



Circular Economy Newsletter

What happened in December

December has been packed with action, but it's now time for a short break for the EuRIC team – we'll be back in the new year!

Until then, we want to wish all our members, partners, sponsors, and friends of EuRIC a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for an impactful year filled with fruitful collaboration, meaningful discussions, great results, and memorable moments together !

Our next newsletter will be out on January 31.





| EuRIC's EU policy monitoring



Waste Shipments

EuRIC has published a detailed **guide** on the changes under the new waste shipment rules, including the key deadlines.

 **21 February 2025:** Non-OECD countries must request authorisation from the European Commission to import EU non-hazardous ("green-listed") waste for recovery.

 21 May 2027: Exports to non-OECD countries will be banned unless those countries are authorised. No request by 2025? No trade by 2027.

The revised WSR, adopted earlier this year, directly impacts international trade by regulating shipments of both processed and unprocessed materials—such as metals, paper, plastics, textiles, and tyres—that are still classified as waste under EU law. This significantly affects the supply of recycled raw materials to industries like steel and paper mills outside the EU.

EuRIC stresses the urgency for non-OECD countries to submit their requests by 21 February 2025 to ensure a functional international trade in recycled materials, support circularity, and reduce emissions by substituting extracted raw materials with recycled ones.

[Read our WSR guide](#)



During the Environment Council held on 17 December in Brussels, the EU ministers agreed to support the addition of Article 192(1) TFEU (protection of the environment) as a legal basis, alongside Article 114 TFEU (internal market), and to extend certain obligations to heavy-duty vehicles and motorcycles. However, no consensus was reached on the minimum recycled content (MRC) target for plastics. While some member states were in favor of a 25% MRC, as proposed by the Commission, others, such as Spain and Germany, advocated for lower targets (20% and 15%, respectively), citing concerns about potential market distortions due to recycled material shortages.

The ministers also expressed support for setting a target for minimum recycled steel content from the outset of the regulation. Although the Commission warned that such a measure might be premature due to limited data, many member states wanted a review clause based on a future feasibility study. The Netherlands suggested that a target between 10-15% for steel could be feasible, with Italy, Spain, and Germany supporting the introduction of an MRC target but agreeing that a feasibility study was needed before setting it into law.

Additionally, ministers discussed which vehicle parts should be designed for easy dismantling from end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). While some member states, like Belgium, were willing to accept the Commission's proposed list or even add more components,

others, such as Croatia, argued that only parts with genuine reuse market interest should be covered and proposed exclusions. The debate highlighted the challenge of balancing environmental goals with the need to preserve competitiveness.

European Parliament:

The responsibility for the ELV Regulation in the European Parliament will be shared between the ENVI and ITRE Committees, with German MEPs Jens Gieseke and Andreas Schwab (EPP) taking the lead. The draft report is expected to be finalised by the end of January, with the presentation to the responsible committees scheduled for March. A Committee vote is expected in July, and Plenary approval could occur in September, with trialogue negotiations likely starting in the fall of 2025.

During the EPP hearing on the ELV Regulation, ENVI Rapporteur Gieseke supported EuRIC's position on technological neutrality regarding treatment obligations but did not comment on the mandatory recycled content targets. The chemical industry's call for technological neutrality on recycled content was also endorsed by ACEA and CLEPA, who supported flexible recycling methods to meet recycled content targets, including dissolution, physical recycling, chemical recycling, bio-based feedstocks, and rubber.

Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, representing the Commission, emphasised the importance of "buying European" and backed EuRIC's call for a mirror clause on plastic imports to protect the EU plastic recycling industry. The Commission defended its position on maintaining a 25% recycled content target for plastics and opposed the proposed 6.25% closed-loop target for ELV plastics.

A joint call to uphold ambitious recycled plastics targets in ELVs:

Waste managers, recyclers, automotive suppliers and NGOs have joined forces to deliver a strong message to EU lawmakers: Keep the Commission's ambitious proposal. Uphold the 25% recycled plastic target!

The EU End-of-Life Vehicles Regulation (ELVR) is key to making the automotive sector circular and low-carbon. A 25% recycled plastic content in new vehicles can bridge design with end-of-life treatment and drive demand for circular and low-carbon materials. Read more in the joint statement, co-signed by EuRIC FEAD, T&E, ECOS, EEB, MOBILIANS, FORVIA, and MATERI'ACT.

[Read our joint statement](#)



Packaging

On 16 December, the Council formally **adopted** a **regulation** on packaging and packaging waste. The new rules comprise, among others, the following requirements for packaging:

- 2030 and 2040 targets for a minimum percentage of recycled content (up to 65% for single use plastic bottles by 2040)
 - minimising the weight and volume of packaging and avoiding unnecessary packaging
 - minimising substances of concern, including restricting placing on the market food contact packaging containing per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) if they exceed certain thresholds
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Ships

At the end of their operational life, the vast majority of vessels are today treated outside the EU, most often in countries where environmental and social standards fall short. This practice not only poses serious risks to human health and the environment, but also results in the loss of valuable resources, particularly of steel scrap.

