

EuRIC in numbers

An EU-wide organisation bringing together national associations from

18 EU & EFTA countries

involved in recycling for many decades:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom;

Representing **5,500 companies**, including large companies and a vast number of SMEs, that are involved in the recycling and trade of various material streams and are key players in a circular economy;

With an aggregated annual turnover of about **95 billion Euros**;

Providing **300,000 local jobs** which cannot be outsourced outside Europe;

An average of 150 million tons

of a variety of recyclables collected, transported, sorted, processed, recycled and traded every year (paper, metals and beyond).

Our objective: advocate recycling in Europe

The role of recycling is of paramount importance for the European economy and society. Recycling activities provide much needed jobs and investment while minimising environmental impacts. EuRIC advocates a smart regulatory framework fostering recycling across Europe and the competitiveness of the recycling industries.

By turning waste into a resource, recyclers provide:

- **Massive environmental benefits:** recycling saves natural resources and drastically reduces energy consumption and pollution thanks to constant innovation;
- **Local job opportunities:** recycling usually takes place locally, close to the source of collection of recyclables. Recycling companies implement solutions tailored to local circumstances. Recycling is labour intensive throughout its different stages and heavily relies on manual and mechanical processes;
- **A secure and sustainable source of domestic raw materials for Europe's downstream industries:** recycling has a key role to play in achieving a genuine EU industrial renaissance by 2020;
- **A positive trade balance:** while the EU is structurally a net importer of primary raw materials, net exports of secondary raw materials balance this trend.

Over the last decades, the European recycling industries have drastically evolved by modernising and constantly innovating to turn more waste streams into new resources. By doing so, the sector has contributed to the development of new technologies and automated equipment made in Europe and exported around the globe. The European regulatory framework has accompanied these changes thanks to ambitious targets

and a meaningful waste hierarchy. However, the recycling sector continues to be subject to a complex and ever-growing EU regulatory framework, which affects its activities.

To ensure a competitive European recycling sector, which is part of a global industry, EuRIC advocates clear, effective and smart European policies which:

- **Incentivise recycling** across the value chains;
- **Minimise regulatory burdens** on recyclers, in particular on SMEs;
- **Guarantee open and fair competition** within Europe and with the world to foster a genuine internal recycling market.

EuRIC also advocates positive measures to ensure a consistent implementation of existing legislation across Europe.

Your representation, our mission

EuRIC's commitment is to represent the interests of the European recycling industries. EuRIC's primary mission:

- Act as the **trusted interface** between the industry and the European Union;
- **Bridge local industry needs** with the EU decision-making bodies;
- Serve as a **platform for information**, cooperation and exchange of best practices on all European recycling matters;
- Provide the **needed expertise** underpinning the right policy-making, by taking advantage of the long-term experience of its members in recycling activities;
- Foster an **open, constructive, fact-based dialogue** with all stakeholders across the value chain.