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## Circular Economy Newsletter | May 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.

*Just when you thought our events were over...*

### *Get ready for ERC 2024*

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 promotional poster for the European Recycling Conference 2024. The poster has a metallic, brushed metal background. In the top left corner, there is a yellow banner with the text '6th Edition' and an arrow pointing right. Below this, the text 'ERC' is written in a large, bold, blue font, with 'hosted by EuRIC' in a smaller font below it. To the right of 'ERC', the text 'EUROPEAN RECYCLING CONFERENCE 2024' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. In the center, there are two stacked rectangular boxes: the top one is blue with the text 'Recycling today.' in white, and the bottom one is yellow with the text 'Resourcing tomorrow.' in blue. In the bottom left corner, there is the EuRIC 10 Year Anniversary logo. In the bottom center, there is the text 'In cooperation with:' followed by the Assofermet logo. In the bottom right corner, there is a stylized illustration of a yellow building with blue spires and a recycling symbol on a tag hanging from one of the spires. Below the illustration, the text '26 SEPTEMBER 2024' and 'Milano, Italy' is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

# | EuRIC's EU policy monitoring



## Critical Raw Materials

The **final** text of the EU Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) has been published in the EU's Official Journal. It aims to ensure secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials for Europe's industry and significantly lower the EU's dependency on imports from single country suppliers. The CRMA came into force on 23 May. The European Commission has published a **press release** on the matter announcing that the first CRMA Board Meeting took place and the first call for Strategic Projects has been launched.

The Commission is expected to present a Report evaluating the CRMA. The report, which is required by Article 48(1) Regulation (EU) 2024/1252, would assess: (i) the appropriateness of the maximum environmental footprint thresholds for critical raw materials as well as the benchmarks targets; (ii) the impact of the joint purchasing system; and (iii) the need to adopt further measures to increase the collection, sorting and processing of waste.

On 28 May, the EU and Australia signed a new partnership covering critical raw materials, aiming at securing more sustainable critical raw materials for the EU, while boosting investments in Australia. Read more [here](#).



## Chemicals

The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) decided at its eleventh meeting (1-12 May 2023) to amend Annex A to include methoxychlor without any specific exemptions. The Union supported this inclusion as per Council Decision (EU) 2023/10064. Consequently, Part A of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 will also be amended to include methoxychlor.

To enforce Article 3(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021, the EU Commission stated that a limit value for methoxychlor as an unintentional trace contaminant should be set at 0.01



## Batteries

The Commission presented its preparatory work on the expected Delegated Decision amending the European List of Waste (ELW) for batteries and accumulators to the Expert Group on Waste. The Commission Expert Group on Waste, composed of Member States experts, met on 8 May 2024. During the meeting, the Commission presented a draft Annex to the expected Commission Decision, alongside a JRC draft Report suggesting Technical recommendations for the targeted amendment of the European List of Waste entries relevant to batteries. Both documents were not made publicly available.

**Rechargeable Industrial Batteries (Carbon Footprint Methodologies):** The Commission is expected to present a draft Delegated Act establishing the methodology for the calculation and verification of the carbon footprint of rechargeable industrial batteries by 2025. The Commission is required to adopt the Delegated Act by 18 February 2025.



## Construction & Demolition

The Commission highlighted a "call for evidence" on developing "do no significant harm" (DNSH) criteria for the 80 billion EUR Social Climate Fund, potentially serving as a model for the next Multiannual Financial Framework. They recommended linking these criteria to construction and demolition waste recycling to promote circularity in the construction sector. Projects seeking funding would need to prove compliance with DNSH criteria. EURIC has provided feedback to this call for evidence.

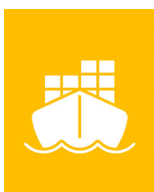


## Textiles

France, along with Austria, Finland, and the Netherlands, is advocating for measures against ultra-fast fashion in Brussels. They presented a **"non-paper"** on 17 May to

Responsibility scheme for textiles. They propose that producers' financial contributions should be based on eco-design criteria and the sustainability of textiles, considering factors like market references and collection renewal frequency. These proposals are not in the latest draft compromise of the Belgian presidency, which seeks a common position by 17 June, with the matter being on Coreper 1 agenda for the meeting of 29 May.

