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## Circular Economy Newsletter

September 2024

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.

**Thank you for joining us in celebrating our 10th anniversary in Milano, for the 6th edition of the European Recycling Conference (ERC).**

**In case you missed it or simply need a recap of what was discussed, make sure to read our Press Release!**

**READ OUR PRESS RELEASE**



## | EuRIC's EU policy monitoring



### Ships

European Commission has published a Frequently Asked Questions [document](#) on ESPR and how it is interlinked with other pieces of EU legislation, including PPWR, Right to Repair, CBAM, CSRD and parallel product regulations for vehicles and construction material.



### Ecodesign

European Commission has published a Frequently Asked Questions [document](#) on ESPR and how it is interlinked with other pieces of EU legislation, including PPWR, Right to Repair, CBAM, CSRD and parallel product regulations for vehicles and construction material.



## Textiles

On 19 September, the Commission **adopted** new measures under REACH to restrict the use of certain PFAS - undecafluorohexanoic acid ('PFHxA') and PFHxA -related substances – i.a. in consumer textiles, such as rain jackets.

1. This restriction will take effect after transitional periods of 24 months for textiles, leather, furs and hides in clothing and related accessories and footwear for the general public.
2. The Commission regulation does not make any exception for second-hand clothes or recycled fibres.



## Plastics

The Council of the EU has published a revised **compromise text** for the proposed Regulation on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution.



## Batteries

The JRC has proposed new EU codes for all battery types, not just lithium, based on findings from a study aimed at supporting the regulatory framework for batteries. The document shared with the Waste Expert Group in May suggests introducing specific waste stream codes based on current battery chemistries, along with generic codes for future developments, as a targeted amendment to the EU List of Waste. Additionally, the JRC recommends classifying all battery types, including black mass, as hazardous due to the presence of hazardous substances in their manufacturing. While discussions are ongoing among the Commission and Member State experts, and the draft has not yet been adopted, there appears to be general support from the Experts Group for the proposal.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has published a **new study** on rising demand for critical materials required in manufacture of batteries for electric vehicles. Increasing demand for EVs would drive up demand for the materials used in EV batteries, such as graphite, lithium, cobalt, copper, phosphorous, manganese and nickel.

more than triple. However, innovations enabling the substitution of these materials are already reducing demand; cobalt and nickel were no longer used in nearly half of the passenger EVs sold in 2023.



## Other EU files

On October 1, the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC) of the European Parliament will decide how to distribute hearings for Commissioners-designate among parliamentary committees. The Environment Committee (Envi) is set to participate in nine oral hearings, including questioning Jessika Roswall (Environment), with involvement from the Industry and Internal Market committees. Envi will also join hearings for six other members of the College, including Vice-Presidents Teresa Ribera and Stéphane Séjourné, and Commissioners Olivér Várhelyi, Wopke Hoekstra, Kóstas Kadís, and Hadja Lahbib. Additionally, Envi will have a limited role in the hearings of Christophe Hansen (Agriculture and Food) and Dan Jørgensen (Energy and Housing), allowing only written questions. On October 2, the Conference of Group Presidents (CoP) will ratify or contest the CCC's proposed distribution, with hearings scheduled for either the week of October 14 or November 4.

On 14 October, the environment ministers of the EU will convene in Luxembourg for their first formal meeting under the Hungarian presidency. The agenda will be finalised on 2 October by ambassadors. Ministers are expected to adopt conclusions from COP16 on biodiversity and COP29 on climate, as well as discuss negotiations for the plastics treaty ahead of the upcoming session in Busan, South Korea, in late November. An exchange of views on the 2020 Sustainable Chemicals Strategy will also take place, allowing ministers to contribute to the Commission's reflections on the chemistry package, particularly regarding simplifying the REACH regulation. Additionally, they will discuss climate and environmental aspects of the Draghi report on competitiveness during their lunch. Ministers will also approve two pieces of Green Deal legislation—the Air Quality Directive and the Regulation on the Classification of Chemicals—before they are published in the Official Journal and take effect.