To address these issues, **EuRIC's Ship Recycling Group (ESRG) has released a manifesto**, calling for robust measures to strengthen the ship recycling sector in the EU, ensuring more vessels are being recycled in safer and sustainable conditions and contributing to the EU's circular economy objectives.

[Read our manifesto](#)



Chemicals

On behalf of its partners, including EuRIC, Aggregates Europe – UEPG presented the legal position paper at the 53rd CARACAL meeting. The paper highlighted the uncertainties for the industry if Recovered Aggregates (RA) were to require registration under REACH.

ECHA's classification of RA as a substance or mixture was contested by several member states. The Commission has recommended alternative approaches to mitigate additional administrative burdens, costs for producers, and risks to the circular economy.

Read our joint written submission

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has confirmed the persistent and harmful nature of several brominated aromatic flame retardants (BAFRs), used in electronics, textiles, and construction. In a report **published** on 18 December, ECHA highlighted the risks of these substances, noting their persistence, bioaccumulation, and toxicity. The substances pose significant environmental risks as they can leach from materials and are released during waste treatment. ECHA also pointed out that many of these substances are not registered under REACH, despite being found in high concentrations in the environment, raising potential compliance concerns. The report is expected to inform the European Commission's consideration of possible restrictions on their use.



Textiles

The European Commission's Joint Research Center has opened a new consultation on the future ESPR delegated act for textile products, divided into three parts: 1) Consultation on the working document (Task 1 to 4 – 2nd milestone), 2) Questionnaire on Substances of Concern (SoC), and 3) Consultation to improve environmental and economic models (Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) & Life Cycle Costing (LCC)). This consultation offers an important opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the development of sustainable practices in the textile industry.



Plastics

The European plastics value chain is in crisis: increased imports of non-EU recycled plastics, reduced investments in domestic raw materials production and recycling & lack of demand for EU-virgin and recycled plastics. **18 industry stakeholders across the plastics value chain have joined forces**, calling for urgent action to build a resilient, innovative, and sustainable European plastics industry.



Tyres

At the Environmental Council meeting on 17 December, EU ministers **reached** a **general approach** for a regulation on preventing losses of plastic pellets – the industrial raw materials used to make plastic products.

What's changing in the text? Plastic recyclers have now been included in the context of production from recycled plastics, and the definition of plastic pellets has been expanded to **include rubber particles**.

Additionally, it incorporates the recommendations from the International Maritime Organization, which would be mandatory for maritime transport. While extra obligations for medium and large economic operators remain, new requirements for small enterprises handling more than 1000 tonnes of pellets per year have been included in the text.

What's next? The general approach agreed formalises the Council of the European Union's negotiating position. Negotiations with the European Parliament on the final shape of the regulation are expected to start in early 2025.



Construction & Demolition

The new Construction Products Regulation (CPR) has been officially **published** in the EU Official Journal, set to enter into force on 7 January 2025, with application starting the next day. The regulation introduces significant changes, particularly for aluminium-based products like windows, doors, and cladding. Once new harmonised standards for such aluminium-based construction products are available, manufacturers will be required to provide detailed product information via digital product passports (DPP), and environmental sustainability performance will be reported through an EU-wide standardised approach, gradually replacing Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).



E-waste

The Delegated Acts on the new Basel e-waste entries have been published in the EU's Official Journal ([here](#) and [here](#)). The entries will apply to all e-waste exports to OECD countries and imports into the EU, with a full export ban to non-OECD countries starting 1 January 2025. A transition period allows continued use of current codes for non-hazardous e-waste shipments between Member States until the end of 2026. For exports to OECD countries, the DAs encourage early submission of notifications based on the new entries before 1 January 2025 to facilitate decision-making.



Other EU files

2040 climate target: During the Environment Council of 17 December, EU27 Ministers discussed the EU's 2040 climate target, proposing a 90% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. Key points included simplifying the 2030 framework to reduce administrative burdens, ensuring stable regulatory frameworks for competitiveness, and aligning decarbonisation with industrial policies. Ahead of the Council meeting, the Hungarian Presidency had prepared a [note](#) on the matter.

EU legislation simplification: The European Commission plans to present an "omnibus package on simplification" by 26 February 2024, aimed at reducing EU reporting obligations. However, this has raised concerns among MEPs. The Social Democratic group (S&D) warned that simplification should not undermine sustainability, particularly in recently adopted laws like the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), taxonomy, and corporate due diligence directive (CS3D). Meanwhile, German MEP Axel Voss suggested extending simplification efforts to other regulations, including REACH, deforestation, battery laws, and the Ecodesign Directive.

