



EuRIC Annual Report

**20
24**

EuRIC is the voice of Europe's recycling industries, representing **80 members across 24 EU & EFTA countries**, and over 5,500 companies. We drive a **95 billion EUR contribution** to the EU economy and support **300,000 green, local jobs**.

By turning waste into valuable resources and reintroducing materials into value chains, we are at the forefront of circularity and climate neutrality. As a catalyst in Europe's green transition, **EuRIC is driving the industrial shift that boosts EU competitiveness, resilience, and strategic autonomy**.

EuRIC

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Images:

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Message from the President

What a year it has been for the EU recycling industry - 2024 was filled with both progress and challenges.

The year kicked off with shipping disruptions caused by Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, leading to higher costs and delays in the trade of recycled materials. The consequences of the attacks served as a sobering reminder of the need for stronger supply chain resilience and fair, unrestricted international trade to ensure the smooth flow of materials within the circular economy.

Around the same time, the Council adopted the new rules on waste shipments. The revised Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) has three goals: *ensuring that the EU does not export its waste challenges to third countries; making it easier to transport waste for recycling and reuse in the EU; and better tackling illegal waste shipments.* While the WSR was concluded and published in 2024, much remains to be done in terms of its practical implementation. It is concerning that the EU administration has not yet fully committed to the resources and efforts required for its operationalisation, instead **assuming that the market will naturally address the gaps**, overlooking the long-term economic and operational impacts. **It is crucial to recognise that effective, circular solutions require more than just regulatory frameworks - they require real, practical action and coordination at every level.**

The plastics export ban to non-OECD countries in 2026 will further increase the need for a strong internal EU market for recycled plastics. However, recycled plastic content targets under the PPWR won't apply until 2030. So, what will happen to European plastic waste if there's no demand in Europe until then?

Looking ahead to 2025, there is hope for further progress, clearer rules, and better alignment between EU policy and business realities to create a truly circular, resilient, and competitive European economy



Olivier François

2024 Wrap-up

2024 has been a landmark year for EuRIC, marked by major achievements and the launch of our industry roadmaps for construction & demolition, plastics, and ship recycling. This year also celebrated EuRIC's 10-year anniversary, a decade of unwavering advocacy and impact in the recycling sector. We commemorated this milestone with a special European Recycling Conference in Milan, where policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders gathered to reflect on our success and shape the future of recycling in Europe.

April also saw a leadership transition, with Emmanuel Katrakis passing the baton to me as Secretary General. This change marks a new chapter for EuRIC, building on a decade of strong foundations to achieve even greater impact in the years to come.

A key development in 2024 was the **creation of EuRIC's Ship Recycling Working Group**. Recognising the growing importance of ship recycling in Europe, our new working group brings together experts and industry stakeholders to address regulatory challenges and promote best practices globally. In 2024, EuRIC also played a pivotal role in reinforcing Europe's competitiveness in global markets. By advocating for fair trade conditions and pushing back against protectionist measures, we helped maintain access to international markets for recycled materials. Furthermore, our work on the sustainable finance framework ensured that recyclers can access investments to scale up their operations in line with Europe's industrial and environmental objectives. Lastly, the European elections in June 2024 have reshaped the EU's political landscape, influencing key legislative priorities for the coming years.

There is now a **growing emphasis on competitiveness, industrial resilience, and strategic autonomy**. It is essential that circularity remains at the core of Europe's industrial strategy, **recognising the vital role of recyclers in securing raw materials, and reducing dependencies**.

With this new legislative cycle, we anticipate significant shifts in policy priorities that will impact the recycling industry.

This transition presents both challenges and opportunities to further strengthen Europe's circular economy.

Building on our past achievements, we will continue to advocate for policies that support a competitive and truly circular European economy, ensuring that recyclers remain at the forefront of this transformation



Julia Ettinger

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Recycling today. Resourcing tomorrow.

Skyrocketed energy costs, weak domestic demand for recycled materials, alongside slow permitting and heavy administrative burdens, threaten the competitiveness of Europe's recycling industry.

The EU's de-industrialisation trend, worsened by unfair competition with third countries, has made it clear that **Europe must support its manufacturing and recycling sectors to remain competitive.** Despite their key role in lowering emissions and securing Europe's raw material supply, EU recyclers do not qualify as an energy-intensive sector, and rarely benefit from any EU support schemes.

Before looking abroad for primary raw materials, Europe must first support its own industry – the recycling one - that produces high-quality, low-carbon resources that could be a game-changer for the EU's environmental, economic, and strategic objectives. Yet, **recycled materials often remain overlooked** by European manufacturers and the recycling industry remains insufficiently supported by EU policymakers.

The report that follows serves as a reflection of EuRIC's unwavering commitment, shared by the entire EuRIC team, to advocating for the interests of Europe's recycling industry - a sector we believe to be the very backbone of a competitive, resilient, and ultimately circular Europe.



About EuRIC

EuRIC is at the forefront of Europe's push towards a circular economy, serving as the key advocate for the recycling industry. EuRIC advocates for policies that drive **competitiveness**, encourage **innovation**, and support **growth** in recycling and waste management.

As the leading voice for the recycling sector, EuRIC is committed to advancing the transition to a circular economy, with a clear focus on sustainability, job creation, minimising environmental impact, and **generating resources**. Covering a wide range of sectors - including **metals, plastics, paper, textiles, packaging, construction and demolition, chemicals, ship recycling, and e-waste** - EuRIC is instrumental in shaping Europe's future by showcasing cutting-edge recycling solutions and circular economy practices.

Through its efforts to strengthen Europe's recycling infrastructure, EuRIC plays a crucial role in enhancing the EU's strategic autonomy by securing a reliable supply of critical raw materials.

In the face of volatile global supply chains and growing competition for resources, EuRIC helps reduce Europe's dependence on external sources, ensuring a stable and sustainable flow of key materials vital for the green and digital transitions. Its initiatives not only enhance Europe's global competitiveness but also contribute to its long-term goal of **achieving a sustainable, resource-efficient economy for future generations**.

EuRIC's work is steered by its 7 Branches, which are composed of representatives from across the membership. The Branches are responsible for their respective material streams, which includes ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, plastics, paper, textiles, tyres and construction & demolition.

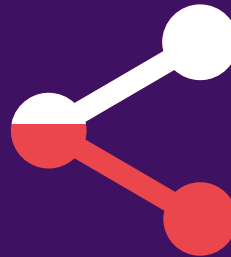
Several working groups and taskforces are established within and across branches for collective work on specific topics, policies, or regulations, such as electronic waste and ship recycling.



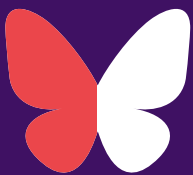
EuRIC stats



+ 5003
new LinkedIn
followers



826,900
people reached
on LinkedIn



+hello
Bluesky

36

Press Releases &
Statement



>50

Events EuRIC joined
as a speaker

The European recycling industry in **numbers**



5,500

recycling companies



300,000

green and local jobs



400+

recycling experts



95 billion €

turnover

EuRIC People

The Secretariat is based in Brussels and manages the daily activities of EuRIC, in accordance with its strategic objectives.

The Board is competent for defining EuRIC's strategic direction and is led by the Presidency, which includes a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer. Members of the Presidency and Board are elected for three-year terms.

Our Team



Julia Ettinger
Secretary General



Maria Vera Duran
Senior Technical Manager



Antoine Stilo
Senior Policy & Trade
Advisor



Zoi Didili
Senior Communications
Advisor



Philippe Doliger
Policy Advisor



Veronica Plazinic
Technical Advisor



Gabriel Gomez
Technical Advisor



Axelle Legros
Administrative Coordinator



Loïc Brocard
Junior Policy Advisor



Isabelle Radovan
Junior Policy Advisor

Our Board



Olivier François
EuRIC President



Daniel Houska
Treasurer



Alicia Garcia-Franco
EuRIC Vice-President



Cinzia Vezzosi
EuRIC Vice-President



Thomas Braun
EuRIC Vice-President



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Board member



Christoph Althammer
Board member



Howard Bluck
Board member



Martin Böschen
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Giorgio Bressi
Board member



Susie Burrage
Board member



Marc Ehrlich
Board member



Peter Hodecek
Board member



Pär Larshans
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Piritta Laurila
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Mark Murfitt
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Ion Olaeta
Board member



Andreas Otto
Board member



**Thomas
Papageorgiou**
Board member



Joost Schollaert
Board member



Sophie Sicard
Board member



**Poul Steen
Rasmussen**
Board member



Hans van de Nes
Board member



**Maarten van
Randerat**
Board member



Martin Wittmann
Board member

Policy & Advocacy

EuRIC's work is steered by its 7 Branches, which are composed of representatives from across the membership.