The European Commission is seeking more expert input to help manage the significant amount of secondary legislation needed for recent and upcoming waste regulations, including those on batteries, packaging, and waste exports. Many new laws have been or are being adopted, and dozens of additional measures are expected in the coming years. To ensure effective implementation, the Commission is seeking advice not only from

**Applications** are open until 15 October.

The European Parliament's ENVI committee will continue working on legislative files that were pending before the summer recess, without renegotiating responsibilities among political groups. These groups have until 12 September to confirm their rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs. The committee will also apply to send a delegation to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Colombia from 28 to 31 October. Key files of interest to EuRIC still awaiting a report include the End-of-Life of Vehicles Regulation, and the Common Data Platform on Chemicals. Several green files, such as the Microplastics Pollution Regulation, are still awaiting final adoption.

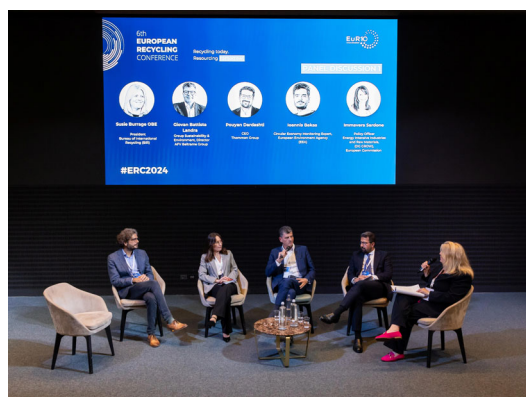


## Hungarian Presidency

During the first formal Competitiveness Council under the Hungarian Presidency, held on 26 September, Member States' ministers **discussed** – among other topics – the Draghi report, the EU's state aid framework, and the situation of SMEs in the single market.

They identified key elements from the report to be included in the New European Competitiveness Deal, a flagship initiative of the Hungarian Presidency. This deal will be adopted as Council Conclusions during the informal EU heads of state and government meeting in Budapest on 8 November.

## Event Highlights



What role does circularity play in Europe's decarbonisation and raw materials autonomy?  
How do current and upcoming EU regulations impact the trade of recycled materials?

Building on the success of previous editions, this year's conference also marked EuRIC's 10th anniversary, themed "Recycling Today. Resourcing Tomorrow." 🎂

Missed ERC 2024 or want a recap? Check out our press release here 🖱️ [euric.link/63ca20](https://euric.link/63ca20)

Feeling nostalgic? You can find the links to the event's material (presentations, photos) here at the bottom of the page 🖱️ [euric.link/vxb](https://euric.link/vxb)

## 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

Join us at **Ecomondo 2024** in Rimini for EuRIC's conference on **"Implementing EU Legislation: Boosting Circularity in the Construction Sector."**

Discover how the latest EU regulations can transform the construction industry into a circular economy leader. Don't miss out on insights into recycling targets, Green Public Procurement, and more.

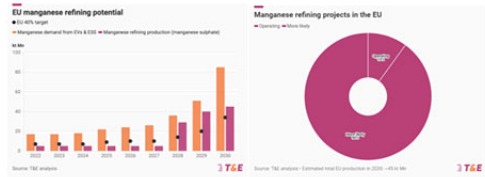
[Discover the agenda here](#)

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## | Interesting reads



**Manganese**  
Currently, only Belgium has a producer of battery-grade manganese sulphate, while the new "re-mining" project in the Czechia will also process manganese (and is expected to significantly boost the EU's supply in the long term). By 2030, these two plants are projected to produce around 45 kt Mn, meeting 53% of EU's demand for EV and ESS batteries.



**2.3 2030 recycling benchmark of 25%: battery demand**

With battery gigafactories ramping up production across Europe along with EV and ESS batteries increasingly reaching end of life, Europe is expected to have nearly 120 GWh of feedstock available for recycling by 2030, and four times that by 2040.<sup>2</sup> Once recycled, the recovered lithium, nickel, cobalt and manganese is estimated to cover between 14% and 40% of the demand from electric vehicles (EV) and energy storage (ESS) by 2030, rising to 24%-68%, or up to two-thirds, by 2040, depending on the metal (see graph below).

