



Circular Economy Newsletter

October in a nutshell

We've summarised for you all the latest news on the EU files affecting the recycling industry, highlighted events you cannot miss, recommended must-read articles and provided a recap of our advocacy efforts for the recycling industry's interests.

| EuRIC's EU policy monitoring



Metals

On 23 October, the European Parliament held a debate on the **steel crisis**, focusing on boosting competitive and sustainable European steel while maintaining quality jobs. The discussion highlighted the challenges of reduced steel production in Europe and the resulting job losses, with nearly all MEPs identifying overcapacity from countries like China and high energy prices as primary issues. Calls were made for stronger trade safeguards and a more effective Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to protect European steel.

There was a division among MEPs regarding environmental ambitions; some advocated for public investments in green steel, while others suggested lowering environmental goals, including pausing the Emissions Trading System (ETS). Many MEPs stressed the need for increased public investment and revised procurement practices. However, recycling received minimal attention, with only a few MEPs mentioning scrap and recycled steel, primarily discussing export bans and availability concerns. Commissioner Dalli acknowledged the importance of clean steel but did not address scrap or recycled steel.

Lastly, many MEPs called for an Action Plan on (Green) Steel and a Steel Summit to tackle the crisis.



E-waste

The Council of the European Union has **published a note** detailing the changes resulting from the recent adoption of two Delegated Acts that amend the current and new Waste Shipment Regulation concerning e-waste shipments.

Adopted on 18 October, these acts aim to implement the 2022 Basel Convention e-waste amendments starting 1 January 2025. They have been sent to the European Parliament and the Council for final review until 18 December 2024. The Council noted that feedback showed majority support for incorporating the new Basel Convention entries on electrical and electronic waste into EU law, although recyclers expressed opposition.

EuRIC has strongly advocated against applying the “prior written notification and consent procedure” to shipments of non-hazardous electrical and electronic waste between Member States. Implementing this procedure would lead to delays and additional costs, undermining the EU's objectives to enhance recycling of electrical and electronic waste, particularly for critical raw materials.



Ships

In case you missed it, EuRIC's has launched its Ship Recycling Group (ESRG), which aims to make ship recycling in the EU transparent, efficient, profitable and sustainable! Chaired by Antonio Barredo (ES), the group includes founding members Galloo (FR), Smedegaarden A/S (DK) and Fornaes Shipbreaking (DK).

[Read our Press Release](#)



Ecodesign

The European Commission has set up a new Ecodesign Expert Forum, mandated by the Ecodesign Regulation that took effect in July 2024. Established by a decision published on 29 October in the EU's Official Journal, the forum will bring together Member State representatives and stakeholders to guide the development of future ecodesign standards and contribute to the Commission's work programme. Recommendations are to be made by consensus. This forum will coexist with the prior Ecodesign Directive forum as long as it applies to the current work programme. Additionally, a Member State-appointed sub-group will be formed for direct discussions with the Commission on draft standards.



Chemicals

At the Environment Council meeting on 14 October in Luxembourg, ministers expressed varied views on the **delayed revision of REACH**, which was announced in 2020. Countries like Sweden, Luxembourg, Finland, Ireland, Belgium, Austria, and the Netherlands highlighted the health and environmental importance of the revision, urging swift action. Others, like France and Germany, supported the revision but emphasised specific conditions, such as maintaining the current risk assessment approach.

Additionally, a dozen **countries urged the Commission to promptly present the regulation on the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)**, which has been delayed since 2020. Several ministers stressed the need for increased resources for ECHA to strengthen its capacities. Furthermore, a group of countries, including Denmark, France, and Sweden, called for the next Commission to ban the export of chemicals that are banned in Europe.

On 14 October, the **Council officially adopted a regulation regarding the classification, labeling, and packaging of chemical substances (CLP)**, marking the final step in the decision-making process. This regulation updates the 2008 EU legislation, clarifying labeling rules for chemical substances and adapting them for various trading formats, including online sales and bulk purchases at refill stations. It also enhances the circularity of chemical products, improves the clarity and readability of labels (including digital formats), and ensures stronger protection against chemical hazards.



