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October 2023 Newsletter

What a month October has been! From Lyon to Abu Dhabi, engaging in countless hours of networking and insightful online discussions, the voice of Europe's recycling industries resonated globally. Lawmakers have had a busy time, but don't worry—we've gathered all the latest information on crucial files and significant EU developments just for you.

Before diving into the updates, be sure to secure your spot for our next event on textiles:

Connecting the Knots for a Circular Future." We're bringing together 15 high-level speakers, leading industry figures, influential organisation representatives and almost 100 participants.

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EU POLICY WATCH

Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA)

On 25 October, the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) adopted its [position](#) on NZIA, the plan to decarbonise Europe's industry. EuRIC strongly welcomes the inclusion of recycling technologies within NZIA's scope and now calls on the Council to maintain the ambition reflected in ITRE's report.

Read our full statement [here](#).

The Council's Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth met on 31 October to discuss the proposal. The plenary vote will take place on 20-23 November.

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The European Parliament's ENVI committee adopted on 24 October its report on PPWR. The adopted report is a **contradictory position that endangers packaging waste circularity and Europe's recycling industry**. While EuRIC welcomes the positive developments (recyclability provisions, mechanical recycling prioritisation, revision of the recycled content targets not based on prices, mandatory collection quotas, and more stringent compostable packaging rules), we deplore the **priority access** to plastic recycled materials granted to producers and the bio-based plastic feedstock amendment.

Read our full statement [here](#).

The Council's Environment Working Group met on 31 October to discuss the Presidency compromise text based on a Steering Note from the Presidency on the PPWR. The plenary vote is expected in the week of 20 November, a date that has yet to be confirmed. The council conclusions/mandate is also expected soon. Once public, it will allow the start of trialogue negotiations.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

The ENVI Committee approved on 25 October MEP Anna Zalewska's (ECR, Poland) report concerning a specific adjustment to WEEE, which was suggested by the Commission post the Court of Justice ruling on 25 January 2022.

The Commission published its "Work Programme 2024: Delivering Today and Preparing Tomorrow" on 17 October 2023. The latter confirmed that the Commission is planning to present the evaluation of the WEEE Directive in 2024. This is possibly expected in the second quarter of 2024.

Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR)

A political meeting of second trialogue has been scheduled for 16 November, with the file expected to be finalised. EuRIC held discussions with the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on key open points (plastic exports, availability of shipment information, audits and timelines).

Waste Framework Directive (WFD)

The European Parliament's ENVI Committee had until 26 October to propose changes to the WFD revision. The draft ENVI report on WFD has also been published.

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No agreement was reached during the recent meeting between co-legislators regarding critical raw materials, held on 24 October. The discussion covered recycling targets and the deadline for permits for extraction projects, Contexte reported. The European Parliament has presented its proposal to the member states, who will need to establish a negotiating mandate. A Coreper ambassadors' meeting took place on 27 October. Although an additional trilogue is anticipated in early December, the specific date is yet to be confirmed. Despite the current impasse, both co-legislators aim to secure an agreement before the year's end.

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

Member States Ambassadors are expected to prepare for the second round of trilogue negotiations during the COREPER I meeting on 27 October 2023. The second round of trilogue negotiations is expected to take place in the coming weeks.

Green Claims Directive:

The Council's Environment Working Group met on 30 October to discuss the proposal for a directive on environmental claims.

Chemicals

NGOs are targeting the European Commission's proposals regarding the restriction of perfluorohexaenoic acids (PFHxA), a sub-family of "forever pollutants" (PFAS). The proposed restriction, applicable to PFHxA found in various products like food packaging, textile coatings, and firefighting foams, was discussed by the REACH committee comprised of experts from the EU member states on 25 October. This plan, drafted by the European Commission in June, is considered "significantly weaker" than recommendations put forth by the European Chemicals Agency's scientific committees, as highlighted in a mid-October report by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

News from the EU Institutions:

The fourth round of negotiations for a plastic pollution treaty is set for late April 2024 in Canada. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) is scheduled to convene from 21 to 30 April in Ottawa, following a meeting in Nairobi (Kenya) from 13 to 19 November. The goal remains focused on achieving an international agreement by the conclusion of 2024.

