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Circular Economy Newsletter | June 2024

We have 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.

Register now for the 2024 edition of the European Recycling Conference (ERC)

Join us on **26 September 2024**, at the illustrious Grand Villa Torretta in Milano, Italy, as we celebrate a decade of EuRIC's commitment to circularity and sustainable recycling practices.

In partnership with **Assofermet**, we proudly present our anniversary event themed "Recycling Today, Resourcing Tomorrow"

GET YOUR TICKET

A blue banner for the 6th European Recycling Conference. On the left, there is a graphic of concentric white circles. The text '6th EUROPEAN RECYCLING CONFERENCE' is prominently displayed in white. Below it, '26 SEPTEMBER 2024' and 'Milano, Italy' are written in smaller white text. In the center, the slogan 'Recycling today. Resourcing tomorrow.' is shown, with 'tomorrow.' in a white box. At the bottom center, it says 'Registrations are open! SPECIAL OFFER on accommodation!'. On the right side, the 'ERC EUROPEAN RECYCLING CONFERENCE' logo is at the top, followed by the 'EuRIC 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY' logo, and the 'ASSOFERMET' logo at the bottom right.

| EuRIC's EU policy monitoring



Ecodesign

The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) has been **published** in the EU's Official Journal. EuRIC will continue to monitor the discussion and collaborate with policymakers to develop eco-design rules for various product groups (e.g., textiles) and intermediate product groups (e.g., iron and steel).



Net-Zero

The regulation on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 (Net-Zero Industry Act) has entered into force on 29 June 2024 and began applying from the same day with certain exceptions.



Chemicals

EoW Criteria - REACH: The Commission is conducting an impact analysis on reclassifying recycled aggregates and developing EU End-of-Waste (EOW) criteria. This preliminary, non-final paper reflects on a scenario where recycled aggregates are reclassified as a substance or mixture.

The Commission seeks further input on:

- Existing REACH notifications for aggregates that could apply to exemptions for recycled aggregates.
- Impacts of reclassification on developing EU EOW criteria and the recycling market for construction and demolition waste (CDW).

Dechlorane plus - UTC proposal: On 26 June, the Commission published its proposal for the unintentional trace contaminant (UTC) value of the POP substance Dechlorane Plus. A draft act is open for feedback for 4 weeks, until 24 July.

PFAS: In their June meetings, RAC and SEAC reached provisional conclusions on the following sectors from the EU-wide proposal to restrict PFAS: consumer mixtures, cosmetics, and ski wax (discussed in the March plenary), and metal plating and manufacture of metal products (discussed in June). The committees also announced the sectors for evaluation in upcoming meetings. In September, they will focus on textiles, upholstery, leather, apparel, carpets (TULAC), food contact materials and packaging, and petroleum and mining. Subsequent sectors for discussion will be applications of fluorinated gases, transport, and construction products.



Construction & Demolition

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, along with DG ENV and DG GROW, is organising an online workshop on 26 September 2024, to develop the techno-scientific knowledge base on inert construction and demolition waste. This workshop will kick off the JRC's work on developing EU-wide harmonised End-of-Waste criteria for such waste.

As a registered stakeholder organisation, EuRIC can appoint one delegate from its membership to participate as an expert in this process. EuRIC has launched a call for interested members to apply for this position.



Textiles

On 17 June, the Council adopted its position (“general approach”) on the targeted revision of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD), covering food and textile waste. According to the general approach, by the end of 2028 the Commission will consider setting specific targets for waste prevention, collection, preparing for re-use and recycling of the waste textile

Read our Press Release



Waste Shipments

The new Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) has entered into force, with new requirements to audit non-EU facilities starting in 2026. ERPA, EuRIC's paper branch, is leading the development of an **audit questionnaire** with Bureau Veritas based on the new WSR requirements, focusing solely on paper. Please consider if the questionnaire needs adaptation for your stream and identify relevant specific requirements.



E-waste

The draft delegated acts to amend the Waste Shipment Regulation in relation to the recent amendments to the Basel Convention regarding the classification of electronic and electrical waste ("e-waste"), were published on the Have Your Say website, with the feedback period open until 3 July. More information on the delegated acts [here](#) and [here](#).