The Branches are responsible for their respective material streams, which includes ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, plastics, paper, textiles, tyres and construction & demolition.

Several working groups and taskforces are established within and across branches for collective work on specific topics, policies, or regulations, such as electronic waste and ship recycling.



Waste shipments: Keeping global trade alive

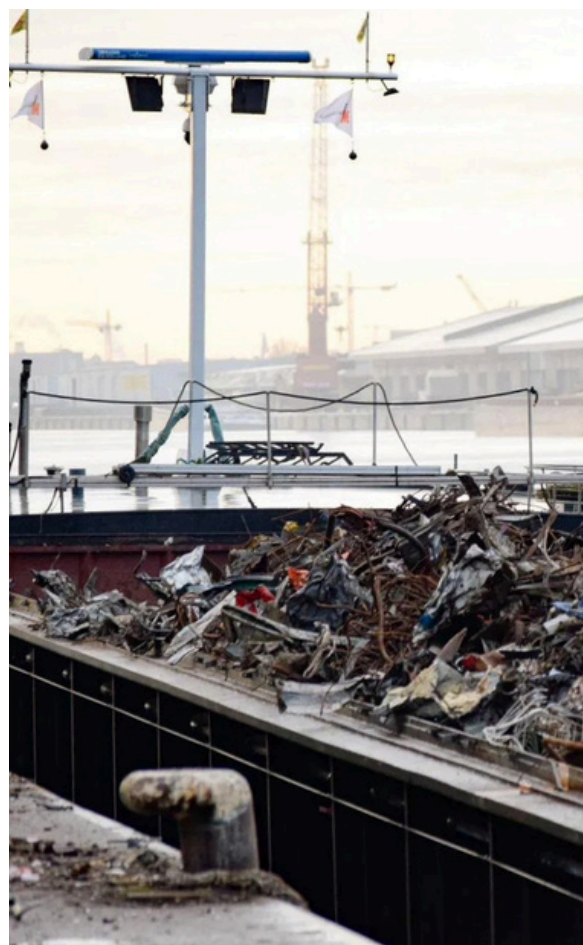
The year 2024 marked a turning point for waste shipment rules in the EU, as the adoption of the revised Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) justified fears over the legislation's implications for recyclers and the free flow of recycled materials.

Following intense triologue negotiations, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union reached a final compromise on the revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation. Determined to secure this Green Deal legislation before the European Parliament elections in June, both institutions endorsed the agreement in March 2024. **EuRIC played a crucial role** throughout this process, ensuring that last-minute restrictions - particularly on recycled metals exports - were mitigated. The new regulation was officially published in the EU Official Journal on 30 April 2024 and entered into force on 20 May 2024, setting the stage for sweeping changes in both intra-EU shipments and exports outside the EU.

What's changing for intra-EU shipments

For intra-EU shipments, the most notable changes aimed at streamlining procedures while increasing transparency. A digital system for submitting shipment information was introduced, promising to reduce administrative burdens. **EuRIC welcomed improvements** such as the **reshaped rules on pre-consented facilities**, which now have a validity period of ten years, as well **as a commitment to ensuring that administrative costs for notifications remain appropriate and proportionate**. Additionally, the European Commission committed to assessing the feasibility of a harmonised financial guarantee to ease the financial burden of shipments.

However, **some new provisions raised concerns**, such as the **requirement to submit Annex VII documentation two days before shipment whenever possible** — a last-minute addition that EuRIC actively opposed due to its impracticality. While these rules are expected to bring both opportunities and challenges, most will only take effect from 21 May 2026.



Source: Galloo ship recycling facility in Ghent, Belgium

The new Waste Shipment Regulation has three goals: ensuring that the EU does not export its waste challenges to third countries; making it easier to transport waste for recycling and reuse in the EU; and better tackling illegal waste shipments

What's changing for exports of waste shipments outside the EU

In this case, the changes were far more restrictive, introducing **stringent conditions that could disrupt established trade flows**. A key new requirement is the **audit obligation for all non-EU facilities receiving waste exports from the EU**, affecting even high-value materials such as recycled metals and recovered paper.

While **OECD countries** may be granted a **waiver** from this obligation through bilateral agreements, **non-OECD countries have no such option**. Instead, they must actively apply to the European Commission to be recognised as authorised destinations for EU waste exports. To do so, they must submit extensive evidence and massive sets of data, proving that they can manage waste in an “*environmentally sound manner*” - an administrative burden that EuRIC repeatedly warned would be prohibitive for many countries.

If a country fails to meet the 21 February 2025 deadline or does not provide sufficient proof of compliance, all green-listed waste shipments to that destination will be banned. Furthermore, the European Commission now has the power to suspend exports to OECD countries if it determines that EU waste is not being managed in an environmentally sound manner - another major shift that introduces new uncertainty into global recycling markets.

Banning plastic waste exports

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the new regulation is the export ban on plastic waste classified under B3011. Pushed strongly by the European Parliament, the ban will be phased in, with plastic waste exports first becoming subject to a notification procedure from 21 May 2026, followed by a full export ban from 21 November 2026 to 20 May 2029.

While OECD countries may be granted a waiver from the audit obligation through bilateral agreements, non-OECD countries have no such option

EuRIC strongly opposed this decision, which is disastrous for European plastic recyclers. It shuts out key export markets, lacks legal clarity on the international trade of end-of-waste recycled plastics, and fails to first ensure strong domestic demand for plastic waste. **Banning exports of plastic waste while EU demand for recycled plastics remains too weak is severely threatening EU plastics recyclers and therefore, the EU circular economy.** To address this issue and mitigate the consequences of the new waste shipment rules, EuRIC is actively advocating for the swift adoption of EU end-of-waste criteria that would provide recyclers with much-needed legal certainty.

Beyond the core regulation, EuRIC also worked on the key Delegated Acts published in 2024, including those related to the certification of subsequent interim operations and on the implementation of **changes under the Basel Convention affecting e-waste shipments**. Under these new rules, **e-waste shipments — including those within the EU — will become subject to notification requirements starting 1 January 2027.** Recognising the threat of disruptions to circular supply chains, EuRIC continues to push for pragmatic solutions that ensure e-waste can be efficiently transported for proper recycling.

As these far-reaching changes take shape and are set to take effect in 2026 and 2027, **EuRIC remains at the forefront, advocating for policies that balance environmental protection with the realities of the recycling industry.**



WASTE SHIPMENTS-
RELATED EVENTS WHERE
EURIC JOINED AS A
SPEAKER

JANUARY

Statement: Red Sea Crisis Threatens Recovered Paper Exports

Position Paper: EuRIC Unveils EU Recyclers' Priorities for 2024 - 2029

MARCH

Statement: Final adoption of revised EU waste shipment rules

FEBRUARY

Press Release: Revised Waste Shipment rules threaten recycling in Europe

APRIL

Position Paper: Proposed Basel Convention changes threaten textile circular economy efforts

JULY

Position Paper: EuRIC, Eurometaux challenge Commission proposal on prior notification for intra-EU shipments of non-hazardous e-waste

SEPTEMBER

Press Release: ERC2024: Circularity and decarbonisation in the face of legislative challenges

DECEMBER

Guide: EU Waste Shipment Regulation: What's changing for EU waste exports?



Metals: Powering competitiveness

Throughout 2024, EU policymakers' discussions heavily focused on metals, recognising the essential role recycled metals play in powering the green transition and supporting the competitiveness of EU industries.