Sustainable Finance: The Council of EU has published the Commission's [delegated act](#) and [annex](#) on regulatory technical standards specifying content, methodologies and presentation of information on sustainability indicators.



Highlights



EuRIC at the EPP Hearing on ELVs: Towards a circular and sustainable European automotive sector. At the EPP hearing held on 12 December, EuRIC's EU Policy Advisor Antoine Stilo emphasised the importance of investment stability, technology-neutral recycling requirements based on market demand, fair competition in EPR schemes, and better vehicle collection and traceability.



Strengthening Europe's Ship Recycling sector: On 4 December, EuRIC, alongside representatives from the EU Commission's DG for Environment, visited Galloo's ship recycling facility in Ghent. This visit provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the sector's challenges and its significant potential to help decarbonise the EU's steel industry. It was especially timely, as EuRIC had just released its manifesto, urging robust measures to strengthen ship recycling in the EU. The goal is to ensure more vessels are recycled under safer, more sustainable conditions, contributing to the EU's circular economy objectives.



Strengthening collaboration for glass recycling: EuRIC had the privilege of visiting Reiling Group's state-of-the-art glass recycling site in Gladbeck, Germany. Joined by partners from FERVER - European Federation of Glass Recyclers, Galloo, REMONDIS Recycling and Reiling, we witnessed firsthand the innovation and dedication driving Europe's glass recycling sector.

This visit reinforced the importance of collaboration between recyclers, industry leaders, and policymakers to advance circularity and sustainability in the glass industry.

TOP100

Olivier François
EuRIC President

Listed among Recycling International's Top 100 most inspiring and innovative people in global recycling for 2024



TOP100

Julia Ettinger
EuRIC Secretary General

Listed among Recycling International's Top 100 most inspiring and innovative people in global recycling for 2024



EuRIC - the voice of Europe's recyclers is proud to announce that Olivier Francois, EuRIC' President, and Julia Ettinger (Blees), EuRIC's Secretary General have been recognised by Recycling International as two of the **Top 100 most inspiring and innovative people in global recycling for the year 2024.**

A big congratulations to the many EuRIC members and industry leaders also featured on the list!

Upcoming Events



EuRIC is co-hosting a high-level event, **“From Vision to Action: Implementing EU Waste Legislation,”** alongside **FEAD, CEWEP, MWE, CEMR, Eurocities,** and the **EESC**. This full-day event will take place on **4 February 2025** at the EESC in Brussels and will run from **09:00 to 17:30**.

Participation is free of charge and includes a networking lunch, offering a valuable opportunity to engage with policymakers and industry leaders. A detailed agenda will be shared in the coming weeks.

[Register here](#)



REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

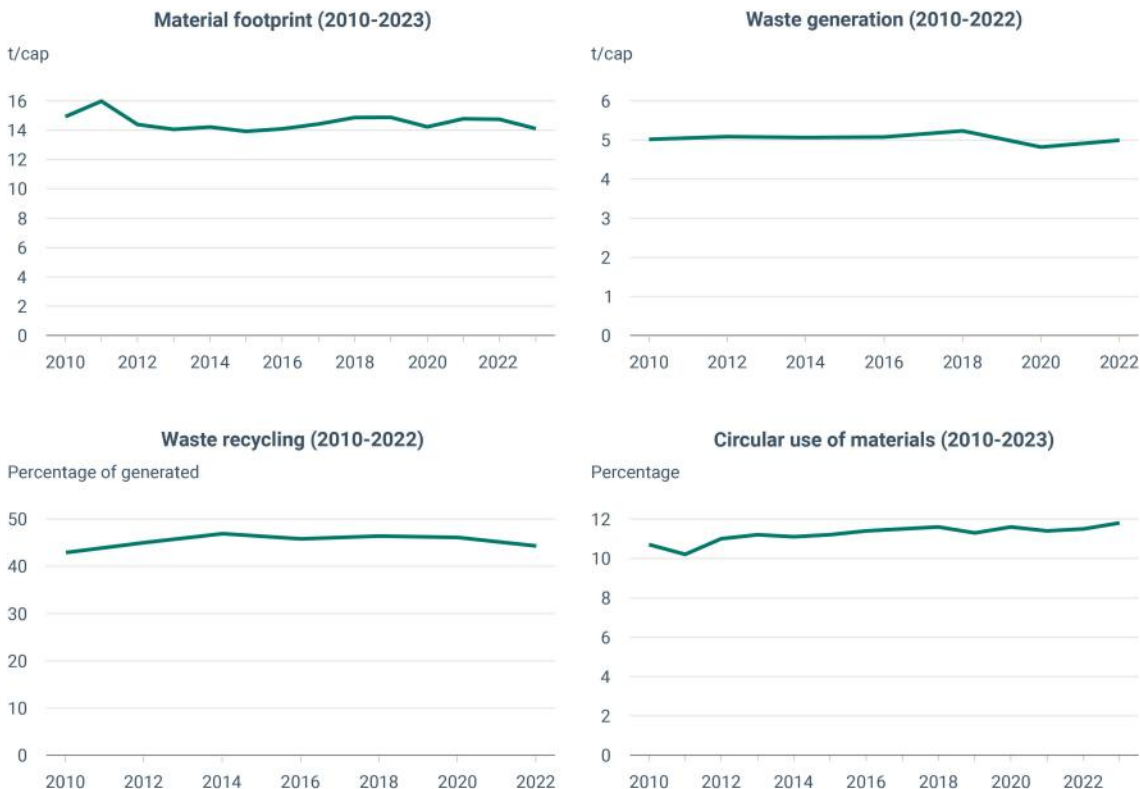
EuRIC Textiles is organising a high-level event on 27 March 2025, in Brussels, focusing on the future of the EU textiles reuse and recycling sector.