Plastics

The European Commission has launched a new [webpage](#) for recycled plastic intended for food contact (FCM) under Regulation (EU) 2022/1616. This site provides access to the Union [register](#) of novel technologies, recyclers, recycling processes, recycling schemes, and decontamination installations. The database includes registration numbers for all registered recycling companies and facilities and will be regularly updated.

aim to enhance input quality certification, including origin and collection methods of plastic waste, and may introduce TARIC codes for better tracking of imported plastic waste.



Packaging

EuRIC and 71 other EU and national associations in the packaging value chain have jointly sent a letter (non-public) to the European Commission's Director General for Environment (DG ENV), expressing strong support for prompt preparation and finalisation of secondary legislation under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR).

[Read the letter here](#)



Other EU files

International Treaty on Plastic Pollution

The Council of the European Union has published a note from the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2024 and the European Commission, providing information on the progress made in developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, the key elements of divergence among delegations, and the outcomes of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC). You can access the document [here](#).

Environmental Implementation Review (EIR)

The EU's environmental policy is under review with a European Commission [consultation](#) running from 7 June to 5 July. The fourth evaluation of the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) will result in a 2025 communication and 27 national reports, assessing progress since 2017 and comparing implementation. Each report will provide recommendations, priority actions, key gaps, and good practices. The Commission notes significant shortcomings in areas like nature protection, pollution, and wastewater treatment, emphasizing the need for more active and coherent support from states. Poor enforcement of EU environmental legislation cost an estimated 55 million euros annually in

Green Claims Directive

On 17 June, the Council of the European Union adopted its position on the green claims directive, which aims to address greenwashing and help consumers make truly greener decisions when buying a product or using a service. The Council's general approach will form the basis for negotiations with the European Parliament on the final shape of the directive. Negotiations are expected to begin in the new legislative cycle.

The Council of EU has published a [four-column document](#) outlining its position, along with the Commission's and the Parliament's, ahead of the upcoming interinstitutional negotiations on Green Claims Directive.

Council Presidency

On 1 July, Hungary took over the rotating Council Presidency from Belgium. The Hungarian presidency's programme will be structured around seven priorities: acceptance of a New European Competitiveness Deal; the reinforcement of the European defence policy; a consistent and merit-based enlargement policy; stemming illegal migration; shaping the future of the cohesion policy; a farmer-oriented EU agricultural policy; and addressing demographic challenges. Read more [here](#).

| Opportunities



Dear EuRIC members, partners and sponsors!

EuRIC is looking for 2 new Technical advisors to join our team in Brussels as soon as possible!

Know someone with experience in **tyres, metals or chemicals**? Someone up to speed on EU efforts in **Ecodesign, ELVs, CRMs, Batteries, REACH, and/or POPs**?

addressed to Julia Ettinger (Blees).

[Vacancy details here](#)

| Highlights



Our e-waste recycling event held on 3 June, sent a strong message: E-waste recycling and ecodesign must go hand-in-hand 👉 To achieve e-waste circularity, we need incentives for recyclers, consumer empowerment, and a legal framework with fit-for-purpose targets and provisions that ensure a level playing field and drive demand for recycled materials within the EU.

Missed our event?

[Read our Press Release](#)

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Inauguration of Derichebourg's new recycling facility in Escoutpont

Cutting-edge technology and a true industrial ambition at DERICHEBOURG Environnement's new recycling facility in Escoutpont, France! On 25 June, EuRIC's Communications Advisor Zoi Didili joined the site's inauguration ceremony and saw firsthand the innovative cables recycling process that enables the reintroduction of valuable copper into the production cycle.

Derichebourg's advanced technology allows the production of copper shot from end-of-life electrical cables sourced from construction, automotive, and household appliance sectors. Congratulations to Derichebourg for the visionary leadership and ambition in creating a state-of-the-art facility that will significantly boost regional and EU recycling initiatives.



What does the future hold for End-of-Life Vehicles recycling?