As a critical element in all lithium-ion battery chemistries (whether NMC, LFP or other), lithium will be needed in batteries for a long time. T&E estimates its recovery from spent batteries and production scrap to cover around 14 % of the demand throughout the 2030s, rising to 33% by 2040 as more

<sup>2</sup> Assuming 100% collection rate, EV batteries lasting up to 12 years in first life application with most reaching retirement between years 8 and 12, and some reused in 2nd life applications for an additional 5 years; assuming ESS battery lasting 10 years; and assuming recovery rates of 80% for lithium and 95% for nickel, cobalt and manganese.

suggests that the EU has the potential to exceed its 2030 targets for critical raw materials used in electric vehicle (EV) batteries. Up to 60% of the EU's lithium demand could be met through domestic mining, with 85% processed within the bloc. However, nearly half of the planned mining and processing projects are still in early stages without final investment decisions. The EU could also secure 20% of battery raw materials from recycling by 2030, though more political and industrial support is needed. Despite the potential, significant challenges remain to fully realise these goals. Read the report [here](#).

The resumption of activity after the summer break holds no particular surprises. The weakness in demand that characterized the spring and summer period is now exacerbated by the discouraging economic news coming out of the Asian giant, which is grappling with a very heavy economic crisis, and the worrisome data on the European economy.

Read Assofermet's market note on Steel for September 2024 [here](#).

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are widely used in textiles for water and stain resistance, but their persistence raises environmental and health concerns. According to the latest briefing by the European Environment Agency (EEA), textiles are a major source of PFAS pollution in Europe, obstructing the shift to a circular economy by



Read the EEA briefing [here](#).

EEA has published its latest report addressing the environmental and climate footprint of buildings, assessing the current state of Europe's buildings stock and looking at what is needed to make Europe's buildings more sustainable. Renovating existing buildings with sustainable materials while improving climate resilience and working with nature are key. The report also explores what policy actions are needed to achieve that by 2050.

Read the EEA report [here](#).

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## | EuRIC updates



We are thrilled to welcome Gabriel Gomez to EuRIC as a Technical Advisor. With a Master's in Chemistry from the University of Siegen, Gabriel brings deep expertise in analytical chemistry, having developed and validated methods at MSD Animal Health and led their Packaging Characterization Laboratory. Fluent in English and Spanish, with proficiency in German and French, he will lead EuRIC's work in the Mechanical Tyres Recycling branch and support scientific initiatives across the organization. Gabriel's strong technical background makes him a key addition to our team.

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## | Updates from the CIMPA Project





## > CIMPA/EuRIC booth at the Plastics Recycling World Expo in Brussels

On 11-12 September 2024, CIMPA/EuRIC joined the Plastics Recycling World Expo in Brussels.



[Read more](#)

## > CIMPA value chain workshop in Berlin



On 18 September, CIMPA organised a value chain workshop in Berlin to scale up innovative solutions for the plastic recycling industry.

CIMPA travelled to Berlin for the CIMPA's Symbiotic Innovations Workshop, facilitated by Prospex Institute vzw. Together with industry experts, researchers and innovators we explore opportunities to scale groundbreaking solutions in multilayer plastic innovation.

In this workshop, we are looking for actionable pathways to integrate circular economy models into different business, from textiles to engineering plastics, among others.

Thanks to Prospex Institute vzw 's facilitators and all the participants for your valuable contributions!!

## > CIMPA Results published!

New CIMPA deliverable available!

**MECHANICAL RECYCLING  
OF MULTILAYER PLASTIC  
FILMS**



 cimpa © CIMPA  
The future plastic economy.  
By value recycling of most of the  
multilayer films

 This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement N° 101003964)

CIMPA just published the results from the mechanical recycling of multilayer plastic films!

In this report, results from the METEOR and MNL (MultiNanoLayering) processes at IPC Centre Technique Industriel de la Plasturgie et des Composites are presented as mechanical recycling methods for multilayer films.

Check out our new public deliverable here 🖱️ <https://lnkd.in/dZ-x8XNK>

More public results here 🖱️ <https://lnkd.in/e-PwDKn7>



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