

# Annual Report

## 2020 Highlights





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Executive Summary  
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## EuRIC Highlights

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2020 has demonstrated the crucial role of Federations at European and National levels. As the authoritative voice of the recycling industry at EU level, EuRIC has worked relentlessly to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on its Members and to advocate for measures pulling recycling markets in order to speed up the transition towards a more circular economy.

**Cinzia Vezzosi**  
*President of EuRIC*

# 2020 is undoubtedly a year no one will forget.

2020 will be remembered as the year of the outbreak of a pandemic – COVID-19 – which the world has not witnessed for more than a century and keeps having radical changes on the way we live. On top of dramatic human and social consequences, COVID 19 is also having major impact on the economy. The recycling industry is no exception unfortunately.

2020 will also be remembered as the year where the EU made the transition towards a more circular economy its priority number 1. The European Green Deal was the first strategic document published, in December 2019, by the newly-confirmed President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, followed in March 2020, by the new Circular Economy Action Plan.

While teleworking became the norm as from Spring 2020 and onwards, EuRIC and its Members have never been as busy over the recent months, both to support the recognition of our industry as “essential”, on top of being intrinsically green, and in parallel to keep asserting the positions of the industry on a variety of key regulatory changes.

As the authoritative representative of an industry being at the core of the transition towards a Circular Economy, EuRIC has been at the forefront, answering plenty of public consultations, producing numerous position papers and publishing factsheets to better communicate the benefits of recycling but also the lasting obstacles which hinder our industry.

The nomination of EuRIC in a number of very selective Expert Groups set up by the European Commission, standardization bodies or international organizations, such as the Platform on Sustainable Finance or the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform is a recognition of the collective and relentless work to service the waste management and recycling industry which plays a key role to achieve Europe's climate neutral 2050 target.

2021 promises to be exciting and challenging with the revision of a number of EU regulations and directives which are vital for our industry but also, hopefully, the perspective of a gradual return to normality that effective vaccines against COVID offer. Count on us to keep being your voice in Brussels!

**Cinzia Vezzosi**  
*President of EuRIC*

**Emmanuel Katrakis**  
*Secretary General of EuRIC*

# Meet our Team

In 2020, we said a heartfelt goodbye to Elisabeth A. García and Louis Ollion and welcomed our two new team members with open arms.



**Emmanuel Katrakis**  
**Secretary General**

Overseeing EuRIC activities for all branches  
Representing EuRIC in high level experts groups

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**Julia Blees**  
**Senior Policy Officer**

EuRIC Newsletter  
ERPA, EuRIC Textiles, ERA WG and Waste Shipment Task Force

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**Scientific Officer**

Waste & Chemicals Interface  
EPRB and EuRIC MTR

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**Rikarnto Bountis**  
**Technical Officer**

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EUROMETREC, WEEE WG, EFR-ESG and Waste & Chemicals WG

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**Nanett Kalapos**  
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Administrative and financial questions  
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# What's New 2020

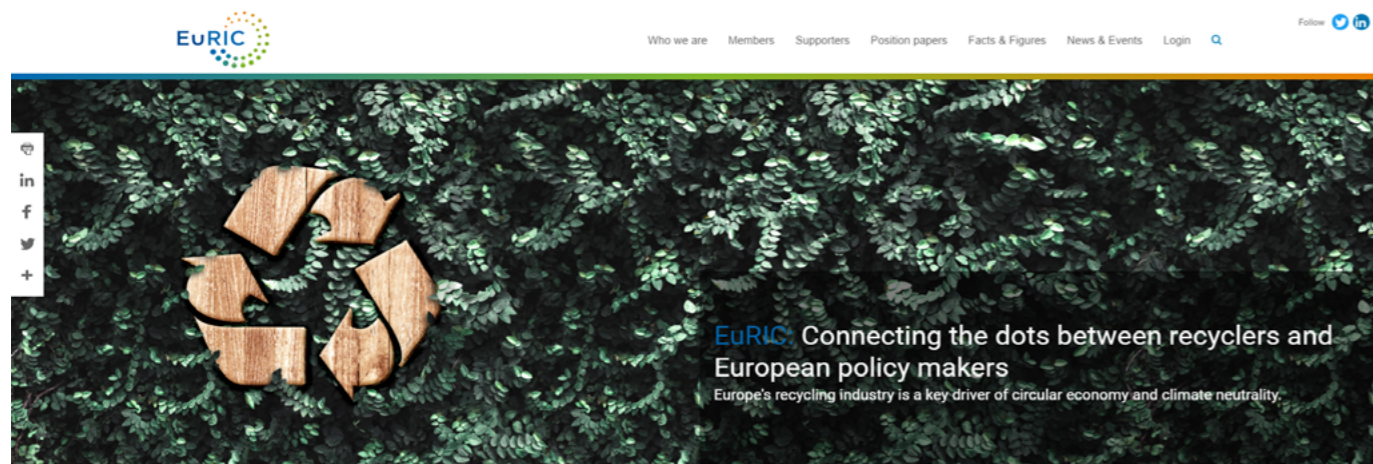
2020 quickly became the year of digitalization which has inspired a series of changes at EuRIC. When the pandemic hit Europe, EuRIC was in the midst of organising its annual General Assembly. Fortunately our Team and Members easily adjusted to the new normal and swiftly moved online. The past year has inspired us to create more efficient and aesthetically pleasing online surfaces, systems and publications not only for the proper, modernised representation of EuRIC but to provide you a seamless experience.

