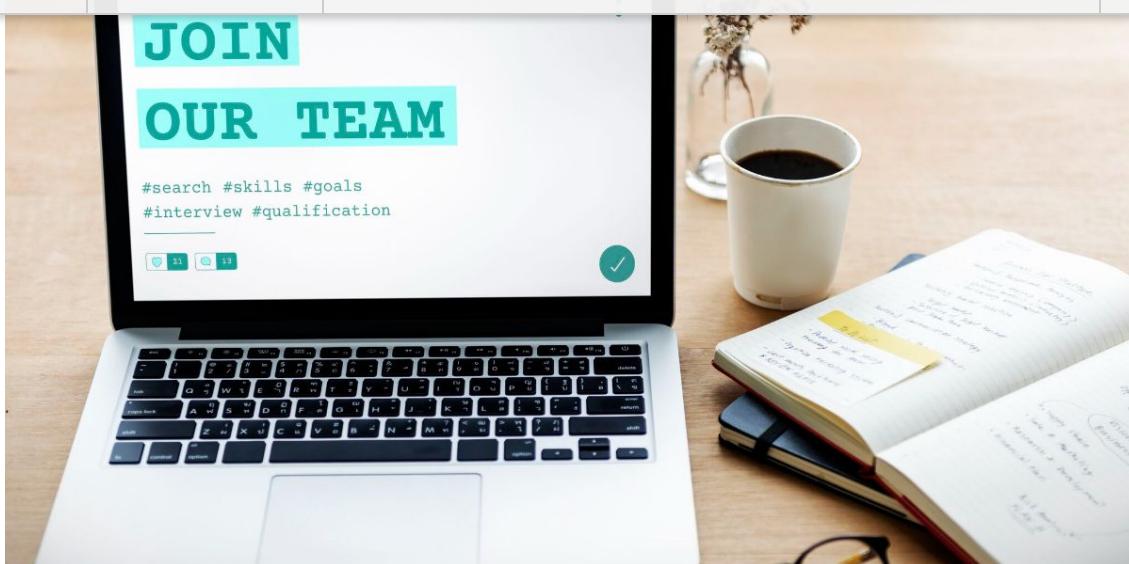
[Read more >>>](#)

EU launches public consultation on Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation

Following the recent publication of the European Commission's proposal for a new [Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste](#), a public consultation has now been launched. The deadline for submissions is 28 March 2023.

If you are a EURIC member, an online meeting will be held on Thursday, 2 February 2023, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM (CET) to gather your feedback. Please contact Maria Vera Duran at mveraduran@euric-aisbl.eu for further information. Learn more about the consultation by clicking on the button below.

[View the consultation >>>](#)

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EuRIC is recruiting a Communications Officer

EuRIC is currently looking for a full-time Communications Officer based in Brussels. The responsibilities include:

- Managing EuRIC's internal & external communication activities (e.g., Annual Report, monthly newsletter, social media & event promotion)
- Drafting & reviewing of press releases, & answering of media inquiries
- Creating website content
- Proofreading position papers
- Contributing to the communication and dissemination activities of EU-funded projects

The closing date for applications is **6 February 2023**. Learn more by clicking on the button below.

[Learn more >>>](#)

EuRIC EVENTS



Tyre recycling: making the wheel go round ...

... from an environmental and policy perspective

EuRIC MTR
Mechanical Tyre Recycling Branch

EuRIC The European Recycling Industries

18 April 2023
BluePoint, Brussels

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Tyre recycling: making the wheel go round from an environmental and policy perspective

Currently, 95% of the end-of-life tyres (ELT) in the EU are collected and treated thanks to the development of good management systems for waste tyres, mainly dominated by EPR schemes, and investments in recycling. However, over the last two decades, policies focusing on enhancing the circularity of raw materials from ELT (i.e., rubber, steel, textiles and carbon black) have been scarce.

