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September 2023 Newsletter

We're back with the first newsletter after the summer break! While we all wished for the lazy days to linger a bit longer, Brussels had other plans. Racing against the clock to wrap up as many files as possible before the 2024 elections, the European Commission unveiled its **ELV regulation**. The latter aims to tackle that over 6 million vehicles in Europe reach the end of their life and are treated as waste every year. The proposal is expected to be a game-changer in the automotive landscape.

Interested in learning more? EuRIC's got your back. Discover the **key takeaways** from this year's special edition of the **European Recycling Conference (ERC2023)**, spotlighting the future of the car industry.



EuRIC EVENTS





European Recycling Conference 2023: Car recycling and other essentials to drive circularity in the automotive sector

This year's special edition of the European Recycling Conference cast a spotlight on the future of car recycling, considering the European Commission's recently proposed End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) Regulation, a game-changer for the automotive industry. Hosted by EuRIC, the European Recycling Industries' Confederation in collaboration with its Belgian member, Denuo, the conference took place at De Warande in Brussels and gathered over 150 participants. High-level EU officials and leading industry experts delved into the key components of the proposed regulation impacting the recycling industry and discussed ways to put circularity at the core of EU's plans.

[Read our Press Release here](#)



**LESS THAN 1 MONTH LEFT TO REGISTER AS EARLY BIRD
FOR **EuRIC TEXTILES EVENT!****

Join us on 21 November 2023 from 14:00 to 19:00 at the Bluepoint Building in Brussels for the event "EuRIC Textiles – Connecting the Knots for a Circular Future."

insightful presentations, interactive panel discussions, and networking opportunities, we will aim to foster collaboration and exchange ideas that will shape the future of textiles.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to be part of the transformative journey towards sustainability and stay tuned for more information. Discover the agenda here and secure your spot!

[REGISTER NOW](#)



EU POLICY WATCH

End-of-life Vehicles Directive

Following the presentation of the [Commission's proposal](#) on circularity requirements for vehicle design and on management of end-of-life vehicles, the proposal was sent to both the European Parliament and the Council for examination. The ENVI Committee has now been confirmed by the European Parliament as the lead Committee responsible for the file. Moreover, the Committee has appointed MEP [Jens Gieseke](#) (EPP, Germany) as the Rapporteur responsible to prepare the draft Report, which will contain amendments to the Commission's proposal. The ENVI Shadow Rapporteurs are expected to be appointed in the coming weeks.

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

- On 7 September, the negotiation team within the ENVI Committee initiated work on the proposal for a compromise agreement presented by Rapporteur Frederique Ries (Renew, Belgium). This proposal, as reported by Contexte, suggests reducing the required separate collection rate for Member States to qualify for exemption from the obligation to implement Deposit Return Systems (DRS) by 2029 from 90% to 85%. The plenary vote is now set for the week of 20 November.
- Compromise agreements on the PPWR were presented by Frederique Ries (Renew, Belgium) on 14 September. The draft PPWR, introduced in November the previous year, sets higher recycling and reuse targets to minimise waste. However, achieving consensus within the European Parliament on this legislation has proven challenging due to differing political stances and technical intricacies. Key points of

related to recycled, reusable, and compostable packaging. The European

Parliament aims to finalise negotiations and be ready for the law by autumn but faces time pressure with the European elections scheduled for June 2024. Concerns are growing that haste in adopting the legislation may compromise its clarity and effectiveness, similar to issues seen with the **Single Use Plastics Directive (SUP)**.

Delara Burkhardt (S&Ds, Germany) tweeted in early September that the vote on PPWR in the Parliament's Environment committee had been scheduled for November's plenary session on 23-24 October. The MEP noted that safety net of some weeks could give more time to lawmakers to achieve increased circularity in the packaging, citing the complexity of the topic and the divergences of opinions.

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

Following a first round of trilogues that took place on 30 August, the next round of interinstitutional negotiations on the **proposal** is set to continue on 10 October. A third Trilogue is planned for 4 December to reach an agreement on the file.

Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)

The first trilogue on the **CRM proposal** kickstarted on 20 September, after the European Parliament **adopted its position** on the file. While the report adopted by the ITRE committee marked **a significant victory for recyclers**, including strong recycling targets, the EP's negotiating position showed some biased positions, such as the creation of a secondary list of strategic raw materials.

- On 27 November, the CSO Coalition on Raw Materials was launched, as announced by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) in a **press release**.
- Madeleine King, Australia's Minister for Resources, urged the EU to increase investments in Australia's critical raw materials sector essential for green and digital transition technologies, Politico reported. She noted that European investment lags behind other countries like the U.S., Japan, and South Korea, who have a long history of investing in Australia's resources sector. As countries seek to diversify their raw material supply away from China, Australia, the largest producer of lithium and second-largest holder of copper reserves, offers a significant opportunity. King emphasised the need for the EU to act swiftly and invest in these projects or risk falling behind.