In March, the final text of the **Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)** was adopted, listing 17 strategic materials and 34 critical materials in its Annexes. While commonly available and widely recycled metals like copper and aluminium are included, EuRIC supports the decision not to include steel due to its broad availability. Overall, it is **crucial to ensure the list is updated in line with technological advancements and that materials are only added after thorough scientific evaluation**. Failing to do so could set a concerning precedent for including materials without clear assessment criteria or methodology.

The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), approved by the EU Parliament in April, also targets a range of intermediate products including iron, aluminium and steel, which will be prioritised in the Commission's first working plan.

While several pieces of EU legislation, including the ESPR and End of Life Vehicles Regulation (ELVR), aim to promote the use of recycled metals, full circularity is still a long way off. The **revised Waste Shipment Regulation**, effective in 2027, has raised concerns from EuRIC about its **impact on the trade of recycled metals**. The new rules could limit export options for EU recyclers, as domestic demand for recycled metals remains insufficient.



Contributing to these discussions, EuRIC published in November its **position on the future of the European steel industry**, calling for measures that promote the use of recycled steel to achieve both environmental and economic resilience. In its position, EuRIC strongly calls for prioritising readily available, scalable, and cost-effective solutions to drive circularity. **Using more recycled steel as feedstock can significantly reduce the environmental and carbon footprint of steelmaking compared to using virgin iron ore.** Additionally, it was highlighted that steel production through the **Electric Arc Furnace (EAF)** method is a reliable, flexible, and economically viable technology, well-suited to the European context and aligned with its strategic autonomy goals.

While terms like “sustainable”, “clean” and “low-carbon” are used to describe efforts to decarbonise the steelmaking process, and steel is broadly praised as a highly recyclable material, **EuRIC is concerned that the environmental benefits associated with the increased uptake of recycled steel remain underappreciated.**

In 2025, EuRIC will continue advocating for a strong metals recycling industry, a key driver of the EU circular economy, and for measures to tackle pressing issues facing European industries, including further trade restrictions, soaring energy prices, and the significant lack of demand for recycled metals in Europe.

JANUARY

Position Paper: EuRIC Unveils EU Recyclers' Priorities for 2024 - 2029

Position Paper: EuRIC's recommendations on the ELV Regulation proposal

MARCH

Statement: Council's adoption of Critical Raw Materials Act promoting secondary raw materials use welcomed by EU recyclers

Statement: Final adoption of revised EU waste shipment rules

JUNE

Press Release: Step up collection, incentivise consumers and link WEEE with ecodesign, echoes EuRIC's e-waste recycling event

SEPTEMBER

Press Release: EuRIC expands into ship recycling, with new working group

Press Release: ERC2024: Circularity and decarbonisation in the face of legislative challenges

DECEMBER

Manifesto: EU Recyclers' Manifesto: For a strong ship recycling sector in Europe

Press Release: Europe's ship recyclers publish manifesto calling for stronger EU measures to keep vessels in the EU and ensure material recovery and environmental protection

FEBRUARY

Joint Statement: Vehicle recyclers and manufacturers raise concerns over counterproductive ELV dismantling requirements

Press Release: Revised Waste Shipment rules threaten recycling in Europe

APRIL

Statement: EuRIC applauds plenary adoption of ecodesign rules

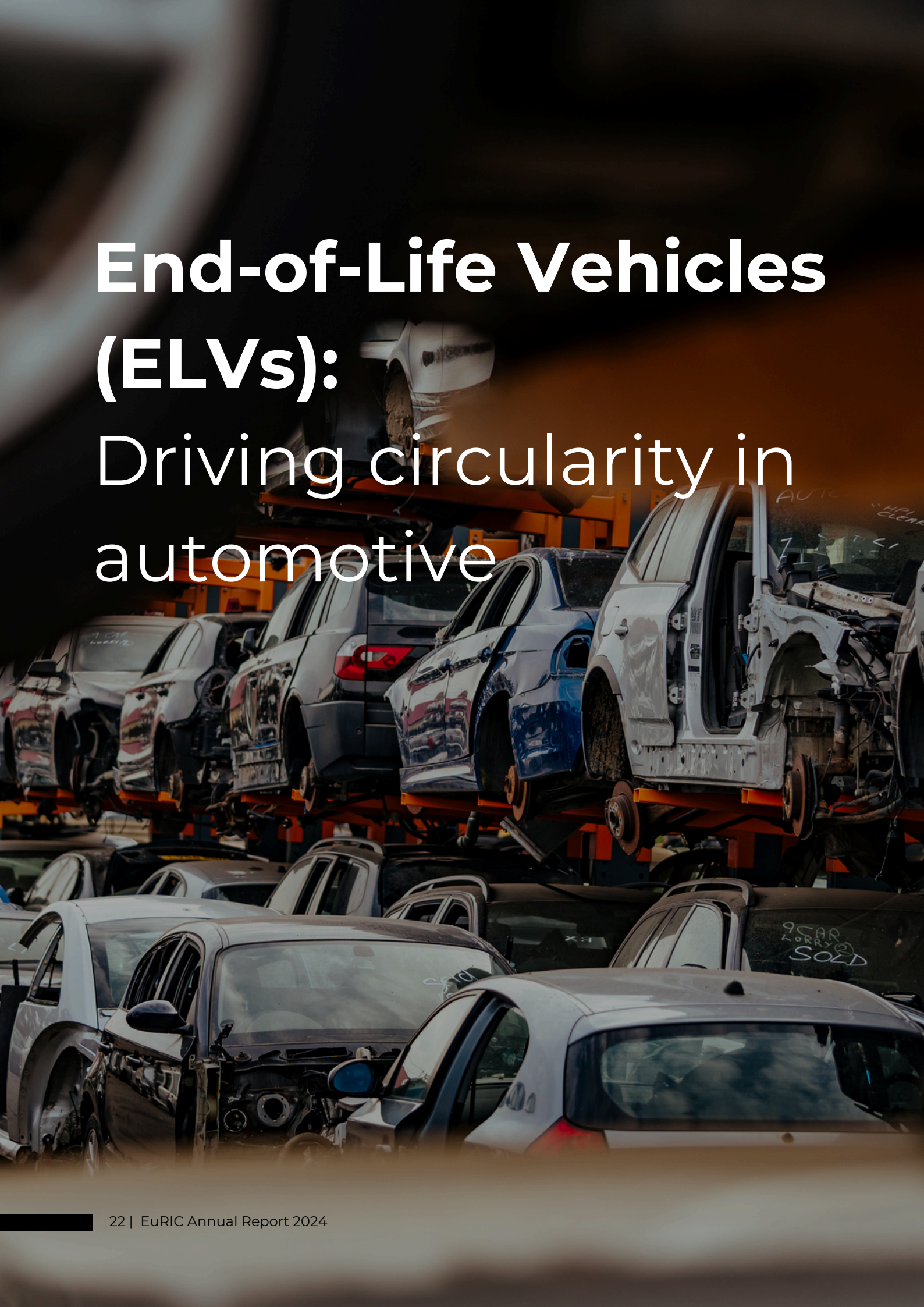
JULY

Joint Position Paper: EuRIC, Eurometaux challenge Commission proposal on prior notification for intra-EU shipments of non-hazardous e-waste

NOVEMBER

Press Release: EuRIC points at circular steel for a low-carbon, competitive European steel industry

Position Paper: Circular steel: Powering a low-carbon, competitive, and circular European Steel Industry

A photograph of a car scrapyard. Several vehicles are being dismantled on lifts. The cars are in various stages of disassembly, with some having their doors open and others having their hoods removed. The background is dark and industrial.

End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs): Driving circularity in automotive

How to achieve circularity in the automotive sector? To address this question, EuRIC advocated in 2024 for measures that tackle issues such as missing vehicles, eco-design of new vehicles, recycled content, and free and fair compensation, to allow the circular economy for ELVs to thrive.