Textiles

Europe's textile sorting and recycling sector faces an unprecedented crisis that could trigger a domino effect with serious repercussions for municipalities and citizens. EuRIC Textiles and Municipal Waste Europe (MWE) have joined forces and warn EU policymakers to act quickly to prevent a disaster for the industry and local communities. In our joint statement we explain what's happening and how to fix it.

[Read our statement](#)



Plastics

EuRIC has **released a statement urging the EU to maintain a high level of ambition in the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulation (ELVR) by setting mandatory recycled content targets for vehicle plastics.** With 80% of ELV plastics currently landfilled or incinerated, these targets are critical to boost automotive circularity, drive investment, and protect Europe's plastics recycling industry. We call for rejecting any attempts to weaken these targets, bringing forward a 25% recycled plastics goal within four years, and ensuring fair competition through robust certification of recycled content.

[Read our statement](#)



Other EU files

EU Competitiveness: On 8 November, EU heads of state will meet informally in Budapest to discuss the draft declaration for the new European Competitiveness Deal, expected to be adopted in two weeks. This draft supports findings from the Letta and Draghi reports and aligns with the Strategic Agenda from June 2024. It follows the European Council's commitments from 17 October, where EU leaders emphasised the need to boost competitiveness, strengthen economic resilience, renew industry, and maximise the Single Market's potential while ensuring fair competition both within the EU and globally.

Green claims: The European Parliament has published a **briefing** on the progress of the Green Claims Directive. For the 2024-2029 legislative term, MEPs Sandro Gozi (Renew, France) and Delara Burkhardt (S&D, Germany) have been appointed as co-rapporteurs to lead negotiations with the Council.

Circular Economy: The European Economic and Social Committee has released a **press release** on waste management, calling on the EU to prioritise recycling and the recovery of raw materials. This PR follows the EESC opinion adopted on 28 October. The EESC emphasises the critical role of recycling in achieving a circular economy and reducing the EU's dependency on raw material imports. It urges the EU to update its waste management strategy with a focus on improving recycling and resource recovery, thus addressing rising waste levels driven by population growth and industrialisation. Essential measures include financial support for advanced recycling technologies and harmonised standards across Member States for secondary materials. Efficient recycling, combined with robust cross-border regulations, would stimulate markets for secondary materials, reduce landfill reliance, and contribute to sustainable development. The EESC also called for public awareness initiatives to encourage recycling and drive behavioral change towards waste reduction and resource preservation.

Event Highlights



BIR Singapore 2024 has wrapped up, and EuRIC was there to discuss the future of plastics! How can a unified treaty redefine plastic recycling globally? Sophie SICARD-LEMAIRE, President of EuRIC's Plastics Recycling Branch (EPRB) brought forward the European perspective, highlighting the key regulatory shifts transforming plastics recycling.

The International Environment Council, led by EuRIC President Olivier Francois, tackled the pressing journey toward a binding global plastics treaty that would cover the full lifecycle of plastics.



Women in recycling! A picture is worth a thousand words, and this photo from BIR Singapore 2024 captures the essence of women leading the way in the recycling industry.

Upcoming Events

Implementing EU legislation:
Increasing **circularity** in the
construction sector



organised by EuRIC x ANPAR/ASSOAMBIENTE x Ecomondo



Rimini Expo Centre, Italy

6 NOVEMBER 2024

14:00 - 16:30

EN / IT

On 6 November, EuRIC, in collaboration with ANPAR, held a conference on "Implementing EU Legislation: Boosting Circularity in the Construction Sector." The event took place in Rimini, as a side event of ECOMONDO 2024. Our speakers explored the ways the latest EU regulations can transform the construction industry into a circular economy leader and the necessary EU tools to boost circularity in construction. Stay tuned for the key takeaways!



Interested in boosting textile sustainability through inclusive governance? Join us for a EUCircularTalks webinar co-organised by EuRIC, SMEunited, Generation Climate Europe (GCE), RREUSE - Reuse and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises, and the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform! We'll dive into how strengthening Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for textiles can lead to more effective and sustainable waste management practices. Register [here](#) and follow the event live!