At the National Meeting on ELV Management and Recycling organised by **Sigrauto**, EuRIC's Scientific Director Alejandro Navazas **presented** our approach to the European Commission regulation proposal and shared EuRIC's recommendations to boost ELV circularity. Collaboration across the entire value chain remains pivotal.



🇪🇺 Highlights from SRR with our member FER, and our partner Gremi de Recuperació de Catalunya!

Recovery and Recycling (SRR) from June 18-20 at Ifema, Madrid!

SRR, organised by FER, is Spain's premier event in the circular economy sector. Congratulations to FER for the impeccable organisation of the 21st National Congress on Recovery and Recycling!

| Interesting reads



Strategic Agenda 2024 - 2029: EU leaders have adopted the new strategic agenda for 2024-2029, setting the course for the next five years. The new strategic agenda is based on three pillars:

- ◆ a free and democratic Europe
- ◆ a strong and secure Europe
- ◆ a prosperous and competitive Europe

Discover more about the new agenda and its goals [here](#).

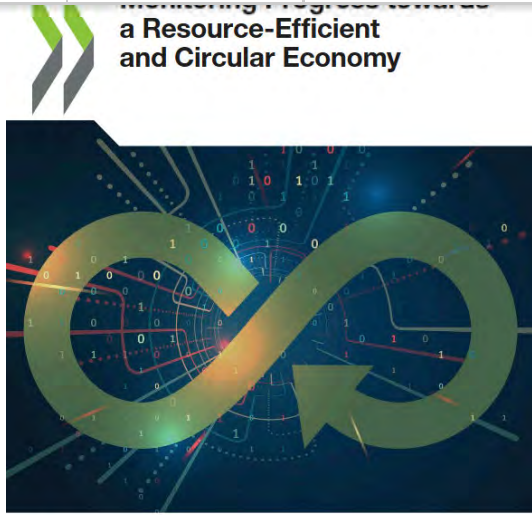


EEA Briefing - The role of plastics in Europe's circular economy: The briefing covers plastics production and consumption in Europe, the impacts on the environment and climate change, and how we can shift to a circular economy for plastics. Work from the Circularity Metrics Lab on plastics (EEA, 2024a) and a report on the Circularity Metrics Lab for Plastics from the European Topic Centre on Circular Economy and Resource Use inform this briefing. Read more [here](#).

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and circular economy: This report presents a conceptual framework and a set of indicators for monitoring progress towards a resource-efficient and circular economy. The purpose is to provide a harmonised guide for countries seeking to build up a coherent CE monitoring framework and to support international work on the transition to a CE. Read more [here](#).

Scrap Metal Market Report
No. 068

Yielding for Scrap - Adaptive Price Increases
Scrap Metal Market Report - June 2024
Editorial Deadline: 17.06.2024

General Developments

At the start of the summer season, current economic indicators reveal a subdued German economy. The sentiments in the industrial, construction and service sectors are noticeably improving, but only at a very slow pace. In the meantime, production cutbacks and weak export demand are having a dampening effect in the manufacturing industry. In other situations, including received large-scale orders, is showing a downward trend. The truck toll mileage index showed a marked decrease in truck mileage during May; this index, which has been updated daily since the end of the Covid19 pandemic, uses the data received from the toll collection system and shows a good overview of daily and monthly truck mileage in Germany. This decrease in mileage suggests that tangible economic growth stimuli are, for the time being, not on the horizon. The relaxation of fiscal policy and the associated improved financing terms for both commercial and private sectors is only likely to stimulate demand for German commodities in the long run.

Scrap Market

After many production cutbacks and stoppages during May, the hope arose that an upswing would become apparent in the metalworking industry in particular. However, more or less the opposite transpired. During June, scrap traders complained bitterly about the low inflow of industrial scrap and especially that of steel turnings. Furthermore, according to market observers, many metal-working companies showed lower production levels. Consequently, the production of industrial scrap was negatively impacted, showing a drop of 30-35%. The decrease in industrial scrap production in the automotive industry was often quoted as an example. The reduction in interest rates by the European Central Bank has yet to show an effect. It is probably unlikely that much will change regarding incoming orders or material availability before the start of the summer holiday period, when many mills start their traditional summer production stoppages. Due to the shortage of industrial scrap, prices rose therefore by up to €10 per tonne, compared to last month. The situation was not quite so precarious for obsolete scrap, whereas finished treated obsolete grades were traded at more or less unchanged prices, prices for feeder material showed slight increases of €5 per tonne, compared to last month. Particularly the treatment of obsolete scrap by the aggregate operators, i.e. the shredder operators, appears to have been geared back. High material inflow prices and increased treatment costs are making the whole process economically unviable for many aggregate operators.