**Ecolabel (Textiles and Footwear Review):** Commission Provides Information on State of Play of Expected Revision of Ecolabel Criteria: In 2024, the Commission is expected to continue its preparatory work ahead of the expected revision of the Ecolabel criteria for textiles and footwear set out respectively in Commission Decision 2014/350/EU and Commission Decision (EU) 2016/1349.



## Waste Shipments

The **final text** of the revised Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) has been published in the EU's official journal. The new rules aim to ease shipments of waste for reuse and recycling in the EU, to support the transition to a circular economy, ensure that waste exported from the EU is managed in an environmentally sound manner in the destination countries, and step up enforcement to counteract illegal shipments of waste.



## ELVs

For the Working Party on 23 May 2024 the Presidency has analysed Member States' comments on the **Steering Note** of the Working Party on 26 April 2024 and suggests amended texts in this Steering Note.



## Packaging



## Other EU files

### Protection of the Environment through criminal law:

The European Commission has published an **article** on the Environmental Crime Directive - the new rules to protect the environment through criminal law, which entered into force on 20 May. The new Directive introduces several new offence categories, such as unlawful ship recycling, unlawful water abstraction, serious breaches of EU chemicals and mercury legislation, serious breaches related to dealing with fluorinated greenhouse gases, and serious breaches of legislation on invasive alien species.

The Commission is expected to carry out an evaluation of the directive and submit the results of the evaluation to the European Parliament and to the Council by 21 May 2031 in the form of a Commission Report.

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## | Highlights



### Women in Recycling.

A picture is worth a thousand words, and this photo from BIRCopenhagen2024 captures the essence of women leading the way in the recycling industry. Here's to you, ladies. A heartfelt thank you from EuRIC 🙏

Julia Blee, EuRIC's Secretary General, discuss the EU's strategy on critical raw materials and the implications of the Critical Raw Materials Act, approved in April 2024, for recyclers.

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ahead for recyclers?  At EuRIC's event held in partnership with bvse during **IFAT2024**, we delved into recyclers' expectations for the EU elections. The Commission's message was clear: the green wave continues, shifting focus from regulation to implementation and secondary legislation! But what does this mean for the recycling sector? How can we ensure the new European Commission recognises our vital role in emissions reduction and resource generation?



Highlights from EuRIC's visit to Hamburg. We discussed End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) with the **BDSV working group for car recycling** and had the opportunity to visit the KIESOW Autorecycling + Autoteile GmbH facility!

## | Interesting reads



EEA has published a new **briefing** on Management of used and waste textiles in Europe's circular economy. The briefing provides an overview of the current state of textile waste generation, collection systems, treatment capacity and the different classifications for used textiles in Europe. Additionally, it identifies factors which must be considered when implementing separate collection systems to foster the circularity of textiles without inadvertently increasing exports,



With the conclusion of the final plenary session of the Parliament's 9th parliamentary term, the ENVI committee has released an **activity report**, reflecting on its achievements over the past five years. "During this period, we dealt with an unprecedented amount of legislative activities in all areas of ENVI committee competence. This significant volume of legislation has put the EU on consistent pathway towards climate neutrality and a nature-positive society," said **Pascal Canfin**, the Chair of ENVI committee.

SUSTAINABLE INSIGHTS

Textile Insights | May 2024

### EuRIC Textiles Raises Concerns Over Stricter Controls On Textile Waste Shipments

Click here to read more

In a recent joint statement, the governments of Denmark, France and Sweden have urged the European Commission to present a draft Council Decision on a shared EU proposal. This proposal aims to subject textile waste to stricter control mechanisms under the Basel Convention, ostensibly to improve waste management practices. However, EuRIC Textiles, the textile reuse and recycling branch of the European Recycling Industries Confederation, has raised significant concerns about the potential repercussions. EuRIC Textiles argues that such measures could undermine sustainable textile recycling efforts and hinder the progress of the circular economy.