PPWR, The forgotten streams



Maria Vera-Duran
Senior Technical Manager
EuRIC

📅 09/12/2024
🕒 13:30- 18:00
📍 BluePoint Brussels, Blvd Reyerslaan 80



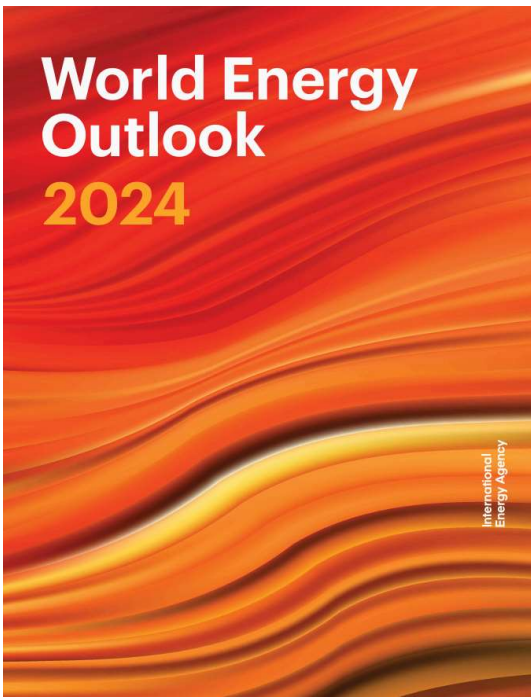
Join us on 9 December in Brussels for **Denuo's event** featuring Maria Vera Duran, Senior Technical Manager at EuRIC. She will discuss the Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation, with a focus on the often-overlooked materials in recycling design. As the industry shifts, design for recycling and the use of recycled content are becoming essential standards. It's time to expand our focus beyond plastic to include paper, cardboard, glass, wood, and metal!

📅 Date: December 9, 2024

🕒 Time: 13:30 - 18:00

📍 Location: BluePoint Brussels


| Interesting reads



The IEA has published its **World Energy Outlook 2024**, which explores global energy trends, focusing on energy security, clean energy transitions, and rising electricity demand. This year's report addresses risks from escalating Middle East tensions and global geopolitical challenges. It assesses progress toward a sustainable energy system and climate goals, with three main scenarios and sensitivity cases covering renewables, electric mobility, LNG, heatwaves, efficiency policies, and AI's impact on electricity. Read the report [here](#).

AT A GLANCE

Infographic



European Parliament

OVERVIEW OF THE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

MORNING 9.00-12.00

AFTERNOON 14.30-17.30


EVENING 18.30-21.30

Monday 4 November

The hearings of the Commissioners-designate will take place in the József Antalfi building, in rooms 202 and 402, at the times indicated. Each hearing will last 3 hours.

The table shows the committee(s) responsible for each hearing. Certain other committees have been invited to participate in each case.


Marti SEČOVIČ



ENVI (ENVI)

Trade and Economic Security; International Relations and Transparency


Glenn MICHALLEF



CULT (CULT)

Intergovernmental Affairs, Youth, Culture and Sport


Christophe HANSEN



AGRI (AGRI)

Agriculture and Food

Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS




TRAN (TRAN)

Sustainable Transport and Tourism

Tuesday 5 November


Michael MCGRATH



LIBE (LIBE)

Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law


Ekaterina ZAHARIEVA



ITRE (ITRE)

Start-ups, Research and Innovation


Dan JØRGENSEN



ENER (ENER)

Energy and Housing


Dobruška ŠÚCHA



HEALTH (HEALTH)

Healthcare


Jessika ROSHWALL



ENVI (ENVI)

Environment, Water, Fisheries and a Competitive Circular Economy

Magnus BRUNNER




AFET (AFET)

Internal Affairs and Migration

Wednesday 6 November


Hadja LAHBIB



OIVS (OIVS)

Proportionality and Equality


Maria Luis ALBUQUERQUE



ECON (ECON)

Financial Services and the Single and Payments Union


Costas KADIS



PECH (PECH)

Fisheries and Oceans


Jozsef SIKELA



DEVS (DEVS)

International Partnerships


Andrius KUBILIUS



DEFI (DEFI)

Defence and Space

Olívér VÁRHELYI



SANI (SANI)

Health and Animal Welfare

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Authors: Györgyi Mátcsák, Lucille Kilianmayr
 Members' Research Service
 PE 762.424 - October 2024