Two key challenges are hindering the efficient recycling of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs). First, missing vehicles, as their absence means high-value materials may not be properly treated and recycled in an environmentally sound manner, and secondly the complex design and composition of ELVs. In recent years, the increased use of certain materials - such as plastics with specific additives and composite plastics - has made it even harder to maintain high ELV recycling rates. However, these challenges could be mitigated through better eco-design measures.

Throughout 2024, **EuRIC advocated for recycled content for plastics and metals** - which is instrumental to scale up capacity for mature technologies and to **reward climate and environmental benefits of recycling by driving demand**. EuRIC fully supports the technically achievable recycled content targets of 25% for thermoplastics by 2025 with a 25% closed loop target.

Regarding metals, **EuRIC supports the introduction of a mandatory recycled content target for steel**. While EuRIC believes that quality requirements for steel recovered from ELVs should be excluded from the regulatory framework, it emphasises that such provisions should only be considered after a detailed feasibility study has assessed all relevant factors.

With the legislative file on hold in the European Parliament due to the elections, EuRIC focused its efforts on Member State representatives at the EU level, ensuring that key concerns from the recycling industry were well understood.

In parallel, **EuRIC actively engaged with MEP Jens Gieseke, the rapporteur leading the European Parliament's report** on the file, through multiple meetings and site visits to showcase the realities of ELV recycling.

Two key site visits were organised: one at the dismantling company RETEK AG in Ihlow during the winter, and another at Belgian Scrap Terminal's shredding plant in Willebroek in autumn, providing firsthand insight into the complexities of dismantling and shredding operations.

Meanwhile, discussions at the Council level initially focused on broader regulatory aspects such as the dual legal basis, scope expansion, export rules, and special provisions for old-timers. However, **as the Belgian Presidency neared its conclusion, a critical new topic emerged: stringent "quality requirements" for post-shredding recycling technology**. These included a proposed cap of 0.1% copper content in recycled steel, stricter aluminium sorting standards, and rules governing residues from shredder heavy and light fractions.

Closing out the year, EuRIC participated in the **European People's Party (EPP) hearing on the ELV Regulation** in December, emphasising the necessity of stable investment conditions for plastics recyclers, for robust recycled content obligations and a reliable certification system to ensure market confidence. As the European Parliament prepared to resume work on the file, EuRIC maintained close exchanges with the rapporteur's office and other key MEPs, ensuring that recyclers' perspectives would be well reflected in the upcoming draft report.

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**ELV-RELATED EVENTS
WHERE EURIC JOINED
AS A SPEAKER**

JANUARY

Position Paper: EuRIC's recommendations on the ELV Regulation proposal

FEBRUARY

Joint Statement: Vehicle recyclers and manufacturers raise concerns over counterproductive ELV dismantling requirements

APRIL

Press Release: EuRIC hails ENVI's call to reconsider mass balance method for recycled content calculation in SUPD

OCTOBER

Statement: Robust recycled content for plastics in vehicles essential to drive plastic recycling in Europe

DECEMBER

Roadmap: EU Plastics Recyclers' Roadmap: For a competitive & innovative industry

Press Release: EuRIC plastics recyclers publish roadmap for industry competitiveness and innovation

Joint Statement: Stakeholders call for ambitious recycled plastic content targets in EU vehicle regulation



E-waste: The “invisible” stream



Grinner aims to commercialise an autonomous AI-enabled robotic sorting system capable of detecting and removing e-waste containing batteries from processing conveyor belts before they are damaged by machines that crush and consolidate waste.

E-waste, or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), consists **mainly** of **non-ferrous metals** like nickel, copper, lead, and aluminum, and includes both large appliances and small devices like phones and tablets. Recycling e-waste helps **recover valuable materials**, reducing reliance on new resource extraction and imports. It also mitigates the **environmental and health risks associated with improper disposal**.

Electronic devices are complex, made up of various materials, and often contain substances that can hinder recyclability and the quality of recycled materials. In 2024, in response to the Commission's **proposed reduction of the UTC threshold for PBDEs** (polybrominated diphenyl ethers) from 500 mg/kg to 350 mg/kg, and a potential further reduction to 200 mg/kg in two years, EuRIC, alongside FEAD and PRE raised strong concerns. They highlighted the complexity of electronic devices, which are made up of various materials, often containing substances like PBDEs that complicate recycling, pointing out that the heterogeneous nature of WEEE plastics and the lack of standardised, validated methods for sampling and measurement create significant challenges for recyclers. This inconsistency leads to variations in analysis results and makes it difficult to ensure compliance with stricter PBDE limits.



E-WASTE-RELATED EVENTS WHERE EURIC JOINED AS A SPEAKER

Another pressing issue for EU recyclers is **fire incidents caused by lithium batteries and WEEE containing lithium batteries**. In 2021, only 48% of the 242,000 metric tons of portable batteries sold in the EU were recycled, with non-removable batteries in appliances creating safety risks and disrupting waste management. To raise awareness on the matter and mobilise EU policymakers, **EuRIC supported** the EU's push for **clearer guidelines on battery removability**. In a joint position paper with FEAD, EuRIC advocated for more practical examples to define which batteries are covered and emphasised the need for better end-user education on safe disposal to reduce risks and improve recycling efforts.

Disposable e-cigarettes (vapes), considered as **WEEE**, are tricky to recycle due to lack of awareness, responsibility and weak implementation from producers and distributors. This makes recycling them a challenge.

Besides, vapes pose risks to both the environment and public health. **If not disposed of properly, they can release harmful substances like heavy metals and nicotine**. They're also a major factor in the rise of youth vaping!

What's the solution? In early 2024, EuRIC, alongside 7 other organisations (CEWEP, EBRA, EERA, FEAD, FERVER, MWE and WEEELABEX, called on the European Commission to enforce a ban on single-use e-cigarettes across the EU by the end of 2024!



JANUARY

Joint Statement: EU POPs
Regulation: Joint Statement on the
Proposed UTC Value for PBDEs

APRIL

Statement: EuRIC applauds
plenary adoption of ecodesign
rules

Joint Position Paper: EuRIC, FEAD
call for clear removability
instructions for portable and LMT
batteries

JULY

Joint Position Paper: EuRIC,
Eurometaux challenge
Commission proposal on prior
notification for intra-EU shipments
of non-hazardous e-waste

MARCH

Joint Statement: Joint statement
calling for the ban of single-use e-
cigarettes in the European Union,
UK and EEA

Statement: Council's adoption of
Critical Raw Materials Act
promoting secondary raw materials
use welcomed by EU recyclers

Statement: Belgium takes the lead
in banning sales of vapes: EU must
follow suit with a complete ban

JUNE

Press Release: Step up collection,
incentivise consumers and link
WEEE with ecodesign, echoes
EuRIC's e-waste recycling event

SEPTEMBER

Press Release: ERC2024:
Circularity and decarbonisation
in the face of legislative
challenges



Highlights from the event organised by EuRIC's European Non-Ferrous Metal Trade and Recycling Federation (EUROMETREC), on 'Plug Into Sustainability: E-waste Recycling' that took place in Brussels on 3 June 2024





Tyres: Preventing incineration, boosting demand

The EU talks a lot about End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), but what about their tyres?

Often overlooked, tyres play a crucial role in recycling yet rarely make the conversation.

Tyres are often overlooked as a crucial component in the circular economy, yet they contain significant quantities of valuable materials - **rubber (75%), steel (15%), and textile fibres (10%)** - that can be recycled and reused across various sectors.

When tyres reach the end of their useful life, they become End-of-Life Tyres (ELTs). When it comes to tyres, collection is not the problem, as **95% of end-of-life tyres (ELTs) are collected and treated** in the EU. However, **around 50% of the 3.5 million tonnes of ELTs produced annually are (co-)incinerated**, and less than 1% undergo pyrolysis. Through processes such as breaking down rubber into smaller granules, recycled rubber can be utilised in diverse applications, including sports fields, construction, agriculture, automotive manufacturing, and more.

Scaling up tyre recycling within the waste hierarchy holds **significant untapped potential**, but policy intervention is crucial.