There is a lot of untapped potential for circularity as for each tyre that gets incinerated with energy recovery, there is one tyre that gets mechanically recycled. However, tyre recycling heads into 2023 with serious challenges in which the rubber end-market applications face different bans:

- A restriction on the intentional use of synthetic polymer microparticles affecting 30% of the tyre recycling market
- A restriction on the content of PAHs and other chemicals affecting 70% of the tyre recycling market

Under this scenario, policy actions are required on all the different steps of the tyre value chain – from tyre design, collection and sorting, and recycling, to the uptake of recycled materials. Therefore, we kindly invite you to join the **8th edition of our Recyclers' Talks** series, this time in person, to discuss how to increase circularity in the tyre sector and how different actions across the value chain can contribute to achieving this objective. You can learn more about the event on our website [here](#) or click on the button below to **register**.

[Register now >>>](#)

EuRIC event in Brussels

Boosting recycling through future-fit policies

We are delighted to invite EuRIC members to our first in-person event in 2023 that will take place on the day after the **EuRIC General Assembly**. Our event '**Boosting recycling through future-fit policies**' will take place at the **BluePoint** in Brussels (same building as EuRIC's office) on 30 March.

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We kindly invite you to join us for our high-level conference that will unite European policy-makers and EURIC members from across the circular economy value chain. Together, we will discuss how Europe can go beyond circular through future-fit policies that not only accelerate the transition towards a climate-neutral economy but stimulate sustainable growth, investment and local green jobs in Europe.

The **registration** link will soon be communicated to members. In the meantime, we encourage you to click on the button below to add the event to your calendar.

[Add to calendar >>>](#)

EU POLICY & REGULATORY UPDATES



EU legislative agenda 2023

The EU institutions (Commission, Parliament and Council) have signed a Joint Declaration on the EU Legislative Priorities for the years 2023-2024. The Declaration is linked to the Commission's 2023 Work Programme and focuses on key legislative proposals.

The European Green Deal tops the list of priorities, including several legislative dossiers under its umbrella, including reducing water, air and microplastic pollution, the fight against environmental crime and soil health. The European Commission has also published the draft agenda of the weekly meetings of the College of Commissioners until June. The legislative text on critical raw materials is scheduled for 14 March, on microplastics for 17 May and on the right to repair for 31 May. Notably, crucial initiatives such as the revision of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) and the soil health legislation are missing from Q1, while the revision of the REACH regulation is not on the agenda.

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Consulting the Commission's 2023 Work Programme >>>

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Eco-design for sustainable products (ESPR)

European Parliament [publishes](#) Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety's amendments to draft report on Ecodesign for the Sustainable Products Regulation.

Plastics

The EU's Joint Research Centre has published a study that establishes a top-down mass flow analysis model (MFA) for the value chain of plastics in the EU27 2019, focusing on 9 sectors and 10 polymers. The study is available [here >>>](#).

Due Diligence

Almost [1500 amendments](#) were put forward to the draft report on the European Commission's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive proposal. The vote on the draft report and tabled amendments is scheduled for 13 March 2023.

Batteries

The Council of EU has [published](#) a letter to the Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Environment on the outcome of proceedings about the proposal for a Batteries and Battery Waste Regulation.

Waste Framework Directive

Environment Commissioner Sinkevicius [answers](#) a question [tabled](#) by MEP Henna Virkkunen (Finland, EPP) on how to ensure compliance of emerging recycling technologies under Revision of Waste Framework Directive.

Sustainable Finance

The Commission published two guidance documents in the form of a Q&A regarding the Climate Delegated Act.

You can consult the guidance documents [here](#) and [here](#).

EU ETS & CBAM

In late December, an agreement was reached on the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) after triilogue negotiations. You can read more on the EU ETS agreement [here](#) and the CBAM agreement [here](#).

Hazardous waste

The European Court of Auditors has [published](#) a report on EU actions to address the increasing amounts of hazardous waste.



EU REPORTS RELEVANT TO RECYCLING