



## MEET THE TEAM

### What are your main responsibilities within EuRIC?

As the administrative assistant for EuRIC, my role is to make sure EuRIC's team and members have all they need to operate smoothly. There is a lot of planning involved, which can be challenging in the current situation: meeting rooms, catering, logistics. Also, our General Secretariat adopted a new CRM system last year to manage the memberships and facilitate the communication through the entire organisation, and I will be regularly updating it with all the relevant information.

### Can you give us a little insight about your educational background and previous work experiences?

After a bachelor's degree in International Business and sustainable Development at the ESCD 3A of Lyon, I pursued a master's degree in International Relations at the Iris'sup institute of Paris, following my passion for foreign affairs and geopolitics. Both curricula presented classes about environmental stakes, the pressing matters of climate change and their consequences which broadened my view. My studies gave me the opportunity to intern abroad (China and Madagascar), and to explore different work fields and environments. After graduation, I worked in different companies operating in international business. Tackling different jobs made me a polyvalent worker and allowed me to accumulate the needed skills to work as the secretariat's administrative assistant.



**Axelle Legros**  
Administrative Assistant  
EuRIC

### Tell us a little bit about yourself. What are your hobbies, where are you from, etc.?

I was born and raised in Madagascar where I received a mix of African, Asian and Western education but, surprisingly, I am not much of a hot climate type. While exploring my cultural heritage, I fell in love with Asian culture so learning about it can occupy me for days. It started basic with learning about cultural practices, cooking and learning mandarin, to picking up traditional silk embroidery during lockdown.



### International Electronics Recycling Congress / Salzburg & online / 18-21 January 2022

EuRIC Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis participated in a workshop titled “Dealing with the Green Deal” during the International Electronics Recycling Congress (IERC) together with other stakeholders from EERA and Applia. Emmanuel also presented the latest news on the Batteries Directive and Waste Shipment Regulation revisions.

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ACTIVITIES



### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

#### Cooperation / Zero-pollution future / 10 December 2021

The European Commission and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) [have agreed](#) to act together at the global level to urgently reduce pollution in an integrated manner, aligning their respective zero pollution action plans towards closer EC-UNEP cooperation. Both partners are also paying increasing attention to nature protection and restoration as one of the solutions to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate, biodiversity, and pollution.

#### Publication / Environmental Crime Directive / 15 December 2021

The proposal to revise the current Environmental Crime Directive [has been published](#) and sets new EU environmental criminal offences, including illegal timber trade, illegal ship recycling or illegal abstraction of water. In addition, the proposal clarifies existing definitions of environmental criminal offences, providing for an increased legal certainty. The legislative proposal will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council. Further information is available [here](#).

#### Publication / Environmental Footprint Methods / 16 December 2021

The European Commission [has published](#) a revised Recommendation on the use of Environmental Footprint methods, helping companies to calculate their environmental performance based on reliable, verifiable and comparable information, and for other actors (public administrations, NGOs, business partners, for example) to have access to such information.

#### Feedback / Ecodesign requirements / 7 January 2022

The European Commission [has opened](#) feedback for the draft act on the Review of ecodesign requirements for standby and off mode electric power consumption. The feedback period is open until 4 February 2022.

#### Feedback / Sustainable Consumption of Goods / 11 January 2022

The European Commission has [opened feedback](#) regarding sustainable consumption of goods. More precisely, this initiative promotes a more sustainable use of goods throughout their useful life. It will encourage consumers to make more sustainable choices by providing incentives and tools to use goods for a longer time, including by repairing defective goods. The feedback period is open until 5 April 2022.

#### Public Consultation / Biobased & Biodegradable Plastics / 18 January 2021

The European Commission [has launched](#) a public consultation on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics. The consultation will provide insight for preparing a new policy framework on these groups of plastics. The aim of the new framework - a key deliverable of the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan - is to address emerging sustainability challenges related to the use of the biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics and by

driving innovation, enhancing investment certainty within the internal market and increasing environmental protection.

### **Public Consultation / Revision of REACH / 20 January 2022**

The European Commission [has launched](#) a public consultation on the revision of REACH to help achieve a toxic-free environment. As part of this ambition, the chemicals strategy for sustainability announces actions to better protect people and the environment against hazardous chemicals and to encourage innovation to develop safe and sustainable alternatives. The public consultation is open until 15 April 2022.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### **Rotating Council Presidency / France / 1 January 2022**

France [has taken over](#) the rotating Presidency of the European Council and has published its programme for the next six months. The programme details the priorities and guidelines for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January to 30 June 2022.

### **Comparative Table / Environmental Crime / 13 January 2022**

The Council of the EU [has published](#) a comparative table of offences on the proposal on the protection of the environment through criminal law.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### **Publication / Moving towards Zero-Emission Steel / December 2021**

The European Parliament's ITRE Committee [has initiated and published](#) a study entitled "Moving towards Zero-Emission Steel". This study is assessing the European steel industry's possible decarbonisation pathways in light of the European Commission's "Fit for 55" package, by evaluating available technology options and the adequacy of available funding streams.

### **Election / New EP President / 18 January 2022**

The European Parliament [has elected](#) Roberta Metsola (EPP, MT) as the new President of the European Parliament. President Metsola will lead the Parliament in the second half of the current legislative term, until a new Parliament is constituted following the 2024 European Elections. Previous EP President David Sassoli passed away on 11 January 2022.



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

### **News / Decouple Europe's waste generation from economic growth / 15 December 2021**

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) information on a clear opportunities to decouple Europe's waste generation from economic growth.

### **Report / Textile waste prevention / 15 December 2021**

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a report entitled "Progress towards preventing waste in Europe – the case of textile waste prevention".

### **Briefing / Linking cross-border shipments of waste in the EU with the CE / 15 December 2021**

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a briefing that provides a snapshot of the status of trading non-hazardous, recyclable waste within the EU, to provide knowledge and information to support the review of the EU's Waste Shipment Regulation. The information and knowledge in the briefing aims to improve the functioning of secondary material markets by offering insights and potential solutions to help ensure that waste is treated in the best possible way in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy.

### **Briefing / COVID-19: lessons for sustainability? / 20 January 2022**

The European Environment Agency [has published](#) a briefing that reflects on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. It asks how these lessons can be applied to our quest for sustainability and how we can govern our societies in a way that respects planetary health as a precondition for human and economic health.

## EU-FUNDED PROJECTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER HORIZON EUROPE



Different calls for proposals under Cluster 4 - Digital, Industry and Space – are open for submission. The deadline for submission of applications under both calls is **30 March 2022, 17:00 (CEST)**.

Under the call “A Digitised, Resource-Efficient and Resilient Industry 2022”, there are 22 topics, such as [Technological solutions for tracking raw material flows in complex supply chains \(RIA\)](#). The total budget for this call is €402.2 million

The call “Climate Neutral, Circular and Digitised Production 2022” has a total budget: €334.5 million, with 13 topics including [Circular flows for solid waste in urban environment](#) and [Digital tools to support the engineering of a Circular Economy](#).

### EU MISSIONS

[EU Missions](#) are a novelty of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme for 2021-2027 aiming to address some of the greatest challenges facing our society, supporting Europe's transformation into a greener, healthier, more inclusive and resilient continent. There are 5 EU missions: adaptation to climate change, cancer, ocean and waters, climate-neutral and smart cities, and a soil deal for Europe.

EU Missions info days have been organized on 18 and 19 January to inform potential applicants about the new topics included in the EU Missions work programme 2021 – 2022. The recordings and presentations are available [here](#)



All the calls for applications are available through the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)



**14-15  
SEPT**  
**NEC**