On 23 September, the lawmakers of the ENVI Committee endorsed the [draft regulation](#) presented by Rapporteur Tiemo Wolken (S&D, Germany) on NZIA, with 54 votes in favor and 14 against.

Waste Shipment Regulation

Ambassadors from Member States geared up for the second round of trilogues. Member States Ambassadors (COREPER) convened on 13-15 September to lay the groundwork for the second round of trilogues.

Other EU News

Timmermans out, Hoekstra in: Under the leadership of Maroš Šefčovič, appointed as the Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal, Hoekstra has been nominated by the Netherlands to take over from Frans Timmermans. Timmermans had held both positions until his resignation from the Commission in order to participate in the Netherlands' November election.

Hoekstra vowed that he will make sure that the Commission adopts a communication on the bloc's 2040 climate targets by the first quarter of 2024, according to written questions submitted to the Parliament's environment committee (ENVI) this morning and obtained by POLITICO.

Circular Economy News





In a historic event, Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans, and Fisheries, and Zhao Chenxin, Vice-Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, successfully wrapped up the inaugural EU-China High Level Policy Dialogue on Circular Economy. Building upon the 2018 Memorandum of Understanding on Circular Economy, both parties extended their commitment for another 5 years, Politico reported. Discussions revolved around crucial topics such as plastics, batteries, and remanufacturing. They agreed on crafting a joint cooperation roadmap on the circular economy, set to roll out in 2024 after finalisation. Furthermore, a new EU-funded project is in the works to bolster circular economy initiatives in China, offering technical assistance and pilot testing support, beginning early 2024. This dialogue sets the stage for future collaborations, aligning with the shared vision of advancing global sustainable development and prosperity through circularity. Commissioner Sinkevičius highlighted the EU and China's joint commitment to a sustainable, efficient, circular economy, showcasing their leadership and potential as examples for other nations.



Site visit at Derichebourg and Allo Casse Auto, organised by FEDEREC

Last week, EuRIC's Policy Advisor Antoine Stilo joined an insightful site visit organised by FEDEREC at DERICHEBOURG and ALLO CASSE AUTO authorised treatment facilities, alongside French public authorities. We delved into the current and future landscape of ELV treatment, discussing the European Commission's recently proposed ELV Regulation.

The proposed regulation brings both opportunities and challenges to the ELV treatment domain. France, being a prominent player in this sector, serves as an inspiring model, particularly in stimulating a market for parts' reuse. However, as we move forward, we must address critical issues within the ELV sector in both France and Europe:

-  Ensuring ELV treatment solely in authorised facilities.
-  Fostering fair competition for repair, reuse, remanufacturing and recycling.
-  Enhancing ELV collection systems.
-  Securing end-markets for reuse and recycling



Last week, EuRIC Secretary General Emmanuel Katrakis visited the **TSR Recycling**

quality recycled steel for various end applications including in the automotive industry.

This example perfectly illustrates how investments made by frontrunners in the recycling sector are a key driver of the transition towards a climate neutral and circular economy. Thanks to Bernd Fleschenberg, Peter Flormann and the Team of TSR for the invitation!



What EuRIC said

European Recyclers' stance on

CHEMICAL RECYCLING

MASS BALANCE

AND THE TRUE ESSENTIALS

to fuel the EU circular economy.

European Recyclers' recommendations for an EU circular economy: exploring chemical recycling when no better recycling alternative available

EuRIC, the European Recycling Industries' Confederation has issued a [roadmap](#) for boosting waste recycling and fostering a clear regulatory framework. The paper reflects EuRIC's unwavering commitment to advancing sustainability within the recycling industry, with a particular focus on exploring the areas of chemical recycling and mass balance.

Amid ongoing discussions in Brussels, EuRIC, the leading association of material recyclers addresses key questions for emerging technologies to complement existing recycling practices. We offer suggestions for policymakers and chemical recycling advocates to convey a transparent message on achieving circularity for plastics, textiles, and tyres.

[Read our Position](#)

CRMs Report: EuRIC rejects the creation of secondary strategic raw materials list, proposes solutions for a green steel industry

Last week, the Parliament approved the ITRE committee's report on Critical Raw Materials (CRMs), a guide for forthcoming trilogue negotiations with the Council. While EuRIC acknowledges and applauds the report's focus on circularity, concerns arise over biased proposals lacking scientific evidence and causing further, unnecessary bureaucracy.