Let's start with the most evident change of all, the EuRIC website. After 5 long years, our website has received a facelift: colours became lighter, pictures bigger and more diverse while the descriptions have been updated accordingly to recent changes. We will continue working on smaller details such as shedding more light on our Members and Partners in 2021 but you are invited to give a try to our [new user experience](#) right at this minute. Talking about user experience, we have not only updated the look of our website but launched EuRIC Intranet, our dedicated online library. EuRIC members are now able to find relevant documents, studies, past and future meeting details in just a few clicks instead of searching through an endless list of incoming e-mails.

In the past year, EuRIC secured a permanent position among ECESP Good Practices as both our Plastic Recycling- and Metal Recycling Factsheet have been uploaded to the platform. EuRIC stands at the forefront of reliable information dissemination. Its edition of "Top 5 Priorities" was picked up by the press several times on, while an additional two brochures on the Sound Management of Waste & Chemicals Requirements and Mechanical Tyre Recycling have been published throughout 2020.

Our online following has been steadily growing since January 2020 with a total of 367 new Twitter followers and over 116,000 impressions. We have welcomed more than 4,000 visitors on our LinkedIn profile which resulted in doubling our number of followers in 12 months.

Further to our relentless work, EuRIC has been featured close to a hundred times in printed and online media outlets such as the Recycling Magazine, Global Recycling or Recycling International.



EuRIC in a nutshell

Latest position papers

**Our business: Turning waste into new resources**

EuRIC is the Confederation representing the interests of the European recycling industries. EuRIC brings together European and National recycling Associations from more than 19 EU and EFTA countries.

**Top 5 Priorities of the Recycling Industry for the Period 2019-2024**

By turning waste into secondary raw materials and reducing Europe's dependency on primary raw materials.

## EuRIC: Connecting the dots between recyclers and European policy-makers!



Europe's recycling industry is a key driver of circular economy and climate neutrality.



Learn more on our website [www.euric-aisbl.eu/facts-figures/euric-brochures](http://www.euric-aisbl.eu/facts-figures/euric-brochures)

# EuRIC Branches

The European Recycling Industries' Confederation has been expanding since its foundation in 2014.

The need to cover more waste streams is ever growing especially in light of the European Green Deal. The EuRIC Secretariat and our Members work relentlessly to advocate the interests of the main resource streams in order to speed up the transition towards a more circular economy.

## Between 2018 and 2020 EuRIC doubled its number of branches.

The foundation of EPRB - European Plastics Recycling Branch - in 2018 was followed by the formation of [EuRIC Textiles](#) in December 2019. EuRIC Textiles is unique in its own category and closely linked to the increasing demand of proper representation of the textile re-use and recycling industry. Consequently, the branch was founded when the abovementioned issues became one of the top priorities within the European Union. EuRIC Textiles currently counts 11 members and 2 supporters.

In 2020, EuRIC was joined by leading tyre recycling companies as well as national recycling federations to create [EuRIC MTR](#), a branch dealing specifically with mechanical tyre recycling (ELT). To promote the contribution of mechanical tyre recycling towards circular economy and climate neutrality, EuRIC MTR published its very own educational [brochure](#) aiming to shed light on the importance of end-of-life tyres (ELT) recycling.