In general, the scrap market is very tight and has showed little movement in pricing for the last three months. Prices remained stable during June, with the exception of some slight increases of up to €10 per tonne for industrial scrap. The structure of the volume of available material increased challenging, so that in some areas a grey market developed where, in parts, higher price increases were achieved. Market participants reported incidents of material being shipped up the Rhine from the large (export) ports to the steel consumers. Reduced inflow of material and the high availability of material on the market are considerably hindering economically viable and profitable trading for the scrap industry.

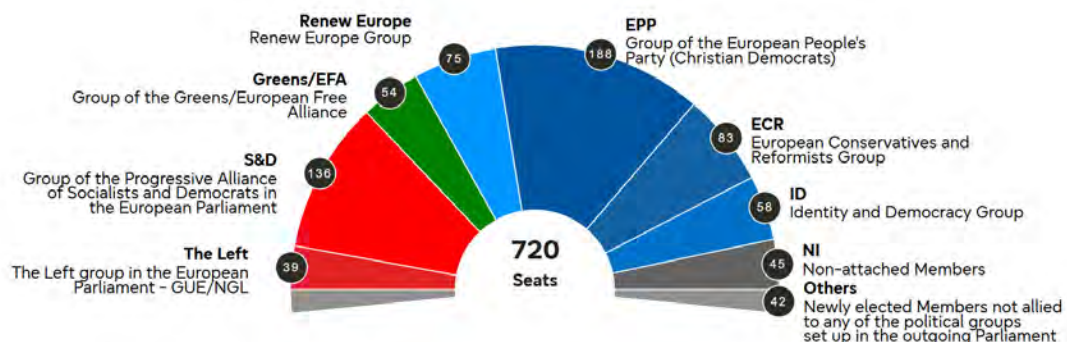
Regional Developments

In north Germany, the overall picture was less uniform than in other parts of the country. Finished treated obsolete scrap changed hands at more or less unchanged prices, whereas by feeder material slight price increases of approximately €5 per tonne were seen. Contracts for industrial scrap closed with a plus of €10 per tonne. Obtaining steel turnings, in particular, proved to be difficult. In the east, the situation on the steel turnings market was also very tight and here the supply of obsolete scrap was seen as limited. Average price increases ranged from €5 - €7.5 per tonne. In the west, contracts were closed early on in the month and, in

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 www.schrott-info.de

Scrap Metal Market Report No. 068 - BVSE: At the start of the summer season, current economic indicators reveal a subdued German economy. The sentiments in the industrial, construction and service sectors are noticeably improving, but only at a very slow pace. In the meantime, production cutbacks and weak export demand are having a dampening effect. Read more here by [bvse](#).



scheduled for 16-19 July. EuRIC has prepared a factsheet with everything you need to know about what happens next.

[Read EuRIC's EU Factsheet](#)

| Updates from the CIMPA Project



➤ **Blown extrusion of agricultural multilayer films based on recycled materials**

CIMPA will develop the first recycling valuation chain for multilayer films retaining up based on a synergetic approach combining innovative compositional-based sorting, mechanical and physical recycling, and upgrading solutions. The project aims to demonstrate that multilayer films can become circular in two large volume markets : food and agriculture.

Many partners are involved to achieve this objective, and among them, **the Barbier Group**, who its strong expertise in mechanical recycling to agricultural products.

[Read more here](#)

➤ **CIMPA 6th General Assembly in Delft**

The 6th General Assembly of CIMPA, hosted by TNO, took place on 29-30 May 2024 in Delft, the Netherlands.

With only 6 months left before the end of the project, the project partners presented key results and discussed next steps to maximise the impact of CIMPA.

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