Our position remains steadfast: to mitigate the risks associated with the availability of CRMs, any classification of strategic raw materials must be based on irrefutable scientific evidence and adhere to a meticulous methodology. The recent last-minute endorsement for the formation of a secondary list of strategic raw materials (SRMs), with ferrous scrap quoted as example, raises several questions. Not only could this be seen as outside the scope of the Commission's proposal, but the inclusion of ferrous scrap without sufficient data sets an alarming precedent for the unrestricted addition of materials to the list, lacking clear conditions or a methodology for assessment.

[Read our statement here](#)

In view of the European Parliament's and Council's positioning on the Commission's proposal for a Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC) calls on the European legislator to support **6 key recommendations** for making packaging more circular under the PPWR:

1. **Unequivocally support recycled content targets**
2. **Recycled content and bio-based plastics deserve separate targets**
3. **Mandatory third-party verification of sustainability requirements**
4. **Effective representation of recyclers in EPR and DRS governing bodies**
5. **Equal market access for all actors in recycling markets**
6. **Voluntary DRS and flexibility in implementation of collection targets**



PUBLIC
CONSULTATIONS

revised. The aim of this potential review is to explore the possibility of a single and uniform set of rules on labelling requirements, on all potentially relevant labelling domains, for textile products, and related products. These are principally leather and fur products of apparel, clothing accessories and interior/household products, with the exclusion of footwear, for which the labelling is governed by **Directive 94/11/EC**. If you are interested in providing feedback, you can do so until **30 September**.

[Read more and give feedback](#)

Preparatory Study on Iron and Steel – Ecodesign Measures under ESPR: On 28 September, the EU Commission announced the official launch of the initial questionnaire on the matter. The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather insights, expertise, and experiences from industry experts. Through this questionnaire, we have a prime opportunity to participate in the consultation process and provide our inputs. To this end, we kindly ask you to send us your answers by **13 October 2023**.

[See the questionnaire here](#)

End-of-Life Vehicles Directive Revision: On July 13, the European Commission published its **proposal** to revise the ELV Directive. The European Commission has opened a public consultation its proposal to revise the ELV Directive. The deadline to submit your feedback has been extended to **21 November 2023**.

[Read more and give feedback](#)

Waste Framework Directive (WFD): The European Commission has opened a public consultation on the environmental impact of waste management as part of the revision of the Waste Framework Directive. The feedback period started on 7 July and will end on **22 November**.

[Read more and give feedback](#)





discusses increasing the use of recycled aggregates in EU concrete production to address a third of the construction and demolition waste. It highlights the potential benefits and challenges in incorporating recycled aggregates and proposes measures to enhance their market uptake, covering regulatory, technical, operational, economic, and social aspects.

Read the report [here](#).



EU- FUNDED PROJECTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Horizon Europe info days in September and October

The Horizon Europe info days give prospective applicants and other stakeholders of EU research and innovation the opportunity to get information and ask questions about the main funding instruments and processes of Horizon Europe.

There are plenty of opportunities for recycling projects under clusters 4, 5 and 6:

- CLUSTER 5: EoL battery recycling
- CLUSTER 6: e-waste recycling, EPR for textiles, textile sorting, recycling and design for recycling, plastics recycling

[More information](#)



PROMOTED EVENTS

SteelOrbis Fall 2023 Conference & 89th IREPAS Meeting

The world's number one long steel market conference will celebrate the 40th anniversary of IREPAS in Istanbul!

SteelOrbis is excited to announce that the second gathering of SteelOrbis and IREPAS in 2023 will be held at the **Swissôtel The Bosphorus on September 17-19.**

While gathering its members and participants together against the enchanting backdrop of the Bosphorus at **the world's number one event for long steel products** and creating unique networking opportunities, the SteelOrbis and IREPAS Conference will also offer you the chance to listen to informative presentations about the latest developments in the markets!

Don't miss the gala dinner and the special awards ceremony for the 40th anniversary of IREPAS!

The SteelOrbis Fall 2023 Conference & 89th IREPAS Meeting will include a gala dinner and a special awards ceremony for the 40th anniversary of IREPAS.

The gala dinner and awards ceremony will take place **on Monday, September 18, at Divan Kuruçeşme** with its magnificent location on the shore of the Bosphorus, its extraordinary view of the historic waterway and its iconic atmosphere in a restored historical building.

This unforgettable night will include live music entertainment provided by the exciting "Avantgarde Orkestra" band, followed by a special trumpet show by well-known musician and actor Merih Ermakastar and DJ Ugur Kirik.



The banner features a dark blue background with a gold border. In the top left corner is the IREPAS 40th anniversary logo. In the top center are the SteelOrbis and IREPAS logos. The main text is centered and reads: "STEELORBIS FALL 2023 CONFERENCE & 89th IREPAS MEETING". Below this, a gold downward-pointing triangle is followed by the text "September 17-19, 2023 / Istanbul" and "Swissôtel The Bosphorus". At the bottom, a gold banner contains the text "The world's number one event for long steel products!".



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