EuRIC plans to continue expanding its activities whenever a specific need arise to better serve its Members and the Industry at large before EU institutions.





EFR

“Shredding is the major steel processing technique for the production of high quality scrap. EURIC, through EFR, made decisive contributions to the rationalization of the relevant EU legislation and will continue to support its members on its implementation, against misinterpretations on a national level that hinder the establishment of an EU wide Circular Economy.”

*Thomas Papageorgiou, President of EFR*

The European Shredder Group, which represents the vast majority of shredders active in Europe, has been at the forefront of matters specifically impacting mechanical recycling of ferrous metals.

From HP14 to the preparation of comprehensive inputs related to the revision of the ELV directive, a major waste stream for European shredders, ESG has published in 2020 numerous position papers and reports to shed light on the importance of tackling obstacles which keep hindering ferrous recycling in Europe in order to speed up the transition towards a more circular economy.

In addition, together with EUROMETREC, EFR has continuously emphasized the need to reward CO2 savings stemming from metal recycling which market prices fail to reward as does the the European EU ETS system.

Publication of a [Metal Recycling Brochure](#)

Position paper on the Revision of the [ELV Directive](#)

“Non-ferrous metals recycling directly enables to recover metals which are critical in a number of high-tech products and plays a key role in transitioning towards a more circular economy.”

*Susie Burrage, President of EUROMETREC*

2020 has been another intense year for then non-ferrous metal recyclers and traders represented by EUROMETREC.

Beside the publication of the Brochure on [Metal Recycling](#) looking at the benefits of copper and aluminum recycling among other gave a comprehensive overview of the benefits of recovering valuable metals both the environment, society and the economy as a whole.

Numerous times EUROMETREC felt important to recall that, while collecting and recycling across Europe non-ferrous metals is instrumental, the market for non-ferrous metal scrap is not European but truly global.

Publication of the report on the [characterization of fires](#) caused by batteries in WEEE

Publication of [WEEE treatment standards](#)



EUROMETREC



# EPRB

“2020 marked the first full year of the Plastics Recycling Branch and I would like to say thank you for the outstanding commitment of the EURIC team and members who continued to contribute to the Branch during the most challenging of personal and economic times. 2020 saw the branch take a leading role in promoting and advocating the requirement for recycled content targets in order to facilitate a circular economy. The position papers on the recycled content in cars and the ongoing work within the Circular Plastics Alliance has allowed EURIC a platform to highlight and influence the key decision makers within the European Commission. In conjunction with promoting recycled content, the branch has lead the plastic recycling industry in establishing standards and specifications for waste materials which would fall outside of the proposed limits set within the Norwegian amendments to the Basel Convention which come into force in January 2021. This work is crucial in enabling the continued free movement of recycled materials within Europe. The branch continues to represent plastic recyclers on waste and chemical legislation most notably POP’s and DecaBDE as well as proactively engaging with new and emerging developments such as Chemical Recycling.”

## Paul Mayhew, President of EPRB

[EuRIC on recycled content](#): plastics recycling is at the core of the circular economy.

[Boost technical plastic recycling](#): support to a plastics recycling industry severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Plastics Recycling Factsheet](#): promote the recycling of different types of plastics as well as its industrial and environmental benefits in terms of CO2 and energy savings.

[EuRIC commitment](#) to the Circular Plastics Alliance (CPA): first deliverables on collection and sorting [available](#).

“The market for recovered paper has always been a challenging market. The experienced recycling industry professionals were crucial for the collection and procession of secondary raw materials during the covid 19 crisis in 2020. They made it possible that the industry did not have any shortages for their new products during this difficult year.”

*Hans van de Nes, President of ERPA*

EuRIC re-joins the European Paper Recycling Council in April 2020.

Advocacy work towards ministries in Indonesia and India.

Outreach and constant contact with partner-associations abroad.

Formation of “ERPA Ambassadors” to globally advocate for the interests of the paper recycling industry.



