



## PRESS RELEASE

# *European Parliament backs waste shipment restrictions undermining certainty for recyclers*

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Europe's recycling industries expressed dismay at the European Parliament's adoption of current waste shipment proposals citing major inconsistencies undermining the trade of recycled materials. While the establishment of **mandatory recycled content targets for plastics** should be applauded<sup>1</sup>, the failure to consider targets for **metals** and **paper** is a significant omission that will erode demand and subsequently green **investment** in new and upscaled recycling facilities in Europe.

However, European recyclers were encouraged by the European Parliament's support of existing proposals that facilitate the export of recycled materials **within the EU**, such as establishing English as the common language or extended time limits for receiving shipments. Nevertheless, the lack of harmonised end-of-waste criteria and rules that allow Member States to reject shipments will continue to impede a functioning **single market** for recycled materials in Europe.

Moreover, the Parliament has regrettably reinforced a **one-size-fits-all** approach to export restrictions. This means that the same restrictions apply to **low-quality mixed plastic waste** as for **high-value raw materials from recycling** for which access to European and international markets is essential to preserve the competitiveness of the European recycling industry. By failing to make this distinction, up to **80%** of metals and paper recyclers expect losses in **turnover**, and up to **50%** expect **job losses**.

*"Recycled materials already struggle to compete with extracted raw materials. If current waste shipment proposals are adopted, this will be yet another major setback for Europe's recycling industries and our climate ambitions,"* noted Emmanuel Katrakis, Secretary General of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC). *"If the EU wants a vibrant recycling industry that leads the circular economy transition and reinvests in Europe, it must establish rules that accelerate rather than impede demand for recycled materials. Member States must now act swiftly to address our concerns or risk unprecedented levels of **incineration** and massive stockpiling of valuable resources in **landfill**,"* he added.

### Note to editor:

For press-related enquiries, please contact Ben Kennard, EuRIC Communication Advisor, by email at [bkennard@euric-aisbl.eu](mailto:bkennard@euric-aisbl.eu) or by phone at +32 (0) 487 39 21 82. The [European Recycling Industries' Confederation \(EuRIC\)](#) is the umbrella organisation for the recycling industries in Europe. Through its member federations from 21 European countries, EuRIC represents more than 5,500 large companies and SMEs involved in the recycling and trade of various resource streams. They represent a contribution of 95 billion EUR to the EU economy and 300,000 green and local jobs. By turning waste into resources, recycling reintroduces valuable materials into value chains over and over again. By bridging circularity and climate neutrality, recyclers are pioneers in leading Europe's industrial transition.

<sup>1</sup> You can consult the EuRIC letter to European policymakers specifically addressing the issue of a plastic export ban [here](#).