



## PRESS RELEASE

# *European recyclers demand recycled content targets as EU Commission seeks to keep recycling exports in Europe*

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European recyclers are urging EU decisionmakers to introduce mandatory targets for recycled materials in new products as proposed EU waste shipment rules seek to excessively limit exports of almost **27 million tons of recycled materials** outside Europe.

While European recyclers do not oppose export prohibitions of problematic waste outside Europe such as mixed plastics, indiscriminate restrictions will **suppress demand** for high-value recycled materials such as metals and paper.

*“If MEPs want to ensure waste is recycled in Europe, they must enshrine binding targets for the use of recycled materials in intermediate products such as metals, paper, and plastics,”* says Emmanuel Katrakis, Secretary General of EuRIC, the European recycling industries federation. *“If export prohibitions go ahead, high-value materials destined for recycling will instead pile up in **landfill** or end up **incinerated**. Polluting extracted raw materials will have an advantage over recycling in the absence of appropriate market conditions,”* he added.

Currently, only **12% of materials** used in EU production come from recycling and proposed export prohibitions would reduce this even further. Mandatory targets for recycled materials can instead stimulate market demand **in the EU**, reducing reliance on international markets and thereby stimulating a truly **European circular economy** that prevents drastic amounts of CO2 emissions.

### 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.