EPRS European Parliamentary Research Service		Overview of the parliamentary hearings	
MORNING	9.00-12.00	AFTERNOON	14.30-17.30
Thursday 7 November			
Wopke HOEKSTRA	Marta KOS	Piotr SERAFIN	Valdis DOMBROVSKIS
			
<small>(EPP) (NL) (ECR)</small> Executive Vice-President Climate, Net Zero and Green Growth	<small>(S&D)</small> Enlargement	<small>(EPP) (CSP)</small> Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration	<small>(EPP) (EN)</small> Implementation and Simplification
Tuesday 12 November			
Raffaello FITTO	Kaja KALLAS	Roxana MINZATU	Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ
			
<small>(EPP)</small> Executive Vice-President Opinion and Inform	<small>(S&D)</small> High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Vice-President	<small>(EPP) (CSP)</small> Executive Vice-President Prosperity, Skills and Preparedness	<small>(EPP) (EN) (EPP) (EN)</small> Executive Vice-President Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
Teresa RIBERA RODRÍGUEZ	Henna VIRKKUNEN		
			
<small>(EPP) (EN) (EPP)</small> Executive Vice-President Climate, Net Zero and Competitive Transition	<small>(EPP) (EN) (EPP)</small> Executive Vice-President Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy		
COMMITTEES:			
AFET Foreign Affairs	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	CULT Culture and Education	
DEVE Development	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	JURI Legal Affairs	
INTA International Trade	IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	
BUDG Budgets	TRAN Transport and Tourism	AFCD Constitutional Affairs	
CONT Budgetary Control	REGI Regional Development	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	PETI Petitions	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	PECH Fisheries		
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The European Parliament has announced the schedule for Commissioners-designate hearings, where MEPs will question candidates as part of the confirmation process. Hearings are being held from 4 to 12 November. The EPRS has published **26 briefings**, each offering a candidate biography, portfolio overview, and key issues in the relevant policy area.

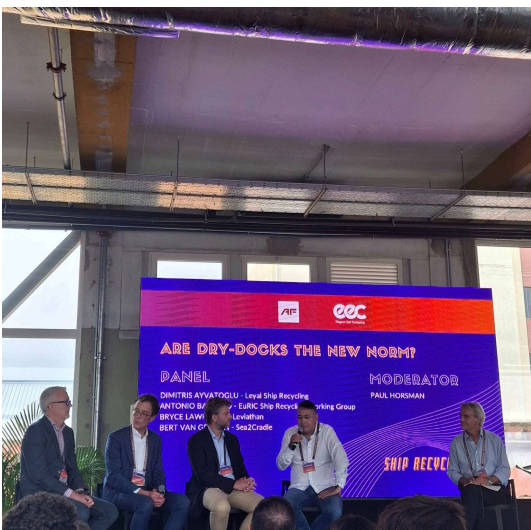
| EuRIC updates



What does the waste shipment regulation mean for exporting End-of-Life Tyres (ELTs)? How can we achieve tyre circularity through ecodesign legislation? EuRIC's Mechanical Tyre Recycling Branch (MTR) met in Brussels on 17 October to discuss these issues and set **EuRIC MTR's priorities** for the EU's 2024-2029 mandate. **Time to put tyres in the spotlight!**



On 11 October, EuRIC alongside European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), visited our partner Galloo Plastics, pioneer in recycling of end-of-life vehicles (ELV) and plastics recycling since 1998! The site visit took place in light of current discussions at EU level on the EU vehicle and end-of life vehicle Regulation.



A big step forward for ship recycling! EuRIC's newly launched Ship Recycling Working Group (ESRG) was represented on 10 October by Chair Antonio Barredo and our Technical Advisor Veronica Plazinic at the Ship Recycling Lab, held in Lisbon!

Our key message: **It's not just about where ship recycling happens, but how it's done.** Although the JRC notes there's no Best Available Techniques Reference document (BREF), in reality, ship

recyclers face stricter standards than required by the Ship Recycling Regulation!



