

Recycling Europe urges ‘numbers, not noise’, as Commission announces plans for aluminium ‘scrap’ trade measures

Brussels, 19 November 2025 – EU Commission Vice-President for Trade, Maroš Šefčovič yesterday [announced](#) the launch of preparatory work for a ‘balanced’ trade measure on the alleged “scrap leakage” – to be adopted by spring 2026. Recycling Europe stresses that **to date, the EU Commission’s own monitoring has shown no evidence of ‘scrap leakage’**. Claims to the contrary are paradoxical, unfounded and misleading.

Europe’s recycling sector, comprising tens of thousands of SMEs and larger companies that provide non-outsourcable jobs across the EU, is a proven engine of circularity, decarbonisation, resource autonomy, and material security. We strongly welcome the Vice-President’s recognition of this role.

We also welcome the Vice-President’s commitment to **bringing long-overdue certainty** to Europe’s recycling industry and to the domestic and international customers who depend on it. Europe cannot decarbonise without its recycling industry - and **the recycling industry cannot thrive without strong domestic demand for recycled materials and viable market outlets** for its surplus of recycled materials.

As the recycling side of the value chain, we expect to be fully and equally involved in the upcoming consultation. *“The entire value chain wins when decisions are based on numbers, not noise – we, Europe’s recyclers, are ready to engage”*, said Olivier François, President of Recycling Europe.

We are prepared to work constructively with the European Commission on the design of the measure, to ensure that **any trade measure taken is evidence-based, proportionate and does not advance the interests of one sector at the expense of another**.

Note to editor: Recycling Europe (formerly EuRIC) is the voice of Europe’s recycling industry, including 80 national federations and companies across 24 EU & EFTA countries. From metals and paper to plastics, packaging, textiles, tyres, ships, construction & demolition waste, WEEE and ELVs, our members transform waste into resources—powering Europe’s circular economy, ensuring resource autonomy, and boosting competitiveness and sustainable industrialisation across the continent. For press-related enquiries, please contact Zoi Didili, Recycling Europe’s Senior Communications Advisor, by email at zdidili@recyclingeurope.org or by phone at +32 (0) 489 09 46 02.