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November 2023 Newsletter



EU POLICY WATCH

Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)

On 13 November, the Council and the European Parliament reached a **deal** on the proposed regulation establishing a framework to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials (CRMA). The agreement is provisional, pending formal adoption in both institutions. Among others, the provisional agreement keeps the benchmarks of 10% for extraction of raw materials and 40% for processing but increases the benchmark for recycling to at least 25% of EU's annual consumption of raw materials. In addition, there should be substantial increase on the recovery of raw materials present in waste.

EuRIC is excited to see that a worst-case scenario has been avoided by managing to convince the different Member States to not support the creation of a secondary strategic raw material list and proposals restricting the export of metallic scrap. EuRIC is also very pleased to see that many of our proposals were taken onboard. You can find the provisional agreement [here](#).

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

On 22 November, the European Parliament adopted its position on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), marking progress in packaging circularity, but also marking a setback. By 2030, all packaging sold in the EU must be recyclable, and by 2035, every piece of packaging must be effectively recycled, as per the European Commission's

Recycling, a top priority for many MEPs, gained strong support. Backed by the fibre packaging industry, they focused on preserving an industrial model centered on single-use packaging and recycling, thereby limiting the Commission's emphasis on reduction and reuse as primary waste hierarchy measures. Patrizia Toia (S&D, Italy) stated openness to new reuse and recharging practices but stressed they shouldn't replace effective recycling methods. The application of the waste hierarchy, fundamental to European circular economy legislation, has sparked debate, highlighting a preference for recycling in many Member States.

Key regulation aspects, drawing lobby and MEP attention, include banning harmful chemicals (like PFAS and bisphenols) in food packaging, limiting over-packaging, and ensuring citizen access to justice to report non-compliance with these rules. Frédérique Ries emphasised the plenary's support for stricter plastic waste reduction goals (10% by 2030 and 20% by 2040). Ries will defend these outcomes, marked by both victories and contradictions, in upcoming trilogues starting in January 2024 under the Belgian Council Presidency, contingent on Spain reaching an agreement among the EU countries by 18 December.

EuRIC has issued a Press Release commenting on the pros and cons of the Parliament's negotiating position for the trilogues. Read it [here](#).

Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR)

On November 16, 2023, co-legislators reached an **agreement** on the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR), expanding its objectives to encompass climate neutrality, circular economy, and zero pollution goals. The new regulation introduces a central electronic system managed by the Commission for notifications and documentation exchange. A notable aspect of the agreement is the ban on exports of non-hazardous plastic waste (B3011) to non-OECD countries, effective two and a half years after the regulation's enforcement.

With the final text of the compromise agreement yet to be published, EuRIC has issued a Press Release encompassing a first reaction to the provisions known so far. Read it [here](#).

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

The European Parliament published ENVI committee's **report** on revision of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive, concerning a specific adjustment to

WEEE. The first trilogue on the measure took place on 16 November, during which, the Council and the Parliament reached a provisional agreement (not yet available). Part of the content of that agreement was anticipated in a press release by the Council. During the meeting on 29 November, it is probable that Rapporteur MEP Anna Zalewska (ECR, Poland) provided more context on the outcome of the discussions.

On 21 November 2023, the Council and the European Parliament reached an **agreement** on the proposed amendments on the collection and management of certain WEEE, in line with the ruling of the European Court of Justice of last year.

Environmental Crime Directive Directive:

During the fourth round of trilogues on 16 November, European Parliament and Council negotiators **provisionally agreed** on revising the Environmental Crime Directive. Key outcomes include strengthening the investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes. The agreement broadened the range of actions qualifying as criminal offenses, adding import and use of mercury and fluorinated greenhouse gases, importing invasive species, illegal depletion of water resources, and ship pollution. It also expanded the definition of offenses to encompass actions akin to ecocide. Regarding penalties, the agreement established that environmental offenses leading to death could attract up to 10 years in prison, other qualified offenses up to 8 years, and general offenses a maximum of 5 years. Additional penalties include fines and compensation obligations. The agreement also includes support for whistleblowers and mandates training for judges and prosecutors. The text of the provisional agreement is expected to be made available in the coming weeks.

Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)

EuRIC applauded the European Parliament's adoption of its position on the Net-Zero Industry Act on 21 November, and especially the inclusion of recycling technologies within its scope! We now urge and expect the Council to uphold this ambition and also recognise the importance of recycling technologies!

The recently published agenda for the upcoming Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) Council meeting confirmed that the Council is expected to discuss and adopt the General Approach (not yet publicly available) on the Commission's proposal on this file on 7 December.

EU Taxonomy

On 21 November 2023, the final Delegated Acts for the Taxonomy Regulation under:

- The **climate objectives**

The objectives for sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, to the transition to a circular economy, to pollution prevention and control, or to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

were published in the Official Journal of the EU and will apply as of January 2024.

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

The European Commission has proposed to defer specific components of the Corporate Sustainable Reporting Directive (CSRD), pushing back the implementation of sector-specific sustainability disclosures (ESRS) and the sustainability reporting requirements for large non-EU companies operating within the EU by two years. This delay aims to give companies additional time to comply with the initial ESRS, allow the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group to develop effective sectoral reporting standards, and reduce the reporting burden by keeping requirements to a minimum. Despite these postponements, the Commission's 2024 agenda remains ambitious on environmental matters, featuring key actions under the EU Green Deal, such as setting a 2040 climate target, accelerating wind energy deployment, advancing industrial carbon management strategies, and enhancing water resilience.

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

EU Ambassadors are expected to meet between 29 November and 1 December to prepare for the third round of trilogues, which is expected to take place on 4 December 2023.

According to previous statements by ENVI Chair Pascal Canfin (Renew Europe, France), the third trilogue is expected to be the final one, and it will focus on issues including the prohibition of destruction of unsold goods and market surveillance.

Ecodesign and Energy labelling rules for household tumble dryers

The revised Ecodesign & Energy Labelling rules for tumble dryers have been **published** in the EU Official Journal. The new rules replace the current ecodesign and will be accompanied by a new energy label that will apply to household tumble dryers placed on the market from 1 July 2025.

Industrial Emissions Directive:

On 29 November, the Council and European Parliament negotiators reached a **provisional agreement** on revising the directive on industrial emissions (IED) and establishing an industrial emissions portal (IEP). The updated rules are designed to protect

human health and the environment by reducing harmful emissions from industrial installations, including intensive livestock farms, into air, water, soil, and through waste discharges. The revised directive also aims to promote energy efficiency, a circular economy, and decarbonisation. This provisional agreement will now go to the Council's representatives and the Parliament's environment committee for endorsement. Following approval and legal-linguistic revision, the texts will be formally adopted by both institutions, published in the EU's Official Journal, and then enacted.

Green Claims Directive:

The co-lead Committees on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) met on 6 November 2023 to examine the co-Rapporteurs' **draft Report** on the Commission's proposal for a Green Claim Directive. A debate in IMCO would provisionally take place on 4 December 2023. The draft Report, as well as the amendments tabled to it, would then be tabled to a vote in Committee on 14 February 2023.



EuRIC EVENTS



CONNECTING THE KNOTS

On 21 November, EuRIC connected the knots in textiles, bringing together EU legislators, environment experts, leading industry figures and NGO representatives for an in-depth

We extend our gratitude to all speakers, participants and especially to Anna Gumbau, for her excellent moderation. You can access the event's agenda, presentations and photos [here](#).

DISCOVER THE KEY TAKEAWAYS



DOWNLOAD THE PHOTOS HERE