This in-person event will bring together new MEPs, European Commission officials, environment attachés from EU Member States, and key stakeholders from the textiles circular value chain. The event will include the formal presentation of the EuRIC Textiles Manifesto and feature discussions on accelerating the transition to a circular fashion system, technological innovation, and improving the EU's second-hand and recycled textiles markets.

Stay tuned for the detailed agenda, and join us to explore how to drive circular solutions and global trade optimisation in the textiles sector!

REGISTER NOW

| Interesting reads



The European Environment Agency (EEA) has published a **new briefing** on Europe's progress towards a circular economy. With a circularity rate of 11.8% in 2023, Europe is using more recycled materials than other regions, but improvements have been limited in recent years.

The briefing, titled "Europe's circular economy in facts and figures", suggests that to achieve these goals, Europe must strengthen policies, scale circular business models, and support secondary material markets.

While resource efficiency is high, consumption and waste generation remain unsustainable. Prioritising high-quality recycling and decoupling economic growth from resource use will be key to meeting sustainability targets.

| EuRIC network updates



We're thrilled to welcome **Avery Dennison** as **EuRIC's new Gold Sponsor!** Avery Dennison is a global materials science and digital identification solutions company that provides a wide range of branding and information solutions that optimize labor and supply chain efficiency, reduce waste, advance sustainability, circularity and transparency, and better connect brands and consumers.

Learn more about Avery Dennison [here](#).



We're excited to welcome **Fédération Mode Circulaire** as the newest member in the **Friends of EuRIC** sponsorship category. The Fédération de la Mode Circulaire is a professional organization that brings together more than 250 members from the entire circular fashion ecosystem. Its mission is to promote circularity in the fashion industry and support the transition of its players to a more sustainable model.

Learn more about Fédération Mode Circulaire [here](#).

| Sponsored Content



27th International Recovered Paper Conference by bvse!

The bvse-Division for Paper Recycling is hosting the 27th International Recovered Paper Conference on Tuesday, 1st April 2025, at the Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany. The event will cover global market dynamics, the latest policy developments (including the PPWR), and will offer an evening event with networking opportunities.

The keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Gabriel Felbermayr, Director of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), will discuss market trends in the context of the current global economic situation.

A final agenda and registration details will be provided soon.



Don't forget to register for IERC 2025 ! EuRIC will be there!

IERC 2025 is the leading event in the Circular Economy Electronics world. It brings together up to 500 international professionals from the entire electronics recycling value chain, from materials suppliers, collection organisations, OEMs, competent authorities to recyclers and re-use and repair organisations. An exhibition area with over 60 booths provides the perfect opportunity to reach key industry decision makers and to find out what's new in the global electronics recycling business.

Benefit from the early bird now! Register [here](#).



ierc2025

Panel discussion:
Complying with the Basel Convention
from an industry perspective
January 22 -24, IERC 2025, Salzburg



Julia Ettinger (Moderator)
Secretary General
European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC)

icm.ch



| Updates from the CIMPA Project



> CIMPA Final Event: Advancing the circularity of complex plastic films

That's a wrap 🌱 After 3.5 years, the CIMPA project concluded its journey with an event on "Advancing circularity of complex plastic films" showcasing its innovative solutions for recycling multilayer plastic films from packaging and agricultural applications.

EuRIC co-hosted this event, as a work package leader in the CIMPA project, which unites 12 other partners from 5 countries, covering the entire value chain. By building on the research and policy insights from CIMPA, we aim to provide practical solutions that support EU efforts in promoting circularity in plastics.

Read the key takeaways

