



## NEWSLETTER N° 117 - 20 March 2023

**Hello from Brussels.** As always, we bring you all the latest news on circular economy from Europe and beyond. The EU27 Energy Ministers **reached a general approach** on a proposal to revise the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and the Commission unveiled its plan to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero **industry** and accelerate the transition to climate neutrality. FEAD has gathered all the information for you.

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**Industrial Emissions Directive (IED):** EU27 Environment Ministers Reach General Approach on IED Revision Proposal.

## **Green Deal Industrial Plan:**

- **Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA):** European Commission Presents Draft Regulation on Zero-Emission Industries to Increase Industry Competitiveness.
- **Critical Raw Materials (CMRs):** European Commission Unveils Critical Raw Materials Act to Ensure Access to Secure, Diversified, Affordable and Sustainable Supply of CRMs.
- EU and US Call for a Strategic Metals Agreement, Announce "dialogue" to Coordinate their Incentive Programs.

**Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR):** Council Experts to Examine Presidency's Steering Note on EC proposal.

**Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR):** Council Experts Discuss Swedish Presidency's Second Compromise Text on EC Proposal.

**REACH - Chemicals:** Commission to Do its "Utmost" to Deliver REACH Revision "hopefully" in Summer, Says EU's Environment Commissioner.

**Renewable Energy Directive (REDII) revision:** New RED Trilogue to Be Held on 21 March.

**Delegated Act - Hydrogen:** Seven EU States Oppose Inclusion of Low-Carbon Hydrogen in RED for 2030.

**EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS):** MEPs Adopt Review of Market Stability Reserve (MSR) for the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).

**Effort Sharing Regulation:** EU Lawmakers Adopt Revision of Effort Sharing Regulation.

**Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR):** Parliament's ITRE and IMCO Committees Have Until mid-April to Reach Compromise on Packaging Regulation.

- Most EU27 Ministers Support Commission's Packaging Waste Reduction Goal, Reject Proposal to Standardise Waste Management Systems.

**Carbon Removal Certification (CRC):** Member States Welcome Proposal to Incentivise Carbon Removal Activities, Agree that More Discussions Needed on Fundamental Aspects of the Proposal.

**Electricity Market Reform:** EU Proposes Electricity Market Reform to Stabilise Prices.

**Hydrogen:** EU's Hydrogen Bank to Have Two Financing Mechanisms to Support Renewable Hydrogen Production Within and Outside the EU, Contexte Reports.

**Urban Wastewater Treatment:** EU27 Environment Ministers Welcome Revision of the Directive.

- EP Rapporteur Expresses Skepticism about Imposing Costs of Wastewater Remediation on Industry.

**Protection of the environment through criminal law:** European Parliament's JURI Committee Reaches Compromise on the Directive's Revision.

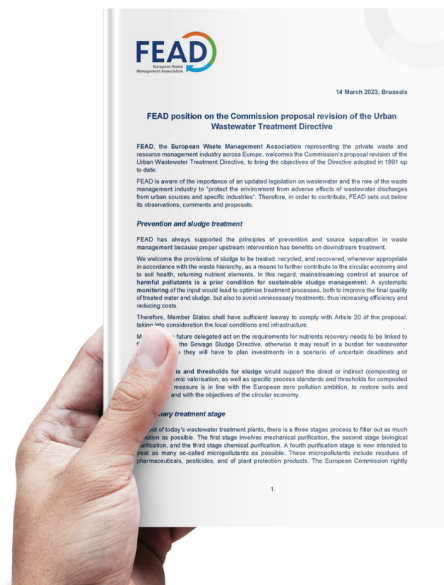
**Priority Access to PET:** Beverage Producers Advocate for Priority Access to Recycled PET, Commission Rejects it, Citing Potential Distortions on Secondary Materials Market.

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## FEAD feedback to the Commission's public consultation on the revision of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive

FEAD is aware of the importance of an updated legislation on wastewater and the role of the waste management industry to “protect the environment from adverse effects of wastewater discharges from urban sources and specific industries”. To this end, FEAD has submitted a [reply](#) to the Commission's public consultation on the directive's revision. The main focus of the submitted document is on the following points: i) Prevention and sludge treatment, ii) Quaternary treatment stage (of micropollutants, after mechanical, biological and chemical treatment), iii) Extended Producer Responsibility (to cover additional costs related to this quaternary treatment), iv) Energy neutrality of wastewater sector, v) Water reuse.



## Energy-from-Waste conference, London

FEAD's Technical Officer Paolo Campanella attended the Energy from Waste, 15 - 16 March 2023 conference on accelerating decarbonisation and circular economy. Key takeaways: “At the European level, there are more questions than answers about Waste-to-Energy in the Emissions Trading System at the moment.



## US and EU agree to coordinate green tech incentives

ENDS Europe: European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and President Biden have launched a dialogue to ensure green subsidy schemes are "mutually reinforcing", as European big business calls to pause or even reverse EU environmental regulations.



## Monitoring trade in plastic waste and scrap

OECD: This Environment Working Paper aims to identify and assess trends in trade patterns in the context of recent policy developments. The annual reported export weight of plastic scrap and waste fell by 50% over the past 4 years, from around 12.4 Mt/year in 2017 to 6.2 Mt/year in 2021. Preliminary data indicates a continuing trend. Exports to non-OECD countries remain significant, albeit reduced.



## EFRAG releases a series of educational videos on the first set of draft ESRS

The European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) has released a series of educational videos on the first set of draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS). Click [here](#) to watch the videos.

In March, EFRAG issued the Basis for conclusions to complement the first set of draft ESRS. The first set of draft ESRS was submitted to the European Commission in November 2022. No comments are requested on the Basis for conclusions. The European Commission will now consult EU bodies and Member States on the draft standards, before adopting the final standards as delegated acts in June 2023, followed by a scrutiny period by the European Parliament and Council. The reporting requirements will be phased in over time for different kinds of companies. The first companies will have to apply the standards in financial year 2024, for reports published in 2025. Listed SMEs are obliged to report as from 2026, with a further possibility of voluntary opt-out until 2028, and will be able to report according to separate, proportionate standards that EFRAG will develop next year.