On 8 October, EuRIC's **ERA Working Group met in Paris**, hosted by FEDEREC. The meeting addressed key topics crucial to the future of Europe's recycling industry and circular economy, including the EU 2024-2029 mandate, EPR schemes, the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR), ecodesign and ELVs.

| Updates from the CIMPA Project



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

♻️ **Wrapping up the CIMPA Project** ♻️ Join us in Brussels on November 20, 2024, for the final event! Over the past three years, the EU-funded H2020 CIMPA consortium has developed innovative solutions to transform multilayer plastic waste from packaging and agricultural applications into circular and valuable resources!

Now it's time to explore the results and engage with various stakeholders dedicated to advancing the circularity of plastic films.

CIMPA FINAL EVENT

Advancing the circularity of complex plastic films



20 November 2024
14:00-18:00, BluePoint Brussels



Hosted by **EuRIC**
EUROPEAN UNION RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATOR



 **Funded by
the European Union**

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| Sponsored Content

1ST ASEAN PULP & PAPER SUMMIT

2024

DISCUSSIONS & INSIGHTS



Navigating the changing containerboard landscape in Asia

- Managing in the new era- high inflation, disruption in supply chain, etc.
- Industry M&A2.0
- Uncertainty on RCP availability and quality and its impacts



Panel discussion: Challenges on fiber to feed the industry

- Uncertainty on supply, quality, regulation, etc
- Recycled fiber
- EU waste shipment regulation and how it'll impact the future supply of PFR (Paper For Recycling) from Europe,
- How to better leverage AOCC to gain competitive advantage



Panel discussion: Future of packaging

- Plastic - paper transition and the role of containerboard
- sustainability - how legislation drives change?
- Onshoring - is this still a trend post pandemic?

Find out more detailed information of the event [CLICK HERE](#).

REGISTRATION

Early Bird	Standard
USD \$580 (1-3 tickets)	USD \$680 (1-3 tickets)
USD \$480 (4 tickets & above)	USD \$550 (4 tickets & above)
Offer ends Sep.30, 2024.	Offer ends Nov.13, 2024

T&C applies

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ACTIVITIES

- Nov. 12**
 - Registration, Le Méridien Putrajaya
 - Cocktail reception, Evening
- Nov. 13**
 - 1st ASEAN Paper and Packaging Summit
 - Lunch Breakout Session (Optional)
 - Cocktail reception, Evening
- Nov. 13-14**
 - Tech Mini- Exhibition (Planned)
- Nov. 15**
 - Mill tour

SPEAKERS



Hannah Zhao
Director, Fiber
Fastmarkets RISI



William P. Moore
President,
Moore &
Associates



Matthew Seidner
Partner
McKinsey &
Company



Lieu Kien Cường
Chairman
South Branch of VPPA / Thuan An Paper



Shengfeng Li
Chairman
XSD International Paper SDN. BHD

EVENT DETAILS

13 November 2024
09:00 - 20:30

Le Méridien
Putrajaya, Malaysia

[Register Now](#)

Email cs@rxconsulting.com.cn to secure your spot.
Early Bird Discount available until 30 Sept, 2024.



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Contact for more info

Ms. Zhao

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The Waste Shipment Regulation and how it will impact the future

EuRIC will participate in the 1st ASEAN Paper and Packaging Summit at Le Meridien Putrajaya, Malaysia. EuRIC's Secretary General, Julia Ettinger, will address the critical issues surrounding the EU Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) and its impact on Southeast Asia's paper and packaging industries. This summit provides a valuable opportunity to raise awareness within SEA Paper Industries on the new regulations affecting global trade.



Registrations for IERC 2025 are open! 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](#).

SMITHERS

SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES EVENT 2024



Michelle Carvell
LORAX EPI



Philippe Doliger
EURIC



Ana Rodes
RECOVER™



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ONLINE**

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Register now for Smithers' Sustainable Textiles Event 2024

The textile industry is experiencing a shift towards sustainability, driven by environmental concerns and increasing consumer demand for more ethical and eco-friendly products. The transitioning to a circular economy is crucial for addressing textile waste. Join us online for the Sustainable Textiles Event 2024 that will be held on 20 November, from 10:00 to 16:00 BST. Philippe Doliger, EuRIC's Policy Advisor, alongside Alan Wheeler, CEO of the Textile Recycling Association and EuRIC Textiles Executive Committee Member, will present during the morning session.

Register [here](#).



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