# ERPA

# EuRIC Textiles

“Even though Textiles is one of the youngest branches in EuRIC and somewhat hampered in our lobbying efforts by COVID-19 we managed to strongly establish ourselves this year giving the textile re-use and recycling industry a voice in Brussels. In spring we published our first position paper with priorities to increase circularity in textiles calling for an ambitious Strategy on Textiles through re-use and recycling. We were also able to inform EU policymakers and politicians about our industry during on-site visits at sorting and recycling plants. On many of these occasions we could enter the dialogue with them explaining the challenges our industry faces but also our ambition to transform into a circular textile chain. Absolute highlight of these dialogues being of course the call with Commission VP Frans Timmermans, a unique opportunity to represent our interests at such a high level....”

**Mariska Zandvliet, President of EuRIC Textiles**

[Joint statement](#) with the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) to raise awareness of import restrictions due to Covid-19.

[Joint statement](#) with the US-American association for secondary materials and recycled textile (SMART) on the Kenyan import ban for second-hand clothing.

[Publication](#) of a position paper on EPR schemes.

Organization of a textile sorting facility visit in the Netherlands with [MEP Jan Huitema](#).

Representation of EuRIC Textiles during various events, such as the [BIR World Recycling Convention](#) and the event series [Humana Talks](#).

“Managing to establish a tyre branch for mechanical recyclers under the umbrella of EuRIC has been a significant milestone in 2020. The fact that we have managed to hit the ground running is extremely pleasing, as we and Europe do indeed have some major issues to deal with in order to continue the very positive recycling stream of tyres in Europe. A recycling rate of 54% is already a decent level but we have potential to increase it even further especially if we continue to strive for environmentally friendly applications such as infill on artificial pitches with effective containment measures in place.”

**Poul Steen Rasmussen, President of EuRIC MTR**

Launch of [EuRIC MTR branch](#): mechanical tyre recycling as key element of circular economy and climate neutrality

[Call on Tyre Ecodesign](#): to increase mechanical recycling from tyre design stage.

[Microplastic restriction](#): EuRIC advocacy actions to defend the most resource efficient and [environmentally-friendly](#) ELT option (i.e., a derogation for artificial infill under the implementation of standardised risk management measures).

EuRIC launch of Mechanical Tyre recycling brochure: state of play of end-of-life tyre (ELT) management with recommendations to overcome key challenges faced by the European mechanical tyre recycling industry

# EuRIC MTR





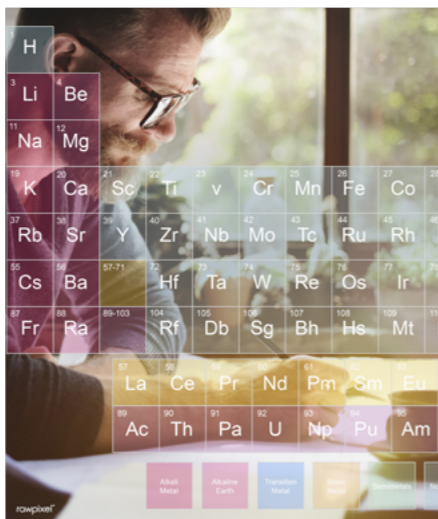
## WEEE WG

“While the coronavirus crises has made of 2020 a very peculiar year, new requirements regarding electronic waste recycling are nevertheless on the agenda of the European Commission and global institutions.

Key topics tackled by the WEEE Working Group in 2020 concerned for instance the study of the European Commission on quality standards for WEEE Treatment in order to level the playing field within the EU, the revision of the classification for plastics in the Basel Convention and its consequences of the plastic recycling market, proposal regarding eco-design requirements of electronic equipments to ease their dismantling and recycling at end of life stage, and the major issue linked to the prevention of battery fires. In particular, EuRIC together with WEEE Forum coordinated the publication of a first report on the [Characterisation of fires caused by batteries in WEEE](#) based on inputs gathered through an online survey and with the contributions of all the organisations representing the value chain.

These topics will be followed through 2021, along with the revision of the waste shipment regulation, which concerns the whole recycling sector.”

**Tess Pozzi**  
Chair of the WEEE Working Group



## Waste & Chemicals Task Force

“In 2020, we concentrated on making stakeholders aware of the fact that in a Circular Economy “everything can be found everywhere” by presenting at seminars and answering to consultations. EuRIC SCIP database and POP in waste has been focus in 2020.”