Developing markets for recycled rubber, carbon black, and devulcanised rubber is key. However, Europe's tyre recyclers continue to face the challenge of market insecurity, making investments in infrastructure and innovation uncertain.

Europe's tyre recycling industry is ready for transformation, but to achieve this, tyres must remain in Europe for recycling, and EU policies must create the right conditions for this transition rather than imposing additional barriers.

Alongside the lack of market security, overly complex regulations further slow down the time it takes for recycled rubber products to reach the market. To address these, **priority must be given to scaling up mechanical recycling** and complementary technologies such as recovered carbon black and devulcanised rubber to prevent half of the tyres collected in the EU from being sent for incineration.

To address these challenges, **EuRIC's tyre recycling event, "Reinventing the Wheel: Advancing Tyre Recycling,"** gathered industry stakeholders in Brussels on 15 April to discuss how to strengthen tyre circularity in Europe. A key takeaway was that despite the significant potential for increased material recovery, regulatory and market barriers continue to hinder progress. Improving **tyre ecodesign, setting mandatory recycled content targets, and ensuring that chemical regulations for recycled materials are based on risk assessments rather than the precautionary principle were identified as crucial steps.** A harmonised EU-wide End-of-Waste (EoW) framework would also provide much-needed clarity and stability.

Looking ahead, EuRIC's Mechanical Tyre Recycling Branch will continue to highlight the importance of tyres and remind policymakers of their potential in the circular economy. With the **addition of Gabriel Gomez, a new powerhouse in chemicals**, EuRIC is poised to take a leading role in advancing tyre recycling.



**TYRE-RELATED EVENTS
WHERE EURIC JOINED AS A
SPEAKER**



Highlights from the event organised by EuRIC's Mechanical Tyre Recycling Branch (EuRIC MTR) on “Reinventing the Wheel: Advancing tyre recycling”, that took place in Brussels on 15 April 2024



The background image depicts a workspace for eco-design. It features a wooden table with various tools: a blue pen, a silver pen, a clear circular ruler, and a hand-drawn net of a cardboard box. A hand is visible on the left, holding a piece of cardboard with a circular cutout. Another hand is on the right, holding a purple pen. A completed cardboard box with a blue grid pattern is also visible. The text "Eco-design: Recyclability in mind" is overlaid in white.

Eco-design: Recyclability in mind

The progress of ecodesign in the EU has been a significant focus for EuRIC, as we continue to advocate for a circular economy and more sustainable product designs. Implementing ecodesign requirements in the EU is a crucial step in **ensuring that products are designed with their end-of-life treatment in mind**, which greatly facilitates recycling processes and contributes to advancing the circular economy.

2024 marked a milestone for ecodesign, with the entry into force of the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)** in August. This regulatory shift brought renewed attention to the need for product design that supports the EU's sustainability goals. Alongside the ESPR's implementation, work on **two key delegated acts targeting iron and steel, as well as textiles**, gained momentum.

EuRIC has played an active role in shaping these developments, **contributing feedback to preparatory studies and public consultations**. Specifically, EuRIC has been **involved in the work on the delegated acts for iron, steel, and textiles, as well as in discussions on horizontal measures like the Digital Product Passport (DPP)**. The DPP is expected to be a critical tool in tracking the environmental impact of products across their lifecycle.

In addition to these new product areas, EuRIC has **continued its efforts on the energy-related products previously covered under the Ecodesign Directive, particularly with regard to WEEE** (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment). In July 2024, EuRIC submitted feedback on a preparatory study concerning product-specific measures for scarce, environmentally relevant, and critical raw materials, as well as recycled content in WEEE.

By December 2024, EuRIC was also actively involved in providing **feedback on the Digital Product Passport delegated act**, ensuring that its members' perspectives were considered in the evolving framework.

All of EuRIC's intensive efforts, involvement, and advocacy throughout 2024 were proven when we were **appointed as a member of the newly established Ecodesign Forum** in January 2025, further solidifying EuRIC's commitment to advancing ecodesign.

A construction worker wearing a yellow hard hat and a high-visibility vest is working on a grid of steel reinforcement bars (rebar) at a construction site. The worker's hands, wearing gloves, are visible as they handle the rebar. The background shows a blurred view of the construction site with various structural elements and scaffolding.

Construction & Demolition: Re-constructing a circular Europe

Construction and Demolition Waste (CDW), including concrete, wood, metals, bricks, glass, and plastics, **makes up about 40% of all waste generated annually in the EU**, representing a major material stream.

The **construction sector** also significantly impacts the environment, **contributing around 12% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions**.

In 2024, EuRIC has been actively strengthening its Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling branch through regular exchanges with the European Commission, focusing on the circularity of the construction sector. These efforts have been complemented by ongoing meetings and collaborations with NGOs, other industry associations, and academic institutions to drive progress in the field.

Key milestones in this effort include EuRIC's participation in the CARACAL meetings on 1 July and 18 December, where they worked closely with other industry associations on issues surrounding the REACH status of recycled aggregates. Through these meetings, EuRIC contributed to several position papers and legal positions, advocating for policies that support the broader integration of recycled materials in construction and demolition projects.

3

**CDW-RELATED EVENTS
WHERE EURIC JOINED AS A
SPEAKER**

A key moment for EuRIC's Construction & Demolition Branch was its event at **ECOMONDO 2024** in Rimini, organised in collaboration with EuRIC's Italian member, ANPAR and ECOMONDO. Held on 6 November 2024, the event tackled critical questions surrounding the upcoming EU Circular Economy Act, which aims to strengthen the market for recycled materials and enhance integration within the EU recycling sector. Discussions centered on Green Public Procurement (GPP), taxation measures, recycled content targets, and the role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, all essential to accelerating circularity in construction.

AUGUST

Manifesto: EU Recyclers'
Manifesto: Increasing
circularity in the
construction sector

NOVEMBER

Press Release: Circular
construction and
decarbonisation at the
heart of EuRIC's event at
Ecomondo 2024

EC Feedback: 'End-of-
Waste criteria for
mineral construction
and demolition waste
(CDW)'





Plastics:

Surviving weak domestic demand and cheap imports

The past months have seen critical developments defining the landscape of plastic recycling in Europe and beyond.

Despite significant progress in reducing the environmental impact of EU plastic waste and advancing the transition to a circular plastics economy, the European plastic recycling industry faces pressing challenges. **Demand for recycled polymers remains low**, and when combined with **unfair, fraudulent imports from third countries**, the competitiveness of EU plastic recyclers is at risk.

The plastic recycling industry capacity has rapidly grown, increasing by more than 30% in the last three years. However, after years of growth, the growth rate decreased 6% in 2023, due to heavy market disruptions and price fluctuations.

Reacting to the rapidly changing environment and the concerning developments for Europe's plastics recyclers, **EuRIC's Plastics Recycling Branch (EPRB) published in December the "EU Plastics Recyclers' Roadmap: For a competitive & innovative industry"** outlining key recommendations for the EU's 2024-2029 mandate to boost plastics recycling in the EU while driving innovation and investment.

To address these, we argue that binding measures to incentivise the use of recycled plastics are the only manner to reward recycling environmental benefits and level the playing field with extracted materials.

When looking at last year's legislative developments, one of the most significant in 2024 was the agreement and **adoption of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)**. This new framework introduces ambitious recycled plastic content targets for 2030 and 2040, establishes reuse obligations, strengthens recyclability criteria, and enhance collection through national targets and mandatory Deposit Return Schemes (DRS).

Moreover, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (**JRC**) **published a report on EU-wide end-of-waste (EoW) criteria for plastic waste**.

Another key development was the **development of a harmonised method to calculate recycled content in plastic beverage bottles under the Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD)**, which will be instrumental to ensure a level playing field between all recycling technologies.

At the global level, the **final negotiations for an international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution are underway**, aiming to establish concrete measures to reduce plastic waste and enhance circularity on an international scale.

A groundbreaking change for the European plastics recycling landscape was the **adoption of the revised EU Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR)**. With its strict export requirements and the upcoming **ban on plastic waste exports to non-OECD countries starting in November 2026**, the new rules affect global trade flows.