Moreover, the recent revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) has already introduced stricter rules for shipments to non-OECD countries, such as requiring Commission approval and audited facilities. Adding a notification procedure on top of these regulations could impose a substantial administrative burden and impede future scalability and innovation in the industry. EuRIC Textiles argues that non-hazardous textile waste is crucial for establishing an internal market for reuse and recycling in Europe. Since not all EU member states possess the

infrastructure to sort or recycle textile waste domestically, efficient transportation between collection points and sorting or recycling facilities is essential. Implementing notification procedures would further burden Europe's textile sorting and recycling companies, exacerbating existing challenges. The core issue, according to EuRIC Textiles, is not the shipment of textile waste itself but rather the illicit practice of disguising textile waste as used clothing and exporting it outside the waste regime's controls. To address this, they propose establishing detailed sorting criteria before any shipment outside Europe. These criteria, which were established by EuRIC Textiles in 2022, outline processes for collecting, preparing for reuse and recycling textiles, ensuring that only second-hand textiles are shipped outside the waste regime.

### AbTF Collaborates With TextileGenesis To Enhance Sustainable Cashmere Production

Click here to read more

In a bid to bolster the credentials of The Good Cashmere Standard (GCS) as a symbol of sustainably produced and traceable cashmere fibres from inner Mongolia, the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF) has collaborated with TextileGenesis, a Lactra company. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in advancing transparency and traceability within the cashmere production chain. Version 2.0 of the standard, a result of meticulous revision by the AbTF, places heightened emphasis on animal welfare in cashmere production. The revision, built on four pillars encompassing sustainable cashmere production, covers crucial aspects including cashmere goat welfare, environmental sustainability, labour conditions and responsible management practices.



The cornerstone of the revision lies in the focus on goat welfare, aligned with David J. Mellor's model of the domains of animal welfare. Addressing nutrition, environment, health, behaviour and mental state, the standard ensures holistic well-being for cashmere goats, not only meeting their physical needs but also nurturing positive emotional experiences. An ongoing pilot project for animal welfare assessments, based on the Animal Welfare Indicator Protocol (AWIP), further underscores the commitment to goat welfare. Trained auditors in China will conduct assessments, supplementing detailed audit information with specific indicators for nutrition, environment, health and behaviour. The results will inform the continuous improvement of animal welfare conditions on farms in inner Mongolia. Beyond goat welfare, the standard's mission encompasses guidelines for protecting biodiversity, en-

sureing dignified labour conditions and promoting responsible business practices. These criteria aim to safeguard the environment, uphold ethical labour standards and ensure compliance with GCS values. Effective 2025, the implementation of the Good Cashmere Standard 2.0 and its criteria will be mandatory, monitored through independent verifications of regular intervals to ensure adherence. Christian Barthel, Head of Business Development at the Aid by Trade Foundation, emphasizes the commitment to traceability and transparency, noting the partnership's role in reinforcing this commitment. He highlights TextileGenesis's innovative platform as a valuable tool in ensuring full traceability of responsible cashmere. Axel Gustaf, Founder and CEO of TextileGenesis, echoes the sentiment, emphasizing the importance of transparency in fashion supply chains.

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The May 2024 issue of Textile Insights is out and features EuRIC's warning against subjecting textile waste to the Basel Convention's strict control mechanisms, as proposed by the governments of Denmark, France. If implemented, it could threaten the textile value chain's circular economy efforts and lead to reusable and recyclable textiles being incinerated or landfilled. Discover May's issue [here](#). We are on page 8!

OECD has published a new **report** on Plastics recycled content requirements. OECD argues that recycled content requirements are a potentially significant policy tool. But there is a question whether regulations or alternative policy instruments throughout the lifecycle might be better or equally well suited to incentivise recycled content. For example,

can help stimulate reduction and the substitution of these materials with secondary equivalents. Further work will be needed to shed light on this issue.

## | Updates from the CIMPA Project



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.





## | Sponsored content



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