**Christer Forsgren**  
Chair of the Waste & Chemicals Task Force



## Waste Shipment Task Force

“Working procedures for cross-border shipments of waste are essential for modern recycling markets, especially in light of the mission proposed by the circular economy action plan. The revision of the legal framework for waste shipments is therefore urgently needed and essential for the industry as a whole.

With the establishment of the EuRIC waste shipment task force we gathered the experts necessary to effectively support the development process of the new waste shipment regulation. The revision of the third country regulation RL (EU) 1418/2007 was a first task that the task force coped with, working together with international recycling associations in order to support the response to the questionnaire sent by the commission.

In 2021, the Task Force will continue to advocate the interest of the recycling industry throughout the final stages of the Waste Shipment Regulation revision. Particularly, by calling for a well-functioning internal market for secondary materials and on the other hand preserving free and fair trade of secondary raw materials which is vital to the competitiveness of the European recycling industry.”

**Peter Flormann**  
Chair of the WSR Task Force



## ERA WG

- Establishment of a Covid-19 Task Force to quickly inform and exchange with members about the ongoing crisis
- Establishment of the EuRIC Executive Roundtable to deliver consistent positions at both EU and national levels in order to advocate the recycling industry’s interests
- Brexit Webinar to inform members on the implications of Brexit for the recycling industry
- Three meetings in 2020 (in person or virtual) to discuss all issues of importance for the recycling industry

### In 2020 EuRIC joined...

- [Sustainable Finance Platform](#)
- Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform ([ECESP](#))
- H2020 [METABUILDING](#) Project
- European Paper Recycling Council ([EPRC](#))

### In 2020 EuRIC continuously contributed to...

- [Circular Plastics Alliance](#) with the drafting & coordination of reports on the "Collection and sorting" and "Recycled content" in the automotive sector
- [SEAC](#) (ECHA’s socioeconomic analysis committee)
- Advisory Bodies to the Institutions such as [Caracal](#)

### EuRIC has provided feedback to all EU initiatives impacting the waste recycling sector including....

- [New Circular Economy Action Plan](#)
- [Waste Shipment Regulation](#)
- [End of waste criteria](#)
- [End of life Vehicles Directive](#)
- [Batteries Directive](#)
- [Chemical Strategy for Sustainability](#)
- [SCIP Database](#)
- [Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive](#)
- [Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment](#)

### 2020 in a few meetings...

- Conference call with Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission and Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal
- Discussion with 12 different MEPs active in ENVI
- OEWG
- Meeting of the Coordination Group of the Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform
- Expert Working Group on the Review of Annexes in October
- Resource Productivity and Waste Meeting
- IDEA Consortium
- CE-Rise Meeting

### 2020 in a few events....

- Plastics Conference in Athens
- Waste Management in the Circular Economy, Berlin
- European Business Summit
- [Humana Talks](#) (Textiles)
- EPRS event on Plastics and the circular economy
- eREC

# FUTURE PLANS

## Bring it on 2021

### Office move

EuRIC is proud to move in its new offices with DENUO, the Belgian federation of the waste and recycling sector, a founding Member of EuRIC. We are staying at the [Bluepoint](#), in a modern business center at the heart of Brussels, but moving in much bigger shared offices with DENUO. This new recycling hub will enable us to provide a wider scope of services to our respective Members.

### Growing team and workload

The European Union has, at its very top, decided to make the Green transition priority Number 1. For an intrinsically sustainable industry which enables the transition towards a circular economy, this change - embodied by the Green Deal and the new Circular Economy Action Plan is having far-reaching consequences for the waste management and recycling industry. Numerous regulatory developments that will shape the future of our industry will be decided in 2021 and the forthcoming years, for all waste streams. To cope with the additional workload and advocate the interests of the industry, the EuRIC Team will keep growing in 2021.

### New projects

EuRIC is increasingly active on EU funded projects. In 2020, [METABUILDING](#) - an innovation ecosystem bringing together stakeholders from the construction sector- was selected under the Horizon 2020 INNOSUP program. EuRIC is the partner of this three-year-long project focusing in particular on recycling & circularity, one of the 4 emerging industrial sectors alongside with additive manufacturing, nature-based solutions and digital industry.

In 2021, EuRIC will continue to be active on EU funded projects in order to be part of innovative technical or digital recycling solutions that directly contributes to a more circular economy.



# EuRIC Members and Sponsors 2021



*Thank you for your generous support.*