From packaging to automotive, EuRIC intensified its advocacy efforts on key regulatory developments, including PPWR, the ELVR, the WSR, and the EoW criteria

13 PLASTICS-RELATED EVENTS WHERE EURIC JOINED AS A SPEAKER

JANUARY

Statement: Recyclers Urgently Call for Fair Prices for Plastic Recyclates under PPWR

EU POPs Regulation: Joint Statement on the Proposed UTC Value for PBDEs

MARCH

Press release: WFD trilogues poised to begin; EuRIC urges swift deal and no EPR for second-hand

Joint Statement: Recycling and waste management associations hail PPWR's mirroring clause for third-country recycled plastic environmental guarantees

Press Release: Europe's recyclers applaud milestone PPWR deal, highlight remaining challenges

OCTOBER

Statement: Robust recycled content for plastics in vehicles essential to drive plastic recycling in Europe

DECEMBER

Roadmap & Press Release: EU Plastics Recyclers' Roadmap: For a competitive & innovative industry

Joint Statement: Stakeholders call for ambitious recycled plastic content targets in EU vehicle regulation

Joint Press Release: EU's competitiveness under severe threat: plastics sector at crossroads

FEBRUARY

Press Release: Recyclers urge EU action to protect Europe's plastics recycling industry from 'recycled' plastics influx, amid PPWR talks

Position Paper: Urgent actions required to protect the European recycling industry from unfair competition linked to massive imports of plastics labelled as "recycled"

Press Release: Revised Waste Shipment rules threaten recycling in Europe

APRIL

Press Release: EuRIC hails ENVI's call to reconsider mass balance method for recycled content calculation in SUPD

Press Release: EU Parliament votes send mixed signals on packaging circularity

NOVEMBER

Press Release: CIMPA concludes with promising findings on multilayer plastic film recycling

Textiles:

A year of crises and policy shifts



2024 marked an unprecedented crisis in Europe's textile collection, sorting, and recycling sector.

SCIRT (System Circularity and Innovative Recycling of Textiles), aims to demonstrate a complete textile-to-textile recycling system for discarded clothing, otherwise known as post-consumer textiles.

The warning signs were already there, but the situation escalated dramatically in February when Renewcell, a pioneer in textile-to-textile recycling and EuRIC partner, filed for bankruptcy. By April, the crisis had deepened further, prompting EuRIC Textiles and Municipal Waste Europe (MWE) to issue a joint statement, calling on the EU to provide emergency funding to support the struggling sector.

At the same time, the regulatory landscape was rapidly evolving. The **revision of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD)** took center stage, with the European Parliament (EP) adopting its position in Q1. Intense advocacy efforts followed, aiming to shape the Council's stance, which was finalised in Q2.

As trilogue negotiations kicked off in Q4, EuRIC Textiles, alongside FEAD and Decathlon, remained actively engaged, publishing several position papers to ensure the industry's concerns were heard.

Beyond waste management, **the future of textile design also came into focus.** The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) continued its preparatory study on Ecodesign requirements for textile products.

EuRIC Textiles closely followed these developments, emphasising the critical role of durability, recycled content, and recyclability in shaping a truly circular textile economy.

Meanwhile, international trade concerns surfaced as a major threat. In March, France, Denmark, and Sweden issued a joint statement **calling for restrictions on textile waste exports, and requesting the amendment of the Basel Convention.**

EuRIC Textiles immediately mobilised, working with stakeholders at the UN and EU levels to defend the importance of maintaining free trade of second-hand clothing between Europe and non-OECD countries - an essential pillar of the circular economy.

Regulatory pressure also intensified with the looming impact of **REACH restrictions.** While aimed at addressing skin sensitisers and PFAS, these measures risk unintended consequences for mechanical textile recycling, an issue EuRIC Textiles worked to highlight. At the same time, preparations for the future revision of the **Textiles Labelling Regulation (TLR)** gained momentum, with EuRIC responding to two consultations in Q1 and Q2, ahead of the European Commission's planned proposal in 2025.

On the global stage, EuRIC Textiles achieved a milestone by securing a seat at the table in the G7 ARE ACT initiative. In December, at the launch event in Rome, EuRIC Textiles presented its handling and sorting specifications - an important measure to enhance textile sorting at an international level.

As 2024 came to a close, the sector stood at a crossroads. While challenges mounted, EuRIC Textiles remained at the forefront, ensuring that policies and industry shifts truly supported a circular and resilient European textile sector.



**TEXTILE-RELATED EVENTS
WHERE EURIC JOINED AS A
SPEAKER**

MARCH

Statement on Renewcell bankruptcy: A critical moment to talk about EU measures on recycled fibre demand

Statement: MEPs adopt position on WFD revision, EuRIC calls for prompt entry into force

Statement: Final adoption of revised EU waste shipment rules

APRIL

Statement: Europe's textiles sorting industry in crisis; urgent EU action needed

Position Paper: Proposed Basel Convention changes threaten textile circular economy efforts

Statement: EuRIC applauds plenary adoption of ecodesign rules

JUNE

Press release: WFD trilogues poised to begin; EuRIC urges swift deal and no EPR for second-hand

OCTOBER

Joint Statement: EuRIC, MWE: Crisis in Europe's textiles sorting and recycling sector could trigger a domino effect

NOVEMBER

Joint Press Release: EuRIC Textiles, FEAD & Decathlon publish joint position asking for effective EPR Schemes in revised WFD to drive textile circularity in Europe

Joint Position Paper: EuRIC Textiles, FEAD & DECATHLON urge effective EPR schemes and a level playing field in WFD revision



Paper:

Navigating exports under the new WSR

EuRIC continues to advocate for advancing paper recycling across Europe. Despite high recycling rates, we recognise the ongoing challenges in expanding proper and separate collection systems to ensure the highest quality of recovered paper while minimising contamination risks.

In 2024, EuRIC, led by the European Paper Recycling Branch (ERPA), continued to support the development of European and national end-of-waste criteria for paper. Additionally, we contributed to the work of CEN/TC 172 on pulp, paper, and board.

In April 2024, ERPA launched tripartite discussions with FEAD and Cepi, which continued throughout the year, aiming to reach an agreement on **EU-wide End-of-Waste criteria for paper**.

ERPA has also focused on informing its members about the implementation of the Waste Shipment Regulation. They have worked on **developing an audit scheme and provided guidance to non-OECD countries on how to apply to be listed in the Commission's List of Authorised Countries for Waste Exports**.

Since the summer, EuRIC, in collaboration with the ERPA Presidency, initiated **exchanges with customer associations in non-OECD recipient countries**. The objective was to ensure that these countries took the necessary steps to gain authorisation as EU export destinations for recovered paper before the critical deadline of 21 February 2025.

Recognising the importance of maintaining stable export channels for the European recycling industry, EuRIC worked to **facilitate dialogue between industry stakeholders** and national authorities.

EuRIC also worked on **compliance with the upcoming audit obligation for all EU waste exports**, set to take effect on 21 May 2027. Throughout the year, EuRIC engaged with policymakers and industry representatives to clarify the detailed criteria that recycling industry customers in third countries would need to meet.

Later in the year, EuRIC intensified its outreach efforts **towards embassies and competent authorities of relevant non-OECD countries for waste shipments**, in view to ensure that recipient countries were prepared to meet the 21 February 2025 notification deadline, a crucial step in maintaining uninterrupted trade flows for recovered materials.



Source: Getty Images



**PAPER RELATED EVENTS
WHERE EURIC JOINED AS A
SPEAKER**

A photograph of a ship recycling facility. In the foreground, there is a large pile of scrap metal, including twisted steel beams and pipes. In the background, a large section of a ship's hull is being dismantled. A blue crane is visible on the left side of the frame. The sky is overcast and grey.

Ship recycling: From steel giants to new beginnings

Making ship recycling in the EU transparent, efficient, profitable, and sustainable.

In September 2024, EuRIC took the landmark **decision to expand its operations and launch the European Ship Recycling Group (ESRG)**, with the goal of addressing current barriers in ship recycling within the EU.