Other International News:

Maroš Šefčovič, the Commission's executive vice-president in charge of the Green Deal, expressed openness to a potential fourth term as European Commissioner, specifically if it aligns with the crucial priorities of the Green Deal. In an interview with the Financial Times

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EUROPE, EMPHASIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GREEN DEAL FOR EUROPE.

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EuRIC EVENTS



REGISTER NOW FOR EuRIC TEXTILES EVENT!

Join us on 21 November 2023 from 14:00 to 19:00 at the Bluepoint Building in Brussels for the event "EuRIC Textiles – Connecting the Knots for a Circular Future."

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED: Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, the European Commission's Circular Economy Director (DG ENV) will be kickstarting our event, providing insights into the Commission's Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles!

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KEYNOTE OPENING

Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea

Circular Economy Director, DG Environment, European Commission



Don't miss this unique opportunity to be part of the transformative journey towards sustainability!

HAVING TROUBLE REGISTERING?: Reach out to info@euric.org, we will be happy to help you!



EuRIC Branches & Meetings



EuRIC Announces Inaugural Board and Executive Committee

Members for its Construction & Demolition Branch

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newly elected Board and Executive Committee members for its Construction and Demolition Branch (ECDB). The ECDB was established in spring 2023, marking an important step towards advancing sustainable practices in the construction and demolition recycling sector.

During the Branch meeting held on 19 October in Brussels, the ECDB members unanimously elected **Pär Larshans**, Sustainability Director at Ragn-Sells (SRI, Sweden) as ECDB President, accompanied by two Vice-Presidents, **Giorgio Bressi**, the Technical Director of ANPAR (Italy) and **Christoph Althammer**, Executive at Althammer Bau GmbH (BVSE, Germany). They also green-lighted **Josef Aschl**, Executive at SWIETELSKY Umwelt Technik GmbH (BVSE, Germany) and **Hans Boer**, Manager Mineraal at Attero (DWMA, the Netherlands), as the ECDB's Executive Committee members.

[Read our Press Release here](#)



EuRIC's European Ferrous Recovery and Recycling Branch (EFR) met to exchange on several topics including the European Commission's End-of-Life Vehicles proposal and the Critical Raw Materials Act.

EuRIC also held its last Working Group meeting for 2023 on WEEE. Key priorities for EU e-waste recyclers include ◊ the ongoing evaluation of the WEEE Directive ◊ the Critical Raw Materials Act ◊ the Revision of Annex I of the **POPs** regulation and ◊ the Ecodesign Directive. Concerning ecodesign, it is crucial that EEE (Electrical and Electronic Equipment) are manufactured with a circular economy and recycling in mind.

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- Recyclability and recycled content for PPWR and ELV
- Rules for calculating recycled content targets under the SUP Directive
- Chemical recycling and mass balance
- Key factors that will drive the EU's circular economy: consumer trust, energy efficiency, and superior environmental performance of the recycling industry.

Bureau of International Recycling Convention in Abu Dhabi



The **BIR convention**, held on 23 - 24 October, featured a series of engaging and informative speeches during a period marked by a significant economic downturn impacting recycling. EuRIC's Secretary General, Emmanuel Katrakis had the opportunity to discuss and provide insights regarding the implementation of the Carbon Border

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EuRIC Site Visits



EuRIC went on a working visit to the Netherlands on 12 October. The recycling branch for construction and demolition waste (ECDB) visited the recycling companies Renewi Westpoort in Amsterdam and Remondis in Son en Breugel.

What is needed to make the construction sector circular and what can recycling contribute? After all, the construction sector is responsible for 30% of waste in Europe. This is not possible without recycling. Read the news coverage [here](#).



What EuRIC said



How the myth of PET bottles downcycling could ruin European efforts toward packaging circularity

EU value chain organisations warn against “right of first refusal”

EuRIC, PRE and FEAD alert that priority access to recycled plastics, known as “right of first refusal”, if implemented, would be detrimental to the development of recycling capacities in Europe, promoting monopolistic control of recycled polymers and going