



PRESS RELEASE

Waste Shipment Regulation set to decimate European recycling industry

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The **European Recycling Industries' Confederation** (EuRIC) is issuing a stark warning to European policymakers as current waste shipment proposals both risk significant job losses and hampering investment in Europe's pioneering circular economy sector.

European recyclers already contribute **95 billion EUR in turnover** to Europe's already fragile economy. Yet up **80% of metal and paper recyclers** anticipate a reduction in turnover under current waste shipment proposals. More than **300,000 EU green jobs** are sustained by the sector, yet **up to 50%** of metal and paper recyclers warn that **job losses** will be inevitable.

"Policymakers have a choice. Are they on the same side as a sector at the forefront of championing a European circular economy? Or do they want to encourage the extraction of raw materials over recycling? Waste shipment rules must change course to encourage free, fair and sustainable trade of recycled materials" warned Emmanuel Katrakis, Secretary General of EuRIC.

The industry supports waste shipment restrictions that discourage exports of **"problematic"** waste outside the EU such as mixed plastic, unprocessed tyres, batteries and vehicles. However, it is concerned that current proposals incentivise extraction of raw materials, which is a significant source of pollution, over recycling. Not only will this hinder Europe's ability achieve its **recycling** and **net-zero emissions targets**, but green job losses will also be unavoidable and investment in Europe's circular economy will be significantly curtailed.

Note to editor:

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The European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC) is the umbrella organisation for recycling industries. Through its member federations from 21 EU & EFTA countries, 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 third EU countries;
- By turning waste into resources, recycling is the link which reintroduces recycled materials into value chains again and again. Recyclers play a key role in bridging resource efficiency, climate change policy and industrial transition.