

## **EuRIC REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND CALLS UPON THE COMMISSION TO SUPPORT CONTINUED USE OF GRANULAR INFILL MADE FROM RECYCLED TYRES**

- EuRIC warns about the questionable future of 527,000 tonnes of end-of-life tyres which may be annually incinerated, or worst, stockpiled and illegally landfilled, if a ban on granular infill is adopted.
- EuRIC demands that tyre recycling into infill for artificial turfs is regarded as a strategic objective of the new Circular Economy Package considering the substantial environmental benefits of this application.
- EuRIC reiterates that preserving a circular economy for tyre recycling into artificial turf infill can and must go hand in hand with reducing microplastics' releases through standardized risk management measures.

Brussels, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

The European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC) representing the collective interests of the European mechanical end-of-life tyre (ELT) recycling industry, calls upon the Commission to strengthen its commitment to the Circular Economy.

With the release of [ECHA's opinions on infill materials](#), now it is up to the Commission to take a decision on what measures to follow as regards this application.

EuRIC warns about the negative impacts that some of the options covered, including a complete ban, may have on the environment and on the objectives of speeding the transition towards a more circular economy.

EuRIC has raised concerns over the future of 527,000 tonnes of end-of-life tyres annually recycled into artificial turfs, warning on the risks of them being mismanaged and causing a huge environmental impact in the event of a proposal to ban infill materials.

EuRIC Mechanical Tyre Recycling Branch ([EuRIC MTR](#)) has expressed its support to the objectives of the European Commission, and it is confident that preventing a mismanagement of waste tyres will be at the focal point of their decision when taking into consideration the different options proposed by ECHA. Especially, knowing that there are no alternatives for an environmental sound management of the approximately 50,000,000 tyres units annually recycled and turned into infill material.

Yet, preserving a circular economy for tyre recycling into artificial turf infill can and must go hand in hand with reducing microplastics' releases through standardized risk management measures such as those described in the European Standards Committee (CEN) [technical report CEN/TR 17519](#).

*“State of the art mechanical tyre recycling entirely supports the European Green Deal and the new Circular Economy Action Plan” stressed Poul Steen Rasmussen, President of EuRIC MTR Branch and Group CEO Genan. “The processing of ELT tyres into rubber is not only the most resource-efficient option but also the most climate-efficient one because for each tonne of ELT recycled as infill for artificial turf pitches- the climate is spared 700 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> when compared with co-incineration” he added.*

EuRIC entirely supports the efforts of the European Commission to minimise the release of microplastics in the environment.

*“We are sure that cutting down microplastics releases into environment and the circular economy goals can coexist and achieve the objective of minimising the environmental impact of microplastics, which is why we encourage the European Commission to introduce risk management measures to avoid unintended releases of microplastics into the environment, one of the options assessed by ECHA.”*

EuRIC has expressed their support towards the sustainable recycling system of end-of-life-tyres which they define as *“well-functioning and mature circular value chain which directly contributes to the recovery of thousands of tonnes of critical raw materials such as rubber, and also steel and textile fibres, saving substantial amounts of energy and water, and preventing greenhouse gas emissions. Together with millions of euros saved in imports of raw materials and generating thousands of jobs”.*

Read more about tyre recycling: [EuRIC's brochure on mechanical tyre recycling](#)

## About EuRIC



EuRIC is the Confederation representing the interests of the European recycling industries at EU level. EuRIC, through its various Branches covering the vast majority of waste streams, brings together National Recycling / Resource Management Federations and Companies in lieu from more than 23 European countries active locally and globally.

EuRIC represents across Europe over:

- 5,500+ companies generating an aggregated annual turnover of about 95 billion €, including large companies and SMEs, involved in the recycling and trade of various resource streams;
- 300,000 local jobs which cannot be outsourced to non-EU countries;
- Million tons of waste recycled per year (metals, paper, glass, plastics, WEEE, ELVs, tyres, textiles and beyond).

By turning wastes into resources, recycling is the link which reintroduces recycled materials into the value chains again and again. Recyclers play a key role in bridging resource efficiency, climate change policy and industrial transition.