Ship recycling is a key part of the maritime industry's lifecycle management, focusing on the **safe dismantling** of end-of-life vessels while **preventing pollution** and **recovering valuable materials** like steel, copper, and aluminium.

Although the **EU Ship Recycling Regulation (SRR)**, implemented on 31 December 2018, was designed to ensure environmentally sound and safe ship recycling practices, challenges remain. The ESRG's formation reflected a growing recognition of this need. As a token of its active role in shaping policies that support environmentally responsible ship recycling practices within the EU, EuRIC participated in the European Commission's consultation regarding the 14th edition of the European list of ship recycling facilities.

The publication of the **"EU Recyclers' Manifesto: For a Strong Ship Recycling Sector in Europe"** in December 2024 played a key role in charting a way forward for Europe's ship recyclers.

The manifesto emphasised **creating a level playing field** within the EU and with third countries, **ensuring all EU-listed yards adhere to the same standards** and fall under EU legislation, **preventing non-compliance** and **ensuring vessels are recycled only at approved yards** or by listed companies.

It also called for **simplifying bureaucratic processes** to speed up notification procedures and **reduce administrative costs**, as well as **expanding the regulation's scope** to cover all vessel types, prioritising ownership and financial beneficiaries over flag states. Additionally, it stressed the **need for stronger control mechanisms** to ensure proper certification of yards and **penalise violations** of legislation, **while limiting the number of vessels leaving the EU** at the end of their life to bolster the sector within Europe.

To further engage with policymakers, the manifesto was presented to Commission representatives during a site visit to **Galloo Ship Recycling facility in Ghent, Belgium**.

Since its launch, EuRIC's ESRG has connected with other associations, companies and NGOs active in the field, fostering collaboration and strengthening its network. Looking ahead, EuRIC's ship recycling working group and its members, Galloo (FR), Smedegaarden (DK), Fornaes (DK) and FER (ES) are currently preparing their response to the **enforcement of the Hong Kong Convention (HKC)**, set for June 26, 2025.

We need policymakers and stakeholders to join us in advancing ship recycling in Europe – because we need all hands on deck to make a real impact

Julia Ettinger, EuRIC Secretary General



**SHIP RECYCLING-RELATED
EVENTS WHERE EURIC
JOINED AS A SPEAKER**

SEPTEMBER

Press Release: EuRIC expands into ship recycling, with new working group

Press Release: ERC2024: Circularity and decarbonisation in the face of legislative challenges

NOVEMBER

Press Release: EuRIC points at circular steel for a low-carbon, competitive European steel industry

Position Paper: Circular steel: Powering a low-carbon, competitive, and circular European Steel Industry

OCTOBER

ESRG participation at the “Ship Recycling Lab” in Lisbon

DECEMBER

Manifesto: EU Recyclers’ Manifesto: For a strong ship recycling sector in Europe

Press Release: Europe’s ship recyclers publish manifesto calling for stronger EU measures to keep vessels in the EU and ensure material recovery and environmental protection

EC Feedback: Consultation on the 14th edition of the European list of ship recycling facilities





Highlights from the Joint EuRIC x European Commission visit to Galloo's ship recycling facility in Ghent, Belgium





Sustainable Finance: EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities

In January 2023, the European Commission announced that EASF, the European Alliance for Sustainable Finance in waste management & recycling (EASF), co-founded by FEAD and PRE, had been selected to join the new **EU Platform on Sustainable Finance** to support a science-based implementation of the Taxonomy Regulation which directs investments towards the most sustainable activities.

In 2024, EuRIC participated actively in representing the alliance. A core part of EuRIC's efforts centered on driving environmental objectives, with a particular focus on ensuring the sustainability of material flows within the economy. Much of the association's work was dedicated to aligning with the **"Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH)** principle in circular economy initiatives, highlighting the importance of sustainability without compromising other environmental objectives.

In detail, in the renovation and construction of new buildings, EuRIC contributed to the public consultation on the technical guidance on the application of the DNSH principle under the Social Climate Fund to **set clear guidelines for the preparation of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (CDW)** for reuse or recycling. The goal was to **ensure that at least 70% of such waste (by mass in kilograms) was reused or recycled**, excluding backfilling.

The construction industry also saw positive developments in the use of concrete. EuRIC worked to minimise the use of primary raw materials in concrete production, ensuring that a maximum of 85% of concrete was made from primary raw materials, thus reducing the environmental footprint of concrete and encouraged the recycling of materials from existing structures.

EuRIC's notable success in 2024 came through pushing for mandatory recycled content targets across various industries to reduce encourage the uptake of recycled materials and therefore, reduce reliance on virgin ones. Another major EuRIC achievement came in the field of iron and steel manufacturing. **EASF focused on the use of post-consumer recycled metals ('scrap') in steel production, advocating for a requirement that no less than 15% of the ferrous metal scrap used in manufacturing be from post-consumer materials.** This requirement applied regardless of the production route, ensuring that recycled materials were consistently incorporated into the steel-making process, reducing the industry's reliance on virgin resources.

For the plastic packaging industry, **EuRIC laid the groundwork for future regulations under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR).** EASF focused on the "phasing-in" of changes before the full requirements came into effect, providing industry stakeholders with the necessary tools to comply with upcoming regulations, to ensure a smoother transition toward more circular packaging practices.

Looking ahead, EuRIC, through EASF, will continue working on the prioritised activities recommended by the Platform for future inclusion in the Taxonomy. Recycling of raw materials is among these key activities, as it reduces the need for primary materials, lowering environmental impacts and promoting more sustainable production.

European Recycling Conference (ERC)

The 6th edition of the European Recycling Conference was held in Milano, on 26 September.

Building on the success of previous editions, the 2024 ERC celebrated **EuRIC's 10th anniversary under the theme "Recycling Today. Resourcing Tomorrow."**

In collaboration with EuRIC's Italian Member, Assofermet, ERC 2024 brought together more than 150 participants including key stakeholders in the recycling industry to explore the role of circularity in Europe's decarbonisation and raw materials autonomy, as well as how current and upcoming EU legislation affects recycled material trade.

Despite concerns about stagnation in circularity within the steel recycling sector, both attendees and speakers affirmed that the industry has long operated in a circular manner. Finding a win-win solution is essential for driving progress.



EU-Funded Projects

EuRIC has a strategic interest in developing research and innovation projects that foster circularity by turning waste into new resources.

We have a leading partner role in a number of high-level collaborative and international research projects, representing the recycling industry through its various branches and providing expertise on policy, regulatory and scientific matters.

The project started in June 2021 and finished in November 2024

EuRIC is a partner of the CIMPA project which seeks to develop the first multilayer plastic films recycling value chain.

After 3.5 years, the CIMPA project concluded its journey with an event on "Advancing circularity of complex plastic films" showcasing its innovative solutions for recycling multilayer plastic films from packaging and agricultural applications.

The CIMPA project concluded with promising results in sorting, mechanical and physical recycling, and quality upgrading.

EuRIC co-hosted this event, as a work package leader in the CIMPA project, which unites 12 other partners from 5 countries, covering the entire value chain. The event showcased the project's outcomes, bringing together policymakers, researchers, and industry experts to discuss the next steps in advancing the circularity of plastic films.



Sponsors' Spotlight

EuRIC offers a selection of tailored sponsorship packages that will enhance the sponsors' visibility amongst leading recyclers and the EU institutions.

This section casts a spotlight on EuRIC's Platinum Sponsors.

Derichebourg and the power of recycling

Abderaman El Aoufir, CEO of Derichebourg

Interviewed by Zoi Didili, EuRIC Senior Communications Advisor

Founded in 1956, Derichebourg is a family-run business listed on the Paris stock exchange, with operations spanning 13 countries, predominantly across Europe.

The group's recycling activities go far beyond processing waste; they are deeply embedded in the very fabric of the green transition. **In 2024 alone, Derichebourg recycled over 5 million tonnes of metals - steel, copper, aluminium, and more -** feeding these materials back into the supply chain to meet the demands of industries ranging from construction to automotive.

The real value of these materials goes beyond meeting Europe's carbon neutrality targets; it's about securing the region's independence from unpredictable and volatile global supply chains. At the core of **Derichebourg's mission is a relentless push for circularity** - not just for the economy of today, but for the sustainable, self-reliant economy of tomorrow.

Why End-of-Life Vehicles are the beating heart of automotive circularity

End-of-life vehicle (ELV) recycling is one of **Derichebourg's most vital activities**. In 2024, the company recycled 650,000 tonnes of ELVs through its expansive network of over 200 recycling facilities across Europe.

We're not talking anymore about simply dismantling cars, but about transforming them into valuable resources that fuel the green economy. "Every car that's recycled by Derichebourg contributes to creating jobs, advancing technology, and reducing waste", says Abderaman El Aoufir, CEO of Derichebourg.

“

Every car that's recycled by Derichebourg contributes to creating jobs, advancing technology, and reducing waste

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The company's operations in France, Spain, and Belgium are equipped with **cutting-edge technology designed to recover high-quality materials from ELVs - steel, copper, aluminum, and plastics**. These materials are then funneled back into the manufacturing process, where they will be **reused in everything from construction to new vehicle production**, helping to meet the strict EU targets for recycling and recovery rates of 85% and 95%, respectively.

However, the journey has been far from easy, and the challenges ahead remain, **Abderaman El Aoufir** comments. "Achieving true circularity is not as simple as recycling materials. **One of the biggest obstacles in the automotive sector is the need to increase the use of recycled plastics in the manufacturing of new cars**. While the European Commission's draft End-of-Life Vehicle Regulation (ELVR) sets a **target for 25% recycled plastic content in new vehicles**, we, at Derichebourg fear the more conservative approach regarding targets that the European Parliament is proposing.

Lowering these targets - down to just 20% for overall recycled plastic content and 15% for closed-loop recycling - **would hinder the progress** necessary to achieve a fully circular automotive industry.



“

If these watered-down regulations are passed, the consequences could be severe. Plastic waste would likely continue to be sent to landfills or incinerated, further polluting the environment and stalling the automotive sector's shift toward sustainability

”

For Derichebourg, this is a regulatory hurdle that threatens to derail the investments and jobs that are essential to making automotive recycling truly circular.

A future proof economy: Recycled steel and copper for tomorrow's cars

While these challenges loom large, Derichebourg isn't sitting idle.

“We are heavily investing in researching and implementing new technologies that push the boundaries of what's possible in recycling,” Abderaman El Aoufir asserts. One of its most promising innovations lies in the use of recycled steel in the production of flat steel, which is a key material for the automotive industry. *“Flat steel production has traditionally relied heavily on iron ore, but there is growing momentum to replace this with higher percentages of recycled steel”*, he adds.

Derichebourg is at the forefront of these efforts, testing advanced techniques that will allow the automotive industry to use more recycled materials in vehicle manufacturing.

“But steel is just the beginning. We are also working to strengthen aluminium and copper recycling, both of which are integral to the automotive sector's transition to electric vehicles (EVs). With the rise of EVs, demand for these materials is expected to surge. Derichebourg is well-positioned to meet that demand by continuously refining its processes to produce the highest quality recycled materials, which are increasingly required by the downstream industries,” the CEO of Derichebourg adds.



The company's business model, built around the circular economy, is poised to benefit from the long-term shift toward electric vehicles and the increasing demand for high-quality recycled steel, aluminum, and copper. **As Europe's automotive industry continues to evolve, Derichebourg's ability to meet these needs will make it an essential partner in the transition to a more sustainable and circular economy.**

However, the company also faces significant **challenges**. One of the most pressing is the **illegal export of non-treated end-of-life vehicles outside the EU, often disguised as used cars**. According to Derichebourg's CEO, *“If we want to prevent these vehicles from being improperly recycled or disposed of, we need stronger controls on the export of whole vehicles. Without these controls, the recycling process is at risk, and then we will be very far from reaching the circularity that Europe wants for its automotive sector.”*

Derichebourg's story is one of forward-thinking innovation and strong commitment to the circular economy. As demand for recycled materials grows, so does the need for businesses that can supply these materials efficiently and responsibly.

For Derichebourg, this is an opportunity to play a key role in Europe's green transition and set an example of recycling excellence for companies within and outside Europe. The road ahead may be challenging, but with the right investments in advanced technologies and a clear vision, Derichebourg is poised to become one of the companies that Europe will seek and rely on as an essential ally in its ambitious vision for climate neutrality, competitiveness and circularity.



Paprec : moving towards ever greater circularity

In an unpromising environment, marked by strong economic and geopolitical uncertainties, 2024 was a year for Paprec to celebrate its 30th anniversary and pursue its dynamic growth, diversification and internationalisation.

Organic growth has been sustained, driven by the Recycling division, the Group's main business alongside energy recovery and organic recycling. In external growth, with the merger of Helvetia Environnement and Paprec Schweiz, Paprec takes the lead in the Swiss recycling market. Two acquisitions of regional players consolidate Paprec's positions in France, and enable us to continue the expansion of our presence in Spain, which began in 2020.

Paprec International now has sales of 500 million euros, with our markets in Spain and Switzerland being very dynamic.

Paprec's diversification into metals recycling is bearing fruit, with sales more than doubling in 4 years. Plastics recycling, on the other hand, remains extremely difficult, facing very low prices for virgin polymers, in a context of global overproduction, and increasingly aggressive competition from recycled from imported from non-European countries with less stringent environmental regulations.

European circularity policy: what's next?

While the Green Deal has led to significant progress and collective mobilisation, notably with the introduction of recycled content obligations for plastic packaging, the collective momentum is running out of steam.

The transition to a circular economy remains in the middle of the road. Our economic structures are still predominantly linear: the rate of material circularity in Europe is less than 12%. Over and above the environmental impact, this is **a missed opportunity to strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy, by securing access to the resources the European economy needs**, at a time of increasing geopolitical uncertainty.

The Clean Industrial Deal sets a target of doubling circularity to 24% by 2030.

Paprec welcomes and supports this objective, which must now be translated into action. The future Circular Economy Act is an opportunity not to be missed. Paprec fully supports EuRIC's key role in conveying the recycling industry proposals.

“

Paprec's diversification into metals recycling is bearing fruit, with sales more than doubling over the past four years

”



For the Clean Industrial Deal to be effective, 3 measures are, in our view, essential:

- **Develop domestic demand**, first and foremost by generalising recycled content obligations and incentives. Harmonisation of end-of waste procedures is also a lever to be activated.
- **Create a levelled playing field** by enforcing fair competition through robust mirror measures and effective import controls for imported goods and recycled materials and by setting a CO2-pricing mechanism favourable to recycled materials.
- **Ensure a favorable business climate for the recycling industry**, which bears a large share of the investment and technological and industrial risks associated with the circular transition.

In addition to simplifying administrative procedures, the role of EPRs needs to be adjusted : today, their operation creates too much uncertainty for recycling business models. EPRs must shift to become a tool for accelerating circularity, by delivering on design for recycling and recycled content.

Now is the time to act. Let's turn ambition into action and secure Europe's place in the race for tomorrow's resources.

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EPRs must evolve into a tool that accelerates circularity by driving design for recycling and increasing recycled content

”

Key 2024 Figures

€3B

Total Sales

€400M

Investment

16K

Employees across 11 countries

350

Sites

17M

Tonnes of waste processed



PAPREC

by Sophie Sicard, Deputy Director for Sustainable Development & Institutional Affairs,
PAPREC



Members, Partners, Sponsors & Media Partners

EuRIC offers the possibility for national recycling federations or companies active in recycling to join its works. Our Members and Partners are EuRIC's policy powerhouse.

For companies highly interested in recycling, technology providers and consultancies, EuRIC offers the possibility of sponsorships.

EuRIC also collaborates with several media outlets to amplify our message and keep industry professionals and policymakers informed on key insights.

Our Members





Our Partners



Our Sponsors

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